

**Dalton Piercy Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting at 7.00pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**At Dalton Piercy Village Hall**

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

**In Attendance:** Sarah Brady (Clerk) and 10 members of the public.

**Meeting began at 7:02pm**

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

**2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Noble, Patrick and Savage item 11 (DPVHA trustees)

**3. Public Forum:**

- A resident expressed concern about the lack of correspondence regarding the design plans for the Village Hall. Concerns were discussed that their house was one of the three properties that would be impacted by the west elevation of the building against their fence line. Cllr Ireland noted this was not a P C matter and proposed the resident contact the Village Hall Association to attend a consultation meeting to discuss further.

- A resident asked what had been done previously regarding the litter and fly tipping in the village. There was a discussion about putting up penalty signs on the village roads as a deterrent. Cllr Ireland proposed that residents report fly tipping onto the HBC website. Cllr Noble **agreed** to email Ward Cllrs and bring up the issue at the next Liaison Meeting.

- Highgate Meadows Footpath – item on agenda.

- A resident asked if we could contact a Dalton Heights resident to ask them to cut back their bushes which are causing line of sight problems for vehicles. The Clerk had already sent a letter last month and the bushes were cut back that same day. However, it was discussed that they needed to be cut back further as line of sight problems remained. **Action** Clerk to send second letter to the resident.

**4. Draft of Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023:**

Unanimously **agreed** and **accepted** as an accurate record of the meeting.

**5. Matters Arising:**

- **Highgate Meadows** – HBC are reconsidering the planning condition regarding the gravel footpath. The Chair noted that she had put the reply on the notice board. She attended the Parish Liaison meeting with Tony Hanson, Executive Director of

Developments, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, present. She will continue to pursue this.

- **Easement Contract** – The contract has now been reissued, signed by all parties. TBI solicitors have confirmed completion of the contract. The Chair noted that the contract stays with the purchaser of the property. No action required.

## **6. Maintenance Committee Report:**

The Chair reported as follow:

### **(a) The Batts**

- Cllr Patrick noted that depending on the weather, work was to commence the week of 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. on the wildflower meadows and cutting of the paths, followed by scrub clearance in the orchard. A countryside management company (4Nature Ltd), had emailed DPPC previously regarding the services they could offer. This is the contractor HBC uses for cutting the Rights of Way paths. Cllr Noble noted it would be good to have an alternative contact for maintenance work in the Batts.

### **(b) Information Boards**

- The Chair has spoken to Teesside Wildlife Trust, who had originally created the artwork for the boards in the Batts. TWT is happy to send us the artwork free of charge. It was **agreed** that the board at the top gate end should not be replaced and the village end board could be moved outside the main Batts entrance gate, by the bench, in sight of the village. **Action:** Clerk to follow up and purchase heavy duty fixing and secure backing for the boards.

### **(c) Defibrillator Pads**

- New defibrillator pads had been installed.

### **(d) The Terrace Blue Stones**

- Now realigned and concreted in. Cllr Patrick had received a letter of appreciation from the resident who initially submitted the complaint. The group thanked Cllr Patrick for his work on this.

### **(e) Hexapath Installation Proposal.**

- The Chair noted that a vote had been taken on a resident's proposal to install a Hexapath along the village greens abutting the road. The vote was unanimously **against** the proposal.

### **(f) Tree Survey**

- A comprehensive report had been completed of DPPC trees by HBC. Eleven of the trees needed remedial work within six months (two of these were in the red threat

category) and a further nine trees needed remedial work within one year. The Chair noted that the work would be expensive. There was some discussion asking if all the trees were on Parish Council land. The Chair advised five (in the Batts), of the eleven were not on our land, but that these ash trees had significant die back hanging over the Right of Way onto our land. The tree surgeon explained DPPC were obliged to notify the owner of the land to rectify the issue. Cllr Ireland proposed that we address the other six on DPPC land urgently. Cllr Savage **seconded**. Proposal **agreed**. **Action** Clerk to obtain quotes for the six trees that we are responsible for and inform the owner of issues with the five on their land.

## 7. Red Gap Projects

- The Clerk noted that two contracts had been set up with Grantscape. Funding of £3k (inc VAT) accepted for a solar battery power generator and £4995 (no VAT) for the final stretch of footpath. HBC have been asked to start work on the footpath before the bad weather sets in. A solar battery power generator is currently being sourced.

## 8. Ward Councillors Report -

None received

## 9. Chairs Report

The Chair reported:

- Parish Liaison Meeting (July) – Tony Hanson, Executive Director of Developments, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, was present at the meeting. The Chair asked about putting cameras in the village. This was dismissed as too expensive and no area has cameras unless it is a hotspot. He was also asked about installing speed bumps in the village. Response was there is no evidence of accidents or near-misses in the village being reported to the police. The Chair suggested that residents report any near-misses or accidents to the police, as this would then be fed back to HBC.
- Highgate Meadows – Work had still not been completed by developers. Cllr Savage advised he had spoken to a representative of Wynyard Homes and erection of the additional dwellings is to start in October. Cllr Patrick asked Cllr Savage if Wynyard Homes would consult with the PC as per the planning conditions and the HBC/Parish Charter requirements e.g. no deliveries before 8am, keeping the roads clean etc. Cllr Savage advised they agreed to carry out regular sweeps of the road. Cllr Savage proposed if it becomes a problem, residents are to bring it to the Parish Council.
- Highgate Meadows – the additional houses were ‘Approved’ in the April Planning Meeting. Minutes of the April meeting, in the June Planning Meeting, set out what the conditions and section 106 monies would be. These were listed without consultation with the Parish Council, which contravenes the HBC/Parish Charter. A

Meeting is to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. for Parish Cllrs, Parish Clerks, HBC Cllrs, Ward Cllrs and Officers to discuss the Charter Principles.

- Smell of Drains – Residents reported issues with the smell from drains. Northumbrian Water came out to flush the drains and put cameras down. No blockages were reported. A resident with knowledge of these problems advised manholes covers have not all been sealed and there are problems with the road gullies. **Action** Clerk to contact NW with updated information from resident.

#### **10. Personnel Committee Report:**

Cllr Patrick reported:

- Cllr Jackson had handed in his resignation via email on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The casual vacancy for a Co-opted Cllr is now open and will be advertised on the notice board and Village Life. **Action:** Clerk to put vacancy on the website
- New Clerk, Sarah took up her position on 1<sup>st</sup> August. The group welcomed the new clerk.

#### **11. Dalton Piercy Village Hall Association Report:**

Cllr Patrick reported:

- Plans for the new Village Hall have been validated. In order to comply with parking spaces and the tree survey, it resulted in it being necessary to move the hall on the design plans. In answer to concerns from a resident in the public forum section, Cllr Patrick noted the plans have not gone into detail regarding the west elevation wall and were purposely left blank. Cllr Ireland proposed another public consultation meeting with the Village Hall Association and all residents impacted by the plans be arranged. **seconded** by Cllr Patrick. **Action** Cllr Patrick to arrange meeting with residents.

#### **12. Financial Reports:**

The Clerk presented the Actual against Budget and Financial Transactions. Cllr Ireland proposed, Cllr Patrick **seconded**. Unanimously agreed and **accepted**. The Chair noted that the current balance in the account seems high, but DPPC agreed to donate £30k from the Easement, towards Village Hall funding when planning was approved.

Receipts	£
	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£0</b>
Payments	£
CE & CM Walker (grass cutting x2)	463.20
Lyn Noble (Timpson Batts gate key)	25.00
Lyn Noble (signs, plastics & plaques)	72.00
Lyn Noble (ink cartridges)	30.99
HBC tree survey	945.79
Peter Olsen audit	105.00
CE & CM Walker (grass cutting x2)	463.20
Anglian Water	60.41
SLCC (new clerk membership)	109.00
CE & CM Walker (grass cutting x2)	463.20
Meryl Gardens (tree care & landscaping)	480.00
Community Heartbeat (defibrator pads)	130.74
Clerk salary	279.20
HMRC PAYE	69.80
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£3,697.53</b>

### 13. Correspondence

- Cllr Timothy sent correspondence asking if there could be a preservation order to protect the newly planted hedge abutting Highgate Meadows. It was queried whether TPO's were possible for hedges. **Action:** Clerk to contact the tree surgeon. A resident emailed about vehicles parking on the footpath between Three Gates and the village, causing issues for pedestrians, particularly those with pushchairs, having to walk on the road. Some discussion was had re no parking signs. The Chair noted she would speak to Peter Frost (Highways), as the land belongs to HBC.

### 14. Planning Applications:

- Greatham Meadows, Planning approved since 2014. Dalton/A689 junction will not be widened. See plans 'South West Extension' on the Planning Portal.
- H/2023/0057 Land in the vicinity of Elwick Bypass – Cllr Ireland noted objections can still be submitted. The Rural Plan Group's comprehensive objection report is available on the planning portal. Although the Bypass is welcomed, increased traffic issues and the impact on small local villages will be significant.
- H/2023/0280 – Ashfield Caravan Park – No objection.
- H/2022/0456 – Village Hall - arrived too late for the meeting. Cllr Ireland proposed a meeting for discussion. **Action:** Clerk to contact planning officer for an extension.

### 15. Matters of Concern to Councillors: - None reported

Meeting closed at 9:00pm

Date of next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> October