

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 10th February 2022
At Dalton Piercy Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs D. Rezai (Chair), M Ireland, L Noble. M. Patrick, M Jackson, S. Savage and S. Rushworth.

In Attendance: Clerk J. White and 2 members of the public

Meeting began at 7.00pm.

The Chairman opened the meeting and expressed our deepest condolences on behalf of DPPC to the family of Councillor Brenda Loynes who sadly passed away recently. Brenda had worked as our Ward Councillor for a number of years and had supported our community until her illness. She will be sadly missed.

1. Apologies for Absence:

None.

2. Declaration of interests:

DR, L.N and M.P – Village Hall (all are trustees of DPVHA)

3. Public Forum:

- Query regarding Mayfield House and if the planning permission had changed. **Action:** Clerk to check what permissions are in place for the site and if there have been any variations?
- Update requested following a previous report and concerns for road safety due to flooding and freezing conditions at Hart on the Hill development site. The historic drainage ditch appears to have been filled in order to accommodate the new driveway causing flooding on the road. **Action:** Clerk to write to HBC.

4. Minutes of meetings held on 13th January 2021:

Proposed M.P. Sec S.S. Approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
The Chairman signed the minutes.

5. Grass cutting annual contract and grounds maintenance 2022/23

2021 season grass cutting was carried out by CM and CE Walkers Ltd costing £168.00 ex VAT per cut (scheduled to 14-15 cuts per season) Curb weed spraying is included with the contract with no other grounds maintenance covered.

Quote for 2022 has increased by £7.00 per cut to £175.00 ex VAT.

Action: Clerk to accept the quote and check it includes weed spraying.

6. RedGap projects:

a) Project updates

Cllr Jackson reported;

Fruit trees, 1,000 shrubs and small trees from OVO energy, 300 hawthorn whips and 500 saplings from the woodland trust have arrived. Planting of the Community Orchard and native hedgerow is to begin towards the end of Feb. Details to be shared via leaflet and social media.

It was **resolved** a watering can/device should be purchased to water the new trees. Should the purchase not be covered in the RedGap budget for this project, DPPC will support up to around £100.00 subject to a sensible price for the correct equipment. (Portable barrel/hand or diesel pump)

7. Maintenance Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

Following another winter storm and as a result of gale-force winds a large limb from a tree on the play area/allotment boundary fell. It took out a section of the new fence.

Our thanks to Councillors Patrick and Jackson who volunteered to clear the branches and repaired the fence. Furthermore, allotment holders had cleared some debris from within the plots and other residents had cleared the rest of the play area site of other debris. Our sincere thanks to all who helped out.

It was noted at this time that some items inside the allotment were against the new fence. **Action:** Clerk to write to all plot holders to remind them a clear gap must be left next to the fence for maintenance and to protect the lifespan of it.

Ash tree on Manor fields – quotes to have the limbs reduced are high. Clerk is expecting one further quote soon.

Cllr Jackson made a case for leaving the tree as it is – following a more recent conversation with HBC Arborist. A discussion took place.

Cllr Ireland **proposed** the tree has the remaining limbs reduced to the same size as the broken limb to maintain the life of the tree. **Seconded S.R. Approved 6-1**

It was further **agreed** the maintenance group should decide upon a suitable contractor to carry out the work.

The Maintenance Group met with a resident to discuss blue stone edging at 'The Terrace' which appear to have been 'buried' over time. The Maintenance Group recommended that work should be carried out to maintain the edging and reinstate the stones. A discussion took place. As the stones had been installed by the Parish Council it was **resolved** that during the next financial year a price should be obtained to relay the edging stones to prevent them from becoming overgrown and hidden again. It was suggested that in the short term a working group of volunteers could dig out and expose the stones.

8. Ward Councillors Report:

No attendance or Report.

9. Chairman's Report:

Cllr Rezai reported;

On progress on the 'vote of no confidence' in HBC; Hartlepool's rural Parish Council Chairmen continue to be disappointed with the lack of progress and talks. An 'open letter' has been drafted which the intention is to share with the media. This is to be shared with Councillors ahead of its release.

Cllr Rezai had contact with the Chairman of Newton Bewley Parish Meeting and wished to express DPPC's support and cooperation with their endeavours.

HBC are conducting a consultation for the public to put their view forward relating to local elections across the borough. All are encouraged to submit their thoughts; the Clerk shared the online document with Councillors. Following a discussion and vote it was unanimously **agreed** that DPPC wish for the status quo to continue. Elections every 4 years.

DPVHA Report:

Councillor Patrick reported;

A new storage shed to be used for housing village hall equipment and furniture, funded by RedGap, is to be installed over the coming weeks with work starting tomorrow.

Correspondence with HBC continues in its efforts to secure 106 funding for village hall redevelopment. The leader of the council has indicated there are intentions to provide some of the fund to the hall which is positive news. DPVHA are working to secure the whole fund.

10. Personnel Report:

Nothing to report.

11. Finance Report

The Clerk presented the actual against budget report and the financial transactions which were **accepted**.

Financial Transactions 14th January – 10th February 2022

Receipts	£
	0.00
TOTAL:	£0.00
Payments	£
J White Clerks salary	£217.20
One.com website host fees	£200.10
M Jackson (<i>Travis Perkins receipt fence repair</i>)	£70.99
TOTAL:	£488.19

Cllr Ireland raised concerns that website fees may be about to rise significantly. **Action:** Clerk to check DPPC's host fees for the coming year.

12. Correspondence:

Shared with Councillors ahead of the meeting.
All covered under other items in this meeting.

13. Planning Applications:

None to report.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Councillor Jackson reported the request from DPPC to look at tree preservation orders around the village are progressing with HBC and are currently with the legal department for consideration.

Also, that there have been a number of trees removed from The Grove as work continues to develop the site in preparation to become a children's home. This is due to visibility and the proximity of the speed change to 20mph zone at the historical entrance to the site where the concern is cars may not adhere to the speed limit. HBC have inspected the site and all works are permitted.

It was **resolved** a request should be made to add the mature Horse Chestnut trees that run alongside the road boundary of this site be added to the list for HBC consideration for tree preservation orders. It was further **resolved** that DPPC contact HBC with a strong request for physical speed reduction measures be considered for the village.

Concern was raised regarding the storm damaged/fallen tree that is on the roadside (west side of the road as approaching 'Hart on the Hill' from the village) **Action:** Clerk to contact landowner to request it is made safe/removed.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 10th March 2022