

**Minutes of the meeting of Dalton Piercy Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Thursday 9th
February 2023 at Dalton Piercy Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs L. Noble (Chair), M. Ireland (from 8.55pm), M. Jackson, M. Patrick, A. Timothy
In Attendance: 4 residents

Before the formal agenda commenced the Chairman proposed that she and the Vice-Chair cover the role of Clerk on a voluntary basis, until a new Clerk could be appointed; if necessary, they would wish to call on other Councillors for help. This was unanimously **agreed**.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Rushworth & Savage, Ward Cllr Martin-Wells – accepted.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Noble, Patrick in item 12– DP Village Hall
3. **Public Forum:** A resident noted that information on the website had still not been updated – the Chairman informed him that she had checked the website that afternoon, and agendas, minutes and financial information were all up-to-date. Another resident requested the PC consider installing Hexapath on village green adjacent to the main road. A resident raised concern that there was no road sign for Highgate Meadows. **Action:** HBC to be informed.
4. **Minutes of 12th January 2023:** A resident requested that Minute 8 be amended to delete mention of voluntary work in the Batts. It was agreed that the words from "volunteers" to the end of the Minute would be deleted, and the wording changed to read "the Chairman apologised for the late delivery of gifts, due to the Clerk's illness and noted that Mr & Mrs Parker were amongst the most proactive volunteers in the village and definitely qualified and would be receiving their gift very soon". Acceptance of the amended draft Minutes was proposed by Cllr Timothy, seconded by Cllr Patrick and agreed. It was therefore **resolved** to accept the Minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:** (i) Item 3 – **Historic Wall Listing** - It was noted that although no response had yet been received from HBC, in regard to the listing status of the historic wall between Manor Farm and Leamont, no evidence could be found on the Heritage England website, of the wall being listed nationally.
(ii) **Early Day Motion** – No response received from MP.
6. **Draft Parish Charter:** The Draft document had been circulated to Parish Councillors in advance of the meeting. Councillors had no issues with the Draft Charter (Cllr Savage had given the Chair his proxy vote in favour of acceptance), and Cllr Timothy proposed its acceptance, seconded by Cllr Patrick. It was **resolved** to accept the Draft Charter as circulated.
7. **Red Gap Projects:** The Chairman reported that a part claim for the Batts (Orchard and Bluebells) Project had now been paid into the bank Account. £3,263.75. The final claim could not be made until the Commemorative Stone for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was in situ. Additions to the list of potential projects this year, were a Hexapath on the village green beside the main road; a path to the Play Area and an independent power source e.g solar panels, at Village Hall.
8. **Councillor Training:** A free one-day event for Parish Councils on Civility & Respect was to be held on 9th March at Newton Aycliffe. Councillors were encouraged to book in – information available on CDALC website.

9. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Noble reported the 20mph digital sign on Manor Fields green was still not working, though HBC had been informed.
10. **Ward Councillors' Report:** Cllr Martin-Wells had submitted a report as follows:
- Garden Waste Bins (Brown bins) charge to be £32 per household for one bin and £20 for each subsequent bin up to a maximum of 4 per household.
 - Elwick By-pass has not yet gone to Planning Committee.
 - He had reported to the relevant Officer for action, a resident's complaint about overgrown bushes and traffic calming.
11. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Noble reported:
- Northern Gas roadworks – no permission had been requested of the Parish Council before work had started. HBC had given a permit for the roadworks and traffic management, but had failed to inform Northern gas of the need to obtain permission also from the PC, for any intrusion on parish land. They had since apologised and agreed to return the green to its former state 'as best they could'. Councillors agreed this was not acceptable, and that compensation for the damage and nuisance caused would be appropriate. **Action:** Chair to take to next Parish Liaison Meeting and request that before granting permits, that affected land/roads etc within a parish, HBC should inform the relevant parish and the agency requesting the permit, as a matter of courtesy (Charter issue).
 - Voneus (WiFi broadband supplier) have been in the village for two days, making promotional videos and chatting to customers about the launch of their superfast broadband service. Dalton Piercy is the first village to receive this service. They offered any help they could with the new village hall and would provide the broadband service free of charge to the new hall.
 - Openreach arrived this morning and installed fibreoptic cables from the Grange to the pond. The workmen had received no instruction for Manor Field or beyond to Three Gates; the current infrastructure only runs to the manhole near the Christmas Tree on the green and not be 'to the door'.
 - HBC has informed the Parish Council that road resurfacing from Three Gates to the A19 will take place within this financial year.
12. **Dalton Village Hall Association Report:** Cllr Patrick reported the delay in planning validation of the application for the new hall, was due to a requirement for a bat survey to be conducted between May and August. The Planning Officer refuses to make this a condition of planning consent. The VHA has applied to change the legal status of the charity to a CIO.
13. **Personnel Committee Report:** The Chairman reported on Cllr Ireland's behalf, that the advertisement for the four Clerk posts at Dalton, Elwick, Thorpe Thewles and Hart had been widely advertised, both locally, regionally and nationally, with a closing date for applications of 10th March.
14. **Finance:** The Chair presented the financial reports, which were approved.

Receipts	£
Grantscape – community orchard part claim.	£3,263.73
TOTAL:	£3,263.73
Payments	£
J White Clerks Salary	£241.20
Community heartbeat trust – defib battery	£264.00
TOTAL:	£505.20

The Chairman noted that the payment for our current website hosting and domain name, was due by the end of the month. We had previously agreed to change provider, but Councillors present felt it was too much to change so quickly and opted instead to remain with One.Com for another year.

15. **Correspondence:** (i) Cllr Jackson email regarding Ash tree – noted; (ii) Quote from Grass Contractors for 2023-24 – accepted;

Cllr Ireland joined the meeting.

16. **Planning Applications:** No new applications received, though it was noted that revised plans had been submitted for H/2022/0350 to which the Parish Council has already **Objected**. The revised plans included the demolition of part of an ancient village wall, protected within the Easement contract with Anglian Water. **Action:** Another, more detailed **Objection** to be submitted.

17. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** None raised.

18. **Date of next Meeting:** 7.00pm Thursday 9th March 2023 at Dalton Village Hall.

Cllr Ireland proposed that Cllr Rushworth be granted a Dispensation for 4 months, as he had considerable unexpected work commitments. This was **unanimously agreed**.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm