

## Dalton Piercy Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.29 pm on Thursday 11 May 2023 at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Noble (Chairman), Ireland, Jackson, Patrick, and Savage.

**In Attendance:** 8 Residents

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Rushworth and Timothy, Ward Cllr Martin-Wells – accepted.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Noble, Patrick and Savage in Item 14 – DP Village Hall.

### 3. Public Forum:

- A resident expressed concern about the public Elwick bridleway being opened via a footpath onto Highgate Meadows. This was included in the planning application for the seven new dwellings approved by a single vote at the HBC Planning Committee, following a site visit; however, Highgate Meadows residents were strongly opposed to the decision. Cllr Jackson noted that the Vote of No Confidence in HBC was still standing and now the Parish Charter had been adopted, he felt DPPC should challenge the decision. Cllr Savage, a resident of Highgate meadows himself, agreed to circulate a petition against the footpath for residents to sign.
- Another resident wished to thank Parish Councillors for doing a tough job; he had two questions: (i) What is happening about traffic calming measures discussed some time ago with Peter Frost and (ii) What is happening in regard to the Elwick By-pass? The Chairman noted that Traffic calming was now a standing item on the agenda (Item 7) and DPPC were pressing the Council to implement speed bumps, or chicanes similar to those at Elwick; Cllr Ireland informed the outline planning application for the By-pass had been withdrawn, HBC had now approved the move to compulsory purchase of the land and a full planning application was due to go the Planning Committee next month; as soon as this is submitted, everyone will be consulted again on the final application. It is very important that residents look carefully at the final plans and express their views to HBC individually, whether in favour or opposed, as the Parish Council view only counted as one vote.

4. **Draft Minutes of 13 April 2023:** The draft Minutes had been circulated in advance. Cllr Jackson requested approval of Item 12 be deferred to the June meeting as he strongly objected to the wording. He further requested the Maintenance Committee hold a meeting to resolve the issues he had with the Minutes. Cllr Ireland objected, but the approval of the Minutes was deferred.

### 5. Matters Arising:

- (i) **Highgate Meadows road sign** – no response had been received from Kieran Bostock at HBC, therefore the issue would now be raised with ward Councillors.
- (ii) **Parish Charter** – The Chairman informed this was now on the PC website.
- (iii) **Easement Contract clarification** – no response as yet from the solicitor regarding a potential breach.
- (iv) **Christmas Tree removal** – Cllr Patrick informed he had received two quotes for the work in the same sum of £550, only one of which included grinding out the stump. It was **agreed** to accept that quote. Rob Daley to be asked to remove the electricity supply ASAP. **Action:** Cllr Ireland to request supply be moved quickly.
- (v) **Coronation event** – very positive feedback received from residents who attended.

6. **Parish Meeting:** It was **agreed** to hold this between 6.00 and 7.00pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June, before the DPPC monthly meeting.
7. **Traffic calming:** Covered easier in the meeting. The Chairman agreed to raise this at the Parish Liaison meeting at the end of June if no progress has been seen by then.
8. **Red Gap Projects 2022:** The Chairman report as follows:
  - (a) **Orchard project** - the instalment of the stone for the orchard cannot be done yet due to the ground being extremely boggy as a result of heavy rains over the last month. Now birds were nesting clearing of brambles and undergrowth may have to be delayed.
  - (b) **Footpath from Three Gates Project** – the penultimate section will be completed by the end of the month. Cllr Jackson proposed that HBC be asked to maintain the path and to place bollards to prevent vehicles parking on it.
11. **Training:** It was agreed that the Chairman and new Vice-Chairman would attend the one-day Chairman training event planned to take place in June. **Action:** Chairman to book two places.
12. **Maintenance Committee Report:**
  - (a) **The Batts** – The Chairman noted that the new Information Board and others at the top of the batts had been illegally removed. Cllr Jackson noted that three fruit trees had been deliberately snapped off and a 4-5" diameter tree cut through and destroyed, as well as the hedge burning reported last month. He believed that 90% of the damage was caused on Sundays and offered to spend Sundays in The Batts to deter potential vandals. Cllr Savage expressed concern that Cllr Jackson would be putting himself at risk by doing this alone. Cllr Jackson demurred, and it was therefore **resolved** that if he were to do this, it would be at his own risk as an individual, as he was not being asked to police the Batts by the Parish Council and would not be covered by DPPC insurance.
  - (b) **Tree Survey** - to be undertaken as soon as the trees are in full leaf.
  - (c) **Flower Tubs** – it was **agreed** to give £20 per tub to those who plant and water them.
  - (d) **Blue Edge stones** – To be dealt with under Correspondence.
11. **Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Martin-Wells had nothing to report due to purdah. It was **agreed** he be asked to explain why the Planning Committee had approved the extra houses at Highgate Meadows against Planning officers recommendations and he be requested to support traffic calming measures for the village.
12. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Noble stated she had already covered everything she wished to say earlier in the meeting.
13. **Personnel Committee Report:** Cllr Ireland informed that, to date, no response had been received to the second advertisement for a new Clerk.
14. **DPVHA Report:** Cllr Patrick reported the Bat Survey was to take place over two weeks in early June. Nearby residents would be informed, as this would be done at night, and he did not wish anyone to think there were intruders about.
17. **Financial Reports:** Cllr Ireland presented the reports. Cllr Jackson proposed, with Cllr Patrick seconding, acceptance of the reports. The reports were accepted. Cllr Ireland noted the £1,000 allocated to the Coronation event, had covered the expenditure, and included the purchase of two new assets which would provide a longer-term benefit to the village. It was **resolved** that the cheques unaccounted for in the financial year 2022-23 be cancelled at the bank.

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
HBC (Precept, Concurrent & LCTSS grant)	15,184.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>15,184.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>	<b>£</b>
Minna Ireland (Coronation decorations)	106.14
Mike Patrick (Event shelter)	330.39
Mike Patrick (Charcoal for Coronation BBQ)	16.75
Lyn Noble (Hartlepool Life Clerk advert)	86.40
Lyn Noble (Flowers for pots)	65.00
Walkers (2 x grass cuts)	463.20
Lyn Noble (bluetooth speaker)	129.48
Lyn Noble (Coronation decorations)	7.98
Lyn Noble (Coronation food)	49.25
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£1,254.59</b>

16. **Correspondence:** (i) A resident had requested a Hexi path at the roadside along the length of the village green be considered for Red Gap funding – agreed; (ii) A resident of The Terrace regarding the repair of the track outside The Terrace. DPPC has already agreed to dig out and realign the blue edging stones that protect the grassed area of the village green. Advice will be sought from the contractor regarding any possible options for improving drainage. It was noted the track is registered village green and is not an historic right of way; residents have vehicular access and parking as a concession, but it was given on the clear understanding they would be responsible for the maintenance of the track. DPPC is not responsible for the damage caused by resident's or visiting vehicles. Other residents in a similar situation to The Terrace are required to repair damage caused by vehicular parking.

17. **Planning Applications:** None received.

18. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Jackson raised concern about a complaint regarding dogs not on leads in the village. It was **agreed** that anonymous complaints or correspondence would not be acted upon. However, HBC by-laws require dogs not only to be 'under control' but on leads in public places.

19. **Date of Next Meeting:** 7.00pm, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June at the Village Hall.

*Meeting closed at 8.48pm.*