

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

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

In Attendance: Shane Moore leader of HBC, J. White DPPC Clerk and 4 members of the public

Meeting began at 7.00pm.

The Chairman welcomed the leader of Hartlepool Borough Council, Shane Moore.

1. Apologies for Absence:

S.R. Accepted

2. Declaration of interests:

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

3. Public Forum:

- A request for update on 106 monies from Highgate Meadows development – looking forward to item later on the agenda and thankful that Cllr Moore was in attendance.
- A request for serious consideration for a footpath – similar to the new 'hexpath' footpath at The Terrace – to run the whole length of the Village Green in the centre of the village.
A discussion took place. A question raised was 'is the speed of vehicles travelling through the centre of the village a factor? – a feeling of not being safe for the most vulnerable road users? Also, parked cars on or around the green causing an obstruction?
Cllr Moore kindly offered the services of HBC who are able to offer enforcement training to volunteers to prevent parking on the green.

4. Minutes of meetings held on 10th February 2022:

Proposed M.P. Sec M.I. Approved with the following amendment; point 9. Last line to be removed; 'Every 4 years'.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

12. DPVHA Report the Chairman moved item 12 forward due to Cllr Moore's attendance.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Moore and went on to describe the efforts of DPVHA and DPPC to secure a future for our village hall. This has taken years; Cllr Moore has been integral in making progress with a long land lease for the hall land and securing 106 funding from the Highgate Meadows development. For this the Chairman thanked Cllr Moore.

He went on to invite Cllr Patrick to provide a brief update;

Lease documents for the land from HBC are with our solicitor soon to be signed by the Trustees. Our planning consultant and architect have produced some draft plans which are going to public consultation – which will be held in the village hall- on Tuesday 22nd March 3pm-7pm. A leaflet drop will inform all residents and it is hoped all will attend to put forward their opinions.

Cllr Moore was invited to report on the section 106 fund;

Due to some concerns from HBC officers, who were referring to the original 106 contract, the fund should be used for the maintenance of the play area in Dalton Piercy and responsibility for this may land with HBC. Therefor £20,000.00 had been allocated by HBC for development of the hall. This equated to approximately one third of the total fund. Following conversations with DPPC and Cllr

Moore it was made clear that the play area was installed and is maintained by DPPC and responsibility lies with DPPC.

Cllr Moore presented a document which had been prepared by the legal department at HBC which was a written confirmation that DPPC are responsible for the play area at Dalton Piercy.

DPPC councillors considered the document and **voted unanimously** in favour of the document. There had never been any expectation other than that the parish council are, and will always be, responsible for the play equipment at Dalton Piercy. It is sited on land owned by DPPC, it was installed with funding from DPPC and through external funding secured by DPPC, the equipment is insured by DPPC and safety inspections are arranged by DPPC. Also, any future maintenance required will be carried out by DPPC. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the form and returned it to Cllr Moore for HBC.

Cllr Moore confirmed that the full fund could now be provided to DPVHA for redevelopment of the village hall. He would now instruct the legal department at HBC to amend the original 106 contribution contract.

5. Annual meetings and election.

The Clerk reported all seats at DPPC would be up for election on 5th May 2022. Notice will be provided in due course as well as nomination/application packs.

A discussion took place to agree dates for DPPC annual meeting and the Annual Parish meeting.

These were **agreed** as;

Annual Parish Council meeting: 6.30pm 12th May 2022 (before the usual monthly Parish Council Meeting)

The Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 28th April 2022 at 7.00pm. This is not a meeting of the Parish Council, an informal meeting with light refreshments which provides residents an opportunity to put forward their ideas/wishes for the coming year in the village/community.

6. The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022

A discussion took place. It was noted that the village hall was installed in 1953 to mark the occasion of the Queens coronation. There was a wish to mark the occasion with ideas about decorations and a street party. It was **agreed** a working party would meet on 16th March at 6.00pm in the village hall to make plans.

It was further **agreed** the Community Orchard in The Batts would be named 'The Queens Platinum Jubilee Community Orchard' and registered with the Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy.

Cllr Jackson noted that he would plant a tree in memory of Cllr Brenda Loynes who sadly passed away earlier this year in recognition of her support for Dalton Piercy. Brenda's immediate family will be informed.

7. The Batts - *project and reserve updates.*

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust had been allocated 6 days to complete work for clearing and planting towards the community orchard work in The Batts. 4 days' work has already been completed. Cllr Jackson **proposed** that the last 2 days of work should be allocated 1 day in the summer and 1 day in September 2022. This was **agreed**.

There will be around £300.00 left to claim some suggestions for this is to install signage at the Community Orchard or further TVWT days.

8. Red Gap projects

a) Project updates

Solar Light project – the Clerk has been in touch with HBC officers with the chosen fittings with a view to complete the project in May.

Footpath extension – we have received the invoice from HBC for the last phase of footpath. HBC officers will provide a sketch design with distances for a next phase.

b) New proposals include;

- Three gates footpath extension – as mentioned above.
- Pedestrian (hexpath style) footpath across the village green
- Traditional Lamp covers for street lights in the village
- Footpath improvements in The Batts
- Mechanical grass cutter for use in The Batts

9. Maintenance Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

Possibility of having a painted 'map' of The Batts area for the back of the Village Noticeboard as a future project.

Ash tree on Manor fields – Limbs due to be removed later this month by a contractor as agreed with the maintenance group. The fee is £850.00.

10. Ward Councillors Report:

No attendance or Report.

11. Chairman's Report:

Cllr Rezai reported;

On progress on the 'vote of no confidence' in HBC;

A press release and 'open letter' which outlined lack of progress was printed in the local paper. There has been no reply from HBC.

Cllr Rezai committed to support the other Chairmen's wishes as well as communicating on behalf of DPPC. A 'Parish Liasson' (Parish Council Chairmen and HBC leaders) meeting is scheduled for later this month. Cllr Rezai expressed his great concern that Ward Councillors are not attending meetings or engaging with Parish Councils.

Solicitors acting on our behalf have informed us that funds, for the grant of easement across the village green for Anglian Water and access to their land, are due to be with the solicitor later this week.

12. DPVHA Report

Also see under item 4.

Councillor Patrick reported;

The Planning Consultant and Architect have created some draft plans that are to go to public consultation on Tuesday 22nd March. A leaflet drop will inform residents and all are encouraged to attend the village hall on that day to submit their thoughts on the proposal.

DPVHA are delighted with progress on securing '106 funding' as reported by Cllr Moore earlier in this meeting.

The lease for the land with HBC has also made progress and Trustees are hopeful the agreement can be signed this month.

DPVHA will also be encouraging residents to become members of DPVHA and become actively involved in the development of the association over the coming months.

13. Personnel Report:

NALC have provided details of the national pay increase for Clerks covering the 2021/2022 period. This is 1.75% and equates to £45.61 for the period. From April new monthly salary is £221.00
Agreed.

County Durham Association of Local Councils are hosting a training event for elections at a cost of £10.00. It was **agreed** the Clerk should attend.

14. Finance Report

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

Financial Transactions 10th February – 10th March 2022

Receipts	£
	0.00
TOTAL:	£0.00
Payments	£
J White Clerks salary	£217.20
Clerks annual increase	£45.61
Wave water bill	£26.65
SLCC annual fee	£80.00
TOTAL:	£369.46

15. Correspondence:

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

Some discussions raised from previous correspondence – **Action:** Clerk to chase response from HBC regarding flooding at Hart on the Hill and new field flooding that is having an impact on the carriageway on Dalton Back Lane.

Also; Clerk to explore a response from HBC planning/tree protection regarding the clearance at The Grove site.

16. Planning Applications:

Late addition (received after agenda publication): H/2022/0046

Highgate Meadows, Dalton Piercy – subdivision of plot 5 and the erection of 3 dwellings (1x detached and 1 pair of semi-detached)

Cllrs **resolved** to request an extension for comment to HBC (28/03/22) As the notice has only very recently been sent to residents and Cllrs would like to gauge opinion prior to comment. Clerk to **Action.**

17. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Allotment holders' annual tenancy packs are to be sent in the month of April.

Cllr Jackson reiterated his concern about speeding through the village and noted that HBC have some funds which are being allocated to the Rural West Ward.

The Clerk reported HBC had informed DPPC that HBC's proposal is to install physical speed control on Valley Drive at West Park and North Lane in Elwick. There had been little support from the residents at these locations and so, the proposal is under review. The Chairman had spoken with HBC officers and pushed for Dalton Piercy's concerns to be put forward with a request for physical barriers here.

Cllr Jackson requested full support from DPPC to create a plan to lobby HBC with the ultimate goal of physical speed barriers in the village.

Meeting closed at 9.16pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th April 2022