

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 8th December 2022
At Dalton Piercy Village Hall.

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

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

Meeting began at 7.05pm.

1. Apologies for Absence:

M Ireland - *Accepted*

2. Declaration of interests:

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

3. Public Forum:

- A request for the meeting minutes to be produced in a timelier manner.
- A report and query re planning applications at The Grange where new buildings and recently dug foundations have appeared. Also, a query; is the historic wall between Manor Farm and Leamount listed? **Action** Clerk to write to HBC planning.

4. a) Minutes of meeting held on 10th November 2022:

Approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting with one amendment; Point 9. B) which read: The Clerk presented draft Risk Assessment for the Batts Site; **Accepted** and **Approved** (Proposed M.P.)

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting

DPPC Standing Orders have now been updated with the amendment tabled at the last meeting see *Nov 2022 minutes*.

Highgate Meadows site issues: The complaints are with Wynyard Homes. Action: Report to be made by DPPC to the Parish Liaison meeting.

6. Red Gap projects

The Clerk has been in contact with Grantscape to update payment claims – namely for the solar lights project which it is not possible to submit on the online portal.

Cllr Jackson put forward a suggestion for a future project/proposal; Improve the footpaths in The Batts – with a layer of hardcore/dolomite/similar. This was popular with members and will be considered later in the year.

7. Maintenance

a) Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

A quote of £400.00 has been provided from J&J landscapes to undertake hedge trimming work at the Allotment site. This includes waste removal. **Approved** to go ahead as soon as possible.

The Christmas Tree - There are 2 strands of lights out – they are unrepairable. This is due to the lights being on the tree all year round. Unfortunately, the lights are in that much of a knot and secured with tie wraps they are unremovable. Furthermore, the tree is in a poor condition, it is quite lopsided with one side of the tree almost 'bald'

The future removal of the tree was **approved**. It was felt the sister tree that was planted some years ago to replace the large tree is of sufficient size. Felling the tree could make it easier to remove the lights – although the electricity supply box and future Christmas decorations will also be considered.

b) The Batts

- Tees Valley Wildlife Trust have been on site to thin trees. 26 orchard trees are still to be planted – the original orchard trees planted earlier this year have survived well, especially considering the hot, dry conditions last summer.

2 days work is planned by them which is to be paid from the 106 monies from HBC. This will include installing 2 information boards and 2 'rules' signs.

- Also, for information; TVWT are working in The Howls to create a new circular walking route with 2 new bridges and new steps.

8. Volunteer Awards

Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated a list of people who had volunteered and contributed to the village over the last year.

There was also a list of those who had planted and maintained the village pots.

It was **agreed** volunteers would be given a bottle of wine in thanks for their work and as in previous years £20.00 would be paid to those who planted pots with £90.00 paid for planting and maintaining the village cart.

9. Ward Councillors Report:

No attendance or Report.

10. Chairman's Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

The next Charter Group meeting is due to be held tomorrow, unfortunately I am unable to attend. This could potentially be the last meeting. Wish lists from both sides have been put forward and the draft charter has arrived. There are not many points to be raised from it.

11. DPVHA Report

Cllr Patrick reported;

The architect has been instructed to submit plans to HBC. 1st phase of Red Gap funding has been paid.

12. Personnel Report:

Clerk job to further advertise through job websites and social media.

13. Finance Report

a) Monthly report;

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

Financial Transactions 10th Nov – 8th Dec 2022

Receipts	£
	£0.00
TOTAL:	£0.00
Payments	£
J White Clerks Salary Dec 241.20 backdated increase 161.60	£402.80
Tel Broadband contribution J White	£180.00
Pear technology	£120.00
Edward Egglestone payroll	£123.12
Wave water	£79.49
J White Amazon – hot water dispenser	£37.99
HBC installation and supply of 3x solar lights	£4,488.00
TOTAL:	£5,431.40

b) Budget 2023/2024

The Clerk presented an actual against budget report with predicted expenditure to the end of 2023.

As well as a 'first draft' budget for the 2023/24 period with known items as well as predicted increases.

Councillors began discussion after each item had been presented by the Clerk for consideration by the PC.

The Clerk advised the PC that cash reserves are much higher than they have been in the past.

Councillors confirmed their intention to use a large proportion of the recently granted easement as a gift to DPVHA and the village, towards rebuilding the Village Hall (easement granted was £35,000.00)

Taking into account VAT reclaim, cash reserves sit around £15,000.00. It was agreed £10,000.00 should be placed into a saving account. This money would be kept as a reserve. There are a number of cases in the past where DPPC have needed a cash reserve and not been in a position to pay – with no borrowing facility this has been a problem. For example; Court Cases and associated legal fees, storm damage and remedial work (trees etc)

The following discussion led to the conclusion that the variable factors on the budget could potentially be the largest expenditure.

With inflation at its highest level for many years it was decided **unanimously** the precept demand would be £12,495.00 which is last years demand amount + 5%.

The 1st draft budget with a precept demand of £12,495.00 was **accepted** and **approved** for 2023/2024 financial period.

14. Correspondence:

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

15. Planning Applications:

None.

16. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Timothy wished to express his support for the Civility and Respect pledge.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Date of next meeting: 8th December 2022