

**Dalton Piercy Parish Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022**  
**At Dalton Piercy Village Hall.**

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

**In Attendance:** J. White DPPC Clerk and 3 members of the public

Meeting began at 7.01pm.

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

A Timothy **Accepted**

**2. Declaration of interests:**

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

**3. Public Forum:**

- A report that the drain smell around the village continues  
The Clerk provided an update; The Parish Council continue to liaise with Northumbrian Water and an onsite meeting has been arranged on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept with a view to update all previous works carried out and a plan going forward.
- A request for an update on planning at Highgate Meadows (7 new dwellings and vacant plot – 2 applications) as it appears the developer is closing down the site.
- Village Green track in front of the Terrace; continuing concern regarding pot holes and the degrading track surface.  
DPPC provided a brief explanation of the Village Green Policy and explained we are here to open a discussion with residents.
- A resident not present asked for the following to be reported in their absence (via Councillor); HBC are continuing to push for a 40mph speed limit on rural roads. Police have not been able to comment on the proposal yet, HBC will continue with plans to go ahead. A request for signage to discourage litter on the surrounding roads. A report for repairs to the bridge has been taken up by a team at HBC.

**4. Co-option of new Parish Councillor**

The Clerk reported the vacancy had been advertised with a closing date of 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022. We had a number of enquiries but only one application which met the requirements (other interest arrived after the closing date and another lived outside of the required residence distance)

Cllr Noble moved that Alan Timothy should be Co-opted to the Council without interview due to his previous experience as a member of DPPC. **Seconded** M Ireland. **Approved.**

Mr Timothy has submitted his apologies for this meeting due to him being out of the country. Acceptance of office is moved to the next meeting.

**5. a) Minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022:**

**Approved** with the following amendments:

Point 7. Chapter 2 (*in regard to Allotment policy*) should read 2.11.1 (*not 2.1.1.*)

**6. Matters Arising**

In conjunction with Cleveland Police the Clerk had arranged for a community speed watch to take place in the village. Date yet to be confirmed, expected to be soon.

There has been some correspondence between DPPC and HBC Cllrs and Officers where DPPC have expressed their grave concerns about road safety – recent severe and slight car crashes, speeding through the village and dangerous driving on the surrounding roads.

In a written response from HBC Managing Director some statistics were provided which is how officers make decisions on spending and speed prevention measures. It was agreed DPPC members did not feel the statistics were a true reflection of what is happening on our roads. A possible suggestion was that not all incidents were being reported.

Cllrs did remark that Elwick village are to receive physical speed barriers – what were the statistics for that village?

**Action:** Clerk to respond to the letter with DPPC concerns.

## 7. Red Gap projects

- We have assurance from HBC officers that the solar lights are to be installed imminently!
- The Clerk is yet to receive a response from HBC Highways officer to further discuss the footpath extension as well as other issues in the village. **Action:** Clerk to chase and copy other officers and Cllrs to the email trail.
- Invoices and paperwork are uploaded on the Grantscape portal but a claim is yet to be made for the 'Bluebell and Orchard project' as we are yet to install the final signage and 'stone'.  
Cllr Patrick provided an update;

## 8. Maintenance

### a) Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

- Firstly, express the thanks of all at DPPC to resident Mr Parker for his continued work in chasing matters with HBC. **Action:** Particularly in regards to bridge repairs, Clerk to write to HBC in support and request a time scale for work.
- Second thanks go to Mr Mulligan who volunteered to repair loose 'blue stones' at the pond. Loose stones had been thrown into the pond – they were removed and reinstated. Our sincere thanks to him and to the volunteers who helped tidy the pond and removed weeds.
- We are waiting on a quote to cut hedges close to the Allotments.

### b) The Batts

- Via Cllr Patrick; a resident has a business that is able to provide the means to mechanically cut paths/grass in The Batts with a quote of £200.00 per day. He is also able to move the stone to mark the Community Orchard.

- A resident raised the question of Volunteer Safety and Risk Assessments while undertaking work in 'The Batts'

DPPC do have Risk Assessments for; Volunteers, The Village Green (open space) and using machinery. However, there is no assessment specific to The Batts.

It was **agreed** it would be best practice to have one. **Action:** Clerk to complete.

## 9. Ward Councillors Report:

No attendance or Report.

## 10. Chairman's Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

A meeting with DPPC and Elwick Parish Chairs, Tony Hanson and Kieron Bostock of HBC was held to provide an update on the 'Elwick By pass'. After 13 revisions plans have been submitted for full permissions where hopefully the final design will be signed off. There are still no agreed prices with land agents. If there is no progress with this it will go to compulsory land purchase.

420 houses are due to be built at the western edge of Hartlepool just off Elwick Road. Many letters of concern were submitted to HBC when the roadside hedge was removed. The sale of these houses was historically aligned with progress and completion of the 'Elwick by-pass' in the near future there is due to be a public meeting to update these planning matters.

Parish Liaison meetings are timetabled for every quarter, the last was in July and next in October. A separate meeting is arranged for the Parish Charter Working Group which will meet every month. The draft charter – as provided by the Parishes – was rejected by HBC full Council who cited it was 'too wordy' In reply, HBC put forward a 'Parish Deal' which focused on 5 main areas for discussion. (The Parish Charter had 3 main points) These documents are seen as a starting point for negotiation. Cllrs Noble and Ireland are working on a second draft which will be put to all Parish Chairmen for their comments.

The objective is to have a working document/completed charter in place by December.

## 11. DPVHA Report

Cllr Patrick reported;

The Red Gap application for £21,000.00 funding to cover the cost of planning and design detail through to completion of the build (Architects fees) was granted.

With this good news an architect has been given the go ahead to complete full plans.

Planning permission needs to be granted to complete the land lease. Also, £4,900.00 granted for site clearance and £8,800.00 for demolition are funds subject to granted planning permission.

DPVHA have attended meetings of Tees Valley VH network group. The sessions are very informative with lots of support from very knowledgeable people involved with Village Halls.

## 12. Personnel Report:

Cllr Noble moved the discussion to the end of the meeting.

To Report; The Clerk has submitted her resignation. She will not walk away from the post but over the coming weeks and months a replacement will be sought.

## 13. Finance Report

a) Monthly report;

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

### Financial Transactions 15<sup>th</sup> July – 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
Grantscape – footpath phase 3	£4,950.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£4,950.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>	<b>£</b>
J White Clerks Salary August + Sept	£442.00
J white receipts Amazon+ink	£40.45
C C Walker 1x grass cut	£210.00
C C Walker 2x grass cut	£420.00

ICO annual fee	£40.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£1,152.45</b>

**14. Correspondence:**

Shared with Councillors ahead of the meeting - covered under other points at this meeting.  
Also;

Clerk reported HBC are providing a free training course for Councillors and encourages all to attend. To be held on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept at the Civic Centre Cllrs; Patrick, Noble, Ireland, Savage and Jackson committed to attend.

**15. Planning Applications:**

None for consideration.

DPPC have received notice directly from the developer of their intention to submit an application for a single dwelling with annex on land between Leamount and Manor Farm. Councillors expressed their concern at the word ‘annex’ as permission is for one domestic home only. We wait with interest to see the full planning application.

**16. Matters of Concern to Councillors:**

Cllr Rushworth reported concerns relating to Highgate Meadows;

- Footpaths are not finished and do not have the final ‘top layer’ of tarmac with many damaged curb stones. A health and safety issue when developers appear to be moving off site. Who is responsible for finishing this and when?
- A boundary fence is not inline with approved plans between houses 13 and 16 (no’s 14 and 15 are missing)
- Cllr Jackson added the buffer between the development and The Howls was supposed to be planted with hawthorn. Top soil has been laid but no planting to date.

**Action:** Clerk to write to planning enforcement with concerns.

Cllr Savage reported on behalf of a resident;

During a taxi journey back to the village the car was involved with a minor accident/scrape on the blind corner at Mayfield House where the car wing mirror was lost. The resident thinks if the hedge height was lowered it would improve visibility into the corner and help avoid accidents such as this one.

Action: Cllr Ireland to ask the land owner if they could cut the hedge lower. Also, Clerk to tie in accident with speeding correspondence to HBC/police.

Also, a request to potentially add a further defibrillator at Highgate Meadows. A resident has volunteered to have a ‘box’ on their property. The Clerk reported we can look at this further but Defibrillators are expensive and require ongoing power and maintenance.

Cllr Patrick reported there is a fallen tree on the Elwick footpath. Action: Cllr Ireland to report to HBC (falls within Elwick Parish)

Meeting closed at 9.17pm

**Date of next meeting:** 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022