

Dalton Piercy Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 11th January 2024 at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Noble (Chair), Patrick, Ireland, Middleton, Savage, Rushworth, and Timothy.

In Attendance: 4 members of the public

Meeting started at 7.08pm

1. **Apologies:** Ward Cllr Martin-Wells.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Noble, Savage and Patrick – DPHVA
3. **Public Forum**
 - A resident requested a wastebin be placed at Highgate Meadows, near where the new footpath is to be installed. He was advised this was a Borough Council responsibility and, as the site had not yet been adopted, a request was unlikely to meet with a positive response at this time.
 - A resident noted that the former Water Board site appeared to have been sold.
 - The same resident expressed concern about the amount of fly tipping along the roads around the village.
 - A resident noted an omission from the draft December Minutes (to be taken under Item 4).
 - Cllr Middleton noted his wife had raised concern about a very large pothole near the A689 on Dalton Back Road.
4. **Draft of Minutes 14th December 2023** – It was noted that under Item (5i) Cllr Timothy had proposed the transfer of £30,000 to a Savings account, which had been unanimously agreed, however this was missing from the draft Minutes. The Minutes were corrected accordingly and the amended minutes **unanimously agreed** and accepted as a true accurate record of the meeting. **Draft Minutes 4 January 2024 – Unanimously agreed** as accurate.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - (i) **Business Savings Accounts** – The Chair informed that the bank had accepted the request for a Business Savings Account and this was currently being processed.
 - (ii) **HBC Enforcement issues** – Tony Dixon has acknowledged receipt of the Council's concerns about two of the issues, though as yet no action has been confirmed. The third issue has yet to be raised with him.
 - (iii) **Remedial Work on trees** – Cllr Patrick reported that the contract has been let to Meryl Gardens in the sum of £703 and work will start on the trees on the village green on 17th January. The work on the trees in The Batts will be undertaken later, once the ground has dried out. A resident offered the loan of a 6-wheeled vehicle to remove the chippings, though DPPC would have to provide a driver.
 - (iv) **Section 106 funds** – The Chair reported that the contract was being drawn up between HBC and the developer, for the 10 extra houses at Highgate Meadows. Some Section 106 monies will come to DPPC as advised at an earlier meeting.
 - (v) **Village Green Policy** – In the light of the substantive information received from our barrister, the Chair proposed a Working Party be formed to revise the Village Green

Policy. This was **unanimously agreed** and Cllrs Ireland, Timothy and Noble were requested to complete the revision by 31 March and to present the revised policy to the April meeting of the Council. **Action:** Cllrs Ireland, Noble and Timothy to revise Village Green Policy.

6. **Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Martin-Wells had submitted a written report, which was warmly welcomed; this mostly covered issues raised at the Ward Councillors' Surgery in December and included:
- Flooding from The Grove has been addressed and seems to have worked. Further cleansing will be undertaken in the spring.
 - All gullies in the village need flushing – he was not aware this had yet been done.
 - Road sweeping in the village – not yet done.
 - Fly tipping was getting worse, with a 16.5% rise in reported incidents in 2023 – some 2355 incidents across the Borough.
 - There is currently litter signage on the A689 and A179 only; none on the approach roads to the village.
 - Speed limit signage - Peter Frost is to have 20mph roundels painted on the roads at each access to the village, in January.
 - Construction traffic is not supposed to use the Dalton roads to access the site at High Tunstall – any incidents should be notified to HBC immediately for action.
 - There is no weight limit on the bridge in Dalton Piercy.
 - Accessibility to Public Rights of Way – HBC cannot deal with muddy paths in winter; the only exception would be a major safety issue.
 - Ward Councillors hold a regular Surgery at West Park and will not normally attend Parish Council meetings, although Cllr Martin-Wells does hope to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in May.
 - The request to make Hart Back Lane a one way from Worset Lane to the A179 has been refused on the grounds that it would make the detour too much for some people.
7. **Chairs Report:** Cllr Noble reported it had been a quiet month to date.
- Cllr Ireland has now been added as a cheque signatory to bank accounts; the other signatories are Cllrs Noble, Patrick and Timothy.
 - Cllr Martin-Wells undertook a walk-about the village on Tuesday 9th, accompanied by the Chair and a resident.
 - Elwick By-Pass received planning approval on 10th January, although there is no timeline for delivery.
8. **Personnel Committee:** Cllr Ireland reported that the advertisement for a Clerk had been circulated via the SLCC and the College of FE in Hartlepool. It was also on the Notice Board and would be in the next Village Life.
9. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Patrick reported the sign for The Batts is to be moved shortly, as agreed. Correspondence had been received from a resident requesting that chippings from any tree works be spread on footpaths in The Batts and this had been agreed.

10. **Finance:** The Budget for 2024-25 was approved at the Extraordinary Meeting held on 4th January, at which the revised Financial Statement for December had been agreed. This indicated no overall overspend, simply a misallocation of some expenditure items, and an omission of a receipt. The revised figures will be published on the website ASAP.

Financial Transactions 9th November 2023 – 11th January 2024

Receipts	£
Grantscape (battery power bank)	2,560.00
TOTAL:	£2,560.00
Payments	£
Wave water bill	25.62
Christmas lights	121.98
Wine and cards for volunteers	57.00
Nellist tree and garden services	920.00
HMRC (clerk tax)	55.80
Clerk salary	223.40
Trinity Chambers (village green legal advice)	2160.00
Cable ties (xmas tree)	3.98
Timer (xmas tree)	5.00
Signs & Plastics (caution wet signs)	21.20
Mr D Thompson (flower tubs)	20.00
Mr C Robson (flower tubs)	40.00
Mr B Hunter (flower tubs)	40.00
Mrs H Dodds (flower tubs/cart)	90.00
Mrs S Timothy (flower tubs)	40.00
Mr D Rezai (flower tubs)	40.00
Clerk Salary	111.60
HMRC (PAYE)	28.00
Woodside Property Services Ltd (Batts maintenance)	240.00
TOTAL:	£4,243.58

11. **DPVHA Report:** Cllr Patrick reported that revised architectural drawings for the Village Hall had been submitted to HBC and the variation notification circulated to residents, particularly those who had raised objections, in order to provide them with the opportunity to withdraw their objections. The planning Application is now likely to be taken shortly to the Planning Committee meeting.

12. **Correspondence:** A resident has raised concern about the legality of parking on the Village Green and also proposed the Play area be moved to the Village Hall site. On this latter point it was noted that the Village Hall land actually belongs to HBC and not the DPVHA. Cllr Timothy further advised that a full consultation had taken place with residents before the site had been selected, and the current site was where residents wanted it to be.

13. **Planning Application** – none received. Cllr Noble proposed a further letter of support for the Village Hall be submitted by DPPC. This was **unanimously agreed**. **Action:** Cllr Noble to submit letter of support.

14. **Matters of Concerns to councillors:** None raised.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.