

DUNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 2009 AT 8.30 P.M.

AT THE PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Councillors M. Drewry (Chair), B. Cockburn, L. Devons, A. Kaye, K. Mitchell and V. Parkin.

In attendance: Four members of the public.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th April 2008 were accepted as an accurate record subject to the following minor amendment: Councillor Devons did not agree to continue the bulb planting personally, but felt that the *Council* should ensure that this is done.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Tyas Quarry: A quote for the cost of installing a seat and plaque in memory of D. Kaye and her husband is still outstanding. Councillor Cockburn was of the opinion that it would be better not to mark the seat in any way as it may invite problems. There are no problems with the seat at the moment. It was agreed that this may be something to include in the public consultation on priorities for the area.

Fencing for basketball court: This is still outstanding. Quotes have been received for this work and are in the region of £25,000.

Community Centre: Temporary repairs have been carried out to the broken windows. The option of 'bricking around' the building is still being considered. Councillor Cockburn agreed to check the Calor Gas tank trip switch. The switch to the pump to stop the cellar flooding was being looked at by an electrician.

It was reported that the senior citizens club which used to be held on a Wednesday afternoon was still not meeting.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2008 AND THE FINANCIAL POSITION TO DATE.

Councillors and members of the public were provided with copies of:

- Income & Expenditure Account for year end 31 March 2008
- Statement of Accounts for year end 31 March 2008
- DRAFT Income & Expenditure Account for year end 31 March 2009
- DRAFT Income & Expenditure Account for 2009/10

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The chair presented a report on the work of the Council over the last year. Key points included:

- The sad loss of Councillor Whitehead, remembered for her passionate opposition to the development of wind turbines and contribution to Council debates.
- The appointment of a new Clerk, Elizabeth Barnard, in August 2008 following the departure of the previous clerk in April 2008.
- The children's play area at Crow Edge. The Council has contracted with BMBC to provide grass cutting and safety inspections and is now looking at on-going maintenance of the site to ensure children's safety.
- Lobbying on numerous issues, including wind turbines, public phone boxes, post office closures, winter gritting and local public transport.

5. PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

The chair outlined proposals for the future, including:

- Plans to produce a regular Newsletter, delivered to every household in the Parish and to encourage dialogue between the Council and the community
- A revised Parish Plan which reflects the priorities and aspirations of the community, developed following consultations with the public.
- A new constitution for the Council which is more relevant to the 21st century.
- Plans to investigate external funding sources wherever possible to supplement the precept and bring about improvements for the benefit of the local community.

At this point, members of the public were invited to participate in the meeting and to outline their priorities for the parish. Issues included:

- **Broadband availability:** It was pointed out that broadband is not universally available. Unfortunately this is commercially driven and companies are reluctant to invest in new wiring etc., for rural areas. However, the Government has pledged to ensure every household has broadband access by 2012. The Council will continue to monitor this issue.
- **Concerns about vehicle crime in the area following reports that several vans had been broken into in Middlecliffe:** Reassurance was given that the area has low crime levels and the local community is very vigilant. Strangers are usually noted. Members of the public were advised to contact the Goldenline with any concerns about crime.
- **Development at the top of Middlecliffe Drive:** A member of the public asked if there were plans to build here, as there is a field with a road going into it. Reassurances were given that no development was planned and the road is a dead end. Any proposals for development require planning permission and the Council is regularly asked to comment on planning applications and can object to developments where this is appropriate.

Members of the public were thanked for their attendance and contribution and were invited to attend the regular meetings of the Council, which always take place on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30 at the Community Centre, Victoria.