

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 13th October 2022
At Dalton Piercy Village Hall.

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

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

Meeting began at 7.00pm.

1. Apologies for Absence:

None

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 Reported;

Northumbrian Water representatives held a site meeting with the Clerk. They went on to explain; The main drain covers were changed to 'vented' covers a few years ago due to residents getting drain smells in their houses. Following years of investigation, it was discovered the bad smells were due to the infrastructure (long drain pipes) and the pumped waste from 'The Windmill' pub/restaurant. The representatives were very clear that The Windmill had done everything asked of them and had been very co-operative. Unfortunately, the problem was still not resolved. As a result, Northumbrian water have now adopted the pump station at The Windmill as their own asset. Regular maintenance along with cleansing of the drain pipes means the system is now running optimally.

The bad news is there is still a bad smell in the village! So, Northumbrian Water will now be changing the manhole covers back to a 'closed' system with filtered vents that will be installed at the road side. This will involve roadworks on the main Dalton Road, close to Manor Fields. The representatives believe this will resolve the problem.

- A concern expressed re working in The Batts and associated Risk Assessments. It was **Agreed** DPPC would compile a site-specific Risk Assessment for The Batts to include lone working. Cllr Ireland further **proposed** this should be delegated to the Maintenance Committee to complete. This was **agreed**.

4. Co-option of new Parish Councillor

Acceptance of office

In his absence at last months meeting Alan Timothy was Co-opted to Dalton Piercy Parish Council.

Cllr Timothy confirmed his willingness to become a Councillor and signed the Acceptance of Office form.

The Clerk also signed the form.

5. a) Minutes of meeting held on 8th September 2022:

Approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

6. Matters Arising

The Clerk reported Cleveland Police Community Support Officers along with some resident volunteers conducted a 'Community Speedwatch' which involved monitoring the speed of vehicles through the village using electronic equipment.

Warning signs were placed at each end of the village green. This resulted in all drivers – but 1, slowing down to well below the speed limit.

To debrief the event; Useful exercise as a public awareness exercise which supports the community. Very successful at slowing traffic down. It did not prove the village has a problem with speeding vehicles – But, did prove good signage and a reason to slow down works. After the event (lasted about 90 mins, weekday mid-afternoon) it was reported the average speed of vehicles was just 12mph.

Action: Clerk to report back the above views.

7. NALC Civility Pledge

Councillor Ireland moved to discuss, with a view to committing to, the NALC Civility Pledge.

Following a discussion, it was evident Councillors did not have a full grasp of the pledge.

Action: Clerk to resend information to Councillors and add to next month's agenda for consideration.

8. Red Gap projects

- Four new entirely solar powered lamps have been installed; At the bridge, entrance to The Batts, near the noticeboard and at the pond path.
The lights are initially part of a trial. The Clerk requested feedback and how DPPC would monitor this. Should the Council not be happy with the product there would be opportunity to remove or change the lights.
Councillor Jackson **proposed:** The Council should keep the lights and ask to be invoiced at the earliest opportunity. Further commenting that even on these dull recent days the area around the lights has been sufficiently illuminated. **Seconded A.T. Approved.**
- The Clerk met highways officers to discuss the next phase of the footpath. This has been confirmed and will remain on the southern edge of Dalton Road. The footpath will end where the hedge gets close to the road edge opposite the village gate sign.

9. Maintenance

a) Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

- Grass seed is to be spread to fill bare patches on the village green. Notably at The Batts entrance.
- We are still waiting on a quote to cut hedges close to the Allotments.
- A resident replaced the wooden surround and repainted the lettering on the road sign for Manor Fields. It was noted this is the responsibility of HBC. But, DPPC extend their thanks to the resident for their contribution to keeping the village well maintained.
- **Action:** Clerk to raise a case on the new HBC portal to arrange better road signage for Highgate Meadows. I.e., Dalton Heights road sign should read; leading to Highgate Meadows.

Clerk reported;

- Hedge cutting has been requested for roadside hedging opposite the Terrace. On the sharp bend. Also, on the main road opposite Manor Fields.

b) The Batts

- Tees Valley Wildlife Trust have visited the site on a number of occasions this month, they have: trimmed the paths and meadows, reseeded the meadows, cut grass between the orchard trees.

Some requests from TVWT;

Plant spring bulbs at the '2nd' area of copse.

Tree works (coppicing) of Hazel trees

To provide information/copy for new public information boards. For example, list of site 'rules' – no camping etc.

There is around £1,700.00 left in the fund TVWT are using for works in The Batts. TVWT suggest this could be used for information boards. Could provide an information board at each entrance and in the middle of the site. It was **agreed** they should go ahead.

Cllr Jackson confirmed he has a number of native hedging saplings left over from the project. It was agreed to gift these plants to Elwick village who have a good need for the plants. Cllrs Jackson and Ireland to arrange collection.

10. Ward Councillors Report:

No attendance or Report.

11. Chairman's Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

A Parish Liaison meeting took place on 3rd October and is now scheduled for every quarter. The meeting was very productive and felt successful.

Many village issues were put forward. Notable was mentioning the struggle to reintroduce home school transport for primary aged children to Elwick primary school. After a speedy response the bus service is back up and running. Far more suitable than sending young children unsupervised in taxis. A very positive outcome.

A separate meeting for the Parish Charter Working Group is due to be held tomorrow. The six Parishes and the Borough Council will negotiate their 'wish lists'

The objective is to have a working document/completed charter ready to be put forward for approval.

12. DPVHA Report

Cllr Patrick reported;

A topographic site survey has been completed this has now allowed the architect to work on plans for the final design. DPVHA hope to see these in the coming weeks.

13. Personnel Report:

Cllr Rushworth reported; The Person Spec and JD for the role of the Clerk has been reviewed and a suitable job advert has been drafted this is to be circulated next month.

14. Finance Report

a) Monthly report;

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

Financial Transactions 8th Sept – 13th Oct 2022

Receipts	£
	£0.00
TOTAL:	£0.00
Payments	£
J White Clerks Salary Oct	£221.00
J white receipts + NALC invoice	£104.88
C C Walker 2x grass cut	£420.00
TOTAL:	£745.88

b) External Audit

The external audit of accounts has been completed. The Clerk was disappointed to report there were some errors on the submission and requested the opportunity to review the report thoroughly ahead of publication. This was **agreed**.

15. Correspondence:

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

16. Planning Applications:

No applications at publication of agenda. The following was received after publication:

H/2022/0350 1x Detached Dwelling with annex/carport on land between Leamount and Manor Farm.
Date for comment is before the next meeting – however there are no detailed drawings on the planning portal. Action: Clerk to submit comment that DPPC are unable to see documents therefore at this time cannot comment and request a copy of the full plans.

17. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Jackson expressed his concern, following attendance at the Councillors training session, that many Councillors use personal email addresses for council business. Best practice dictates that only council email addresses should be used.

The Clerk reported that all Councillors do have personal DPPC addresses which are publicly available on our website. **Action:** Clerk to provide information/instructions so Councillors can use these addresses.

Meeting closed at 9.58pm

Date of next meeting: 10th November 202