

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 10th November 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 2 members of the public

Meeting began at 7.00pm.

1. Apologies for Absence:

A. Timothy - *Accepted*

2. Declaration of interests:

M.I – Personnel Report

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

3. Public Forum:

- Issues with the pathway and unfinished state of Highgate Meadows. **Action:** Clerk to chase HBC and Wynyard Homes as has previously been reported.
- Concern that the last DPPC meeting was not so friendly. The member of the public was directed to item 6 of the agenda – The Civility and Respect Pledge.

4. a) Minutes of meeting held on 13th October 2022:

Approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting without amendment. (Proposed M.P.)

5. Matters Arising

Cllr Jackson expressed concern that DPPC email addresses are not yet fully functional. As a result, he is not picking up emails/correspondence. The Clerk reported that she has been working on it, personal addresses have always existed within DPPC – setting up accounts on personal devices is proving to be a challenge.

It was suggested Councillors should set up a private WhatsApp group to relay information and for informal discussion. This was Approved.

Cllr Ireland suggested that if we are unable to get the email system up and working fully DPPC should consider switching provider.

6. NALC Civility Pledge

Councillor Ireland proposed DPPC adopt the pledge.

The Pledge:

The council will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:

- *Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff*
- *Has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors*
- *Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy*
- *Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise*
- *Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens*

- *Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council through for example the local Local Council Award Scheme*

The Clerk read the statement of the Civility and Respect Pledge.

To each point Councillors unanimously accepted the obligations that were presented.

7. Review of Agenda item 'Matters of Concern to Councillors'

Cllr Noble put forward a motion to clarify items suitable to be raised under the 'Matter of Concern to Councillors' item of the agenda.

The Clerk reported she had taken advice and the item is not mandatory on a Parish Council meeting agenda. Also, that best practice would suggest clarification could be useful. It is often the case at many Councils that the item could be used not as intended.

Councillor Noble proposed DPPC standing orders be updated with the following;

Agenda item 'Matters of Concern to Councillors'.

- i. The matter must be materially relevant to DPPC and a council meeting.
- ii. A point of information must be relevant, substantive, checked, evidenced, with appropriate references provided. If it is deemed an investigation is needed it should be deferred for a response at a later date as a main agenda item.
- iii. If the information is too late for the main agenda, it should be circulated as soon as possible to all Councillors, for consideration before the meeting.
- iv. A public meeting is not the place for a debate/clarification on DPPC policies. In the first such points should be raised with the Clerk, who will investigate the current legislation/best practice. This can be done over email and any outcome ratified at a future meeting.
- v. Any item of a legal nature such as breach of fiscal duty, inappropriate behaviour such as harassment, racial, religious or sexual by a Councillor should not wait until a DPPC meeting and must be reported immediately, but must follow the guidelines of relevant, substantive, checked and evidenced.

Councillors **agreed** the item is useful at DPPC and would not like to see it removed from the agenda.

The proposed clarification above was **approved** to be added to DPPC Standing Orders.

8. Red Gap projects

No further updates since last meeting.

Large stone to mark the community orchard in The Batts to be moved in the spring.

9. Maintenance

a) Report:

Cllr Patrick reported;

We are yet to receive a quote for works previously approved on part of the Allotment boundary hedge.

Action: Maintenance group to look for another contractor.

b) The Batts

The Clerk presented draft Risk Assessment for the Batts Site; **Accepted** and **Approved** (Proposed M.P.)

- Tees Valley Wildlife Trust will be back on site before December to thin trees. It is planned to replace some of these trees (Horse chestnuts) with more suitable species like Holly. Spring bulb planting is also planned for the future.

Draft proof signage has been circulated by TVWT. This was **approved**.

Cllr Jackson reported quadbikes have been seen in The Batts. A farmer present at the meeting who has neighbouring fields has also experienced the same problem.

Cllr Ireland informed us that there is a new Rural Police Officer for our area – PC Ben Hayes.

Action: Cllr Ireland to liaise with the PC, Clerk and Landowners to discuss options/ideas re prevention. I.e., dumpy bags/ditches.

10. Ward Councillors Report:

No attendance or Report.

11. Chairman's Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

Following some queries from residents should DPPC deliver an information leaflet to homes in the village?

Approved: info to include location and what to do in an emergency – to aid familiarity with residents. The Clerk reported training sessions are available to us through the defib provider. There was no appetite for a session at this time.

The monthly charter group meeting was held at Elwick. No Ward Councillors were present. The leader of the Council did attend. There has been progression with common ground agreed.

Speed prevention measures have been installed at Elwick village. Which include pinch points in the road. Speeding concerns in Dalton Piercy will continue to be expressed.

12. DPVHA Report

Cllr Patrick reported;

The Architect has provided drawings which Cllr Patrick described.

DPVHA are very pleased with the design which is based on previous proposals, public consultation comments, the layout of the site and needs of the village.

DPVHA are very hopeful the plans will be submitted for full planning very soon.

13. Personnel Report:

Cllr Ireland reported a job advert has been released through the Clerks network. **Action:** Clerk to further advertise through job websites and social media.

Cllr Ireland further reported that the official pay award has been released by the SLCC for 2022.

It was **agreed** the back payment should be given to the Clerk at the official scale.

14. Finance Report

a) Monthly report;

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

Financial Transactions 14th Oct – 10th Nov 2022

Receipts	£
	£0.00
TOTAL:	£0.00
Payments	£
J White Clerks Salary Nov	£221.00
C C Walker 1x grass cut	£210.00
TOTAL:	£431.00

b) AGAR Report 2021/2022

The audit is complete and certified.

The Clerk read the statement which included some points under the auditors opinion. They included: The Council Tax Support Grant included with the Precept payment, a difference between box's 7 and 8 and un-presented cheques which had already been presented in the 20/21 submission.

The report is available on DPPC website.

c) Budget 2023/2024

Councillors began discussion and putting forward ideas for consideration. These included:

The cost-of-living crisis is likely to increase most predicted payments – rising inflation should be taken into account.

It is predicted a requirement to have trees inspected will be need for insurance purposes. DPPC will not action this until approached by our insurance company. However, DPPC's own visual inspections will continue.

No project work was put forward – ideas were requested ahead of the next meeting.

15. Correspondence:

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

16. Planning Applications:

H/2022/0350 1x Detached Dwelling with annex/carport on land between Leamount and Manor Farm.

It was **agreed** DPPC would strongly object to this application on the grounds that:

- The ancillary building could be viewed as a second home which would be in breach of the easement granted by DPPC. The car port/ancillary building is of a large scale – larger than the main section of the main house.
- The removal of the ancient village wall. The wall is an important historical part of the story of Dalton Piercy. One of very few sections remaining of a wall that would historically have been used to keep livestock on the village green.
- DPPC share concerns of the neighbouring residents that the significant removal of earth could potentially undermine the foundations (or lack of due to the significant age of the buildings) of their homes.
- Some queries remain regarding the existing trees on site and at neighbouring properties that have/have not been drawn on the plan.

Action: Clerk to submit to HBC.

17. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Savage reported neighbours at Highgate Meadows had signed a petition between themselves which demonstrated their extreme concern for theirs and any visitors to the development's safety and dissatisfaction at the unfinished state of the roads and pavements on the street. 29 out of the 30 homes had contributed. Advice was offered to the residents as to who to contact with their concern.

Cllrs unanimously support the residents in their efforts. **Action:** Clerk to chase responses to the reports previously submitted by DPPC.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Date of next meeting: 8th December 2022