

**DAWLEY HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**  
held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003 at Horsehay Village Hall at 7.15 p.m.

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**PRESENT** Cllr. A. Chetwood (Chairman)  
Cllrs. G. Onions, R. Haire, A. Hickie and J. Lees  
Mr M. Goldstraw (Clerk)

**In attendance.**

No members of the public were present.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

**POLICE SESSION**

Apologies were received from WPC Vicky Nichols.

**03/110 APOLOGIES**

Apologies along with the reason for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Mrs. D. Wallis and Cllr. Mrs. L. Robinson.

**03/111** The **Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2003** were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The **Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003** were approved as a true record by the Members of the Committee who were present and signed by the Chairman of the Committee.

**03/112 Clerks report on items pending**

The Clerk reported that the bollards at the Foresters Arms had been replaced as per the original request of the Parish Council and it was noted by the meeting that the fence at Aqueduct had at last been repaired by the Borough.

**03/113 Vacancy in the Office of Parish Councillor**

The Clerk informed the meeting that there remained but one applicant for co-option and the deadline for receipt of applications had been set for December 10<sup>th</sup>, which would allow a decision to be made at the December meeting of

Council. If there remained one applicant after the closure date, the co-option would be a formality in that the only applicant must be co-opted.

### **03/114 Budget of the Council for the 2004/2005**

Cllr. Lees asked for an explanation of the reasons behind the balances held by Council and the reasons behind the nil precepts in recent years. The Chairman gave a brief explanation of the way in which the funds held had been raised by Council to fund a Parish Office/Community facility which following public objection was abandoned some years ago. The funds having been raised had been theoretically returned to the parish over the years by way of a nil precept.

Cllr. Haire, in his office of Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, gave a brief report on the budget meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November and went through the proposals of the Committee in detail. Members discussed and approved the telephone allowance for the Clerk as a one off annual payment of £100 and approved the purchase of Computer equipment for the Clerk.

Cllr. Haire expressed concerns over the donation of funds towards a police vehicle and Members discussed the change in the budget heading from “police vehicle” to “ Parish Safety & Security” which would allow any contributions to be of a more general nature and not restricted to the beat manager’s vehicle.

Cllr. Chetwood reported that Aqueduct School was in desperate need of modernisation, requiring new toilet facilities for staff and pupils, extra storage space, new staff rooms and essential modernisation to take into account better access for the disabled. He reported that funding solutions were being looked into and some funding had been promised.

Cllr. Chetwood reminded Members that Council had been content to grant a sum of £1000 each year to the school and asked the Meeting to consider granting £5000 in one year and then nothing for the next five years so that the project could go ahead. The request was put to Council as a proposition by Cllr. Chetwood, seconded by Cllr. Hickie it was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £5000 be made to the school towards the funding of modernisation and that there would be no further grants for the next five years.

Cllr. Haire proposed that the presented budget (including the above resolution) be adopted by Council as the budget for the forthcoming year. Seconded by Cllr. Chetwood. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented budget (including the above resolution).

Cllr. Chetwood proposed that there be a NIL PRECEPT for the forthcoming year. Seconded by Cllr. Haire. It was **RESOLVED** that there would be a NIL PRECEPT for the forthcoming year.

### **03/115 Planning & Environmental Committee**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October were received.

### **03/116 Countryside Officer's Report**

Members discussed Tree Preservation Orders and the Clerk was asked to invite the Borough Tree Warden to a meeting of Council.

Cllr. Hickie reported that Cllr. Mrs. Wallis and he had spent a couple of hours clearing all the rubbish and fallen stone from the Aqueduct prior to the dedication of the plaque on Armistice Day.

Members discussed the dedication of the plaque.

Members discussed concerns over the future of Little Dawley Methodist Church which was threatened with closure due to falling membership.

### **03/117 Accounts**

**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS** - It was **RESOLVED** that these be approved and paid as tabled.

**STATEMENT 139** was tabled along with the reconciliation's and was approved.

### **03/118 Correspondence**

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| a) B T&W     | Derek Owen, Youth Officer agreed to attend the Parish Council Meeting to be held on 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2004. |
| b) WAC SAPTC | Minutes and Agenda   |
| c) B T&W     | Parish Charter – request by Mrs. Baker to visit Council to discuss Charter. Clerk to arrange.                      |

### **03/119 Any Other Items of Information**

Members discussed the Newsletter and Cllr. Lees was given an explanation of why it had proved difficult in the past to organise a Christmas Party for elderly residents owing to lack of demand. The Clerk was asked to write to local voluntary organisations informing them that Council had the ability to fund such schemes by way of grants.

Cllr. Onions asked if the matter of the cleaning of Road signs could be placed on a Planning Agenda.

**03/120 Date of next meeting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2003 at Horsehay Village Hall at 7.15 p.m.**

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8. 01 p.m.**

Signed.....  
Chairman

Date.....