

Dalton Piercy Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 9th November 2023 at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Noble (Chair), Savage and Rushworth.

In Attendance: Sarah Brady (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

Meeting started at 7:00pm

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Patrick, Cllr Timothy, Cllr Ireland, and Ward Cllr Martin-Wells.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Noble and Savage in item 11 – DPVHA
3. **Public Forum:**
 - A resident queried if DPPC had looked into opening a savings account to gain interest on the current money held in DPPC's bank account. Cllr Noble advised no savings account was linked to the current bank account held with NatWest. **Action:** Clerk to investigate highest rate business savings accounts.
 - A resident asked if DPPC had completed a budget for 2024. Cllr Noble informed the budget would be discussed in December in order for the Precept demand to be submitted to HBC in January.
 - A discussion arose regarding why DPPC pay for grass cutting separately when other villages in the area are included in the council tax rates. Cllr Ireland informed this was incorrect; HBC contributed to the cost of grass cutting, but villages paid contractors to undertake this more frequently.
 - A resident brought concerns regarding the blocked drains in the village. A resident confirmed that they had spoken to HBC and they did attend 2nd November to clean out the drains, however they had missed cleaning certain drains in the village. HBC will be coming back out.
 - A resident queried if anything was happening regarding speeding throughout the village. Cllr Noble advised she is still fighting for solutions. A resident presented multiple reports using their own software on people doing more than 30mph through the village. Cllr Savage confirmed that HBC will not accept reports that are not on calibrated systems. The Chair thanked the resident and asked to retain his report as further evidence.
4. **Draft of Minutes 12th October 2023** – unanimously **agreed** and **accepted** as a true accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising:

- (i) **Village Life magazine** – Clerk confirmed that 10 extra copies will now be delivered and put in the village phone box for residents to collect.
- (ii) **Caravan** – Clerk spoke to Kieran Campbell at HBC regarding planning permission needed for people living in the caravan within a livery stable business. Kieran advised it would be an enforcement action as likely would need planning permission. A lot of factors would need to be taken into consideration to confirm a final decision. Cllr Noble suggested contacting enforcement officer, Peter Dixon, to investigate. Cllr Savage seconded.
Action: Clerk to contact Peter Dixon.
- (iii) **Tree in bridge** – Clerk contacted Kieran Bostock at HBC. Kieran has passed it to the relevant department at HBC and added to the programme of works. Resident advised the tree hasn't been cut back. **Action:** Clerk to contact Kieran again.
- (iv) **Website Updates** – Cllr Noble noted that the policies on the website needed reviewing and the allotment regulations had outdated contact details that needed updating.
Action: Cllr Noble and Clerk to review and update policies. Clerk updated that the AGAR completed audit report was available on the website, all register of interest forms had been updated and Cllr Jackson's form had been removed. Clerk had set up a new facebook page and asked if anyone would be able to send over photos of Dalton Piercy to publish on the website and social media.

6. Maintenance Committee Report

- (i) **The Batts** – Weather had disrupted the remaining work on the Batts. A resident advised that Cllr Patrick had not been able to attend a meeting to show the trees that needed remedial works on the resident's land. **Action:** Cllr Noble to contact Cllr Patrick to arrange a meeting with the resident.
- (ii) **Information Boards** – Board has been purchased and delivered. Cllr Patrick is organising the old stand to be taken out of the Batts and put by the Batts bench so the new board can be installed.
- (iii) **Christmas Tree** – Old Christmas tree has been taken down. Four new strings of lights have been ordered. Clerk is contacting Rob Daley at HBC to resite the Christmas tree supply box.
- (iv) **College Close** – Large tree had fallen in College Close. Residents cleared up branches on the road, however rotten branches remained on the tree that are a hazard. Cllr Patrick had arranged a contractor to remove the tree and had advised that he had offered the wood chippings and would put them by The Batts gate. It was agreed for the chippings to be spread over the slippery area of The Batts path.
- (v) **Hexapath** – Cllr Noble suggested that two 'Slippery when wet' caution notices be put either end of the fence in front of The Terrace to warn people in bad weather. Cllr Rushworth and Cllr Savsage agreed. **Action:** Cllr Noble to purchase.
- (vi) **Tree Remedial Works** – Still ongoing.

7. **Ward Councillors Report:** Ward Martin-Wells reported that there will be a site visit for Elwick Bypass for members of the planning committee on 15th November.

8. Red Gap Projects:

- (i) Battery power generator is arriving in the morning. Cllr Noble to send Clerk photos so completion report can be finalised with Grantscape.
- (ii) Peter Frost advised the work on the footpath will start in two weeks' time depending on weather.

9. **Chair's Report –**

(a) **Speed Bumps** – Peter Frost at HBC sent a quote for the cost of traffic bumps. The cost would be approximately 10-15k. It was not fully explained if the quote was per bump or for the whole design. Peter Frost agreed DPPC could fund the project, but HBC would need to design, install and carry out ongoing maintenance. It was discussed that 4/5 traffic bumps would need to be quoted for in the centre of the village. A resident suggested that second hand cars be parked in the Village. Cllr Rushworth confirmed discussion previously with police, that this is an obstruction and will not be allowed.

Action: Clerk to specify if initial costing was per bump and get two quotes for four sets and five sets of tarmac traffic bumps.

(b) **Smell of drains** – Northumbrian Water came out and resealed some of the manhole covers on 24th October. They advised gullies were HBC's responsibility. A discussion was had that problems will persist with shared drains. Northumbrian Water need to regularly come out and clean the drains.

10. **Personnel Committee Report** – A resident has expressed an interest in the Councillor vacancy.

11. **DPVHA Report** – Kieran Campbell at HBC advised there were now three objections for the Village Hall. The application will therefore now need to be considered by the full planning committee, possibly in December. However two other big planning applications are going to that meeting, so not confirmed. Due to the objections, Kieran will carry out another site inspection.

12. **Financial Reports** – Clerk presented the reports which were unanimously **agreed** and **accepted**.

Financial Transactions 11th October 2023 – 8th November 2023

Receipts	£
	0
TOTAL:	£0
Payments	£
HMRC PAYE (clerk salary tax)	55.80
Clerk salary	223.40
CE & CM Walker (grasscutting)	231.60
Green Lane Nursery (flowers for flower pots)	30.00
Corporate Christmas Trees (xmas tree lights)	153.98
Ecoflow Europe (solar battery power bank & bag)	3133.10
Signs & Plastics (batts information board)	162.00
TOTAL:	£3,989.88

13. Correspondence

- (i) Discussion already had around The Terrace muddy path – signs to be put up as a caution. Residents suggested putting some of the wood chippings along of the path.

No other correspondence had been received.

14. Planning Applications – none received.

15. Matters of Concern to Councillors

Cllr Savage – issue with pond overflowing with rain- drains need clearing when weather improves. Pond drain needs to be kept clear as regularly as possible. Cllr Savage offered to clear the drain. Cllr Noble asked if anyone knows of a pond maintenance company to please send details to the Clerk, or inform any of the Councillors.

Meeting closed at 8:20pm

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14th December 2023 at 7pm, Dalton Piercy Village Hall.