

## Dalton Piercy Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting at 7.00pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

#### At Dalton Piercy Village Hall

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

**In Attendance:** Sarah Brady (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

#### Meeting began at 7:00pm

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

2. **Declaration of Interest:** Cllrs Noble, Patrick and Savage item 12 (DPVHA Trustees).

#### 3. Public Forum:

- A resident queried delivery of Village Life magazine. Cllr Timothy suggested extra copies to be put in phone box on village green for residents to collect. Cllr Ireland proposed to contact editor of Village Life, to ask for extra copies. **Action:** Clerk to contact S.Jobson.
- A resident expressed concern that two bluestones were missing from the Terrace track. A gap had purposely been left to aid drainage. A resident queried how the PC had granted an easement across the green when part of it was across a track. It was stated that all tracks are part of the village green and are the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- A resident expressed concerns at The Batts being overgrown and the health of wildlife – *in maintenance committee report*.
- Resident mentioned that a third party agent requested contact details of the tree surveyor re trees on his land. Cllr Noble confirmed Scott Watson's details (HBC arborist). Full report on the website. Cllr Patrick agreed to meet resident and agent to show location of trees.
- A resident asked what could be done to assist in the removal of leaves from the roadside, resulting in narrowing of the road and loss of visibility of the kerbside. Cllr Ireland confirmed that it was the responsibility of HBC.

#### 4. Draft Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Unanimously **agreed** and **accepted** as a true accurate record of the meeting with two amendments made to pg. 2, Line 34 and pg. 3, Line 34. The Chair signed the minutes.

#### 5. Matters Arising

- (i) **DPVH** – Cllr Patrick confirmed another resident meeting would be arranged once the Planning Committee had met, hopefully at the 15<sup>th</sup> November meeting.
- (ii) **Fly Tipping** – reported in Chairs report.
- (iii) **Dalton Heights** – resident has cut back their bushes. Resident asked to be notified personally if anymore issues.

- (iv) **Speed signs** – reported in Chairs report.
- (v) **Hedges** – Clerk spoke to Scott Watson and a tree preservation order was not allowed for the new hedges.

## 6. AGAR

Cllr Ireland confirmed our annual financial audit for year-end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 was approved but actions needed to be taken for future annual audits. The Cllrs thanked Cllr Ireland for her work on the audit. **Actions** for next year:

- (i) Internal Control Objective ‘the Council has met its responsibilities as a trustee’ box should be ticked ‘Not Applicable’, given that the council has no trust funds responsibilities.
- (ii) The Council should ensure in 2023/24 they comply with the requirements of 2015 Accounts and Audit regulations to start the period of 30 working days for the public to inspect the accounts as soon as possible after it was approved.
- (iii) The accounting statement should include ‘restated’ to confirm the differences from previous years annual return if applicable.
- (iv) The Council should make it clear on their website that the document is a scan and will not be fully compliant with the accessibility regulations for a ‘wet ink’ signature.

## 7. Maintenance Committee Report

- (i) **The Batts** – Pathways cut, meadows and orchard trimmed and large areas of nettles and brambles cut back. There is half days work more to be done. The budget should stretch for the maintenance to be done at least twice a year. Cllr Noble asked if people could contact the Clerk if they knew of a pond maintenance company, to clear the weeds due to nitrate/phosphate run off from fields.
- (ii) **Information Boards** - Cllrs **agreed** to purchase a 11 gage solid aluminium board, costing £135 +VAT. A resident suggested a bin be placed near the Batts bench. Cllr Noble advised the Parish Council would have to buy it and pay for it to be emptied.
- (iii) **Tree Survey** – Cllr Patrick will obtain some quotes for the remedial work on the trees along with a quote to take down the Christmas tree.
- (iv) **Village Pots** – Two flower pots are currently damaged. Cllr Noble advised she is no longer willing to water the unadopted pots in the centre of the village. She suggested that these could still be adopted by volunteers and would be paid £20 per pot for planting and watering. The eleven unadopted flower pots will be removed if there are no volunteers by Spring 2024. Please contact the Clerk if you are willing to look after a pot. Thank you to those volunteers who already plant and water the tubs, helping to make our village greens attractive. **Clerk to action.**
- (v) **Christmas Tree Lights** – Waterproof box and reusable lights have been removed. Cllr Noble proposed the purchase of more lights. Cllr Timothy and Patrick **seconded**. **Agreed** approval of purchase of 4 x 10m string lights.

## 8. Red Gap Projects

Cllr Noble circulated quote. **Accepted** and **agreed** to purchase a power battery bank. **Action:** Cllr Noble to purchase.

It has been requested that planings on the footpath from Three Gates to the village be better compacted.

## 9. Ward Councillors Report

None received.

## 10. Chairs Report

- (a) **Parish Liaison Meeting** – Issue reported for **unreadable highway sign** at Three Gates. Response from HBC managing director advising resources will be looked at when they become available. HBC advised they are happy for Parish Council to clean. Issue reported on **speed bumps**. It was proposed to HBC if Parish Council raise funds, could they be installed? Response from HBC; advising they would need to design and Parish Council would need to take on the maintenance upkeep. Cllr Timothy **proposed** a quote to be obtained. **Action:** Clerk to contact HBC for cost of tarmac bumps. Issue reported to **install signage** for fly tipping. HBC will feed into fly tipping group re signage. Issue reported about **parking on footpath**; response was to suggest notice be put on cars as an initial step. **Action:** Chair to query double yellow lines at next Liaison meeting.
- (b) **Charter** – suggestion from the Chair of Elwick Parish Council that parishes provide a list of things that the village would benefit from in Section 106 agreements, to be updated on a regular basis to assist HBC officers when drawing up agreements with developers. Cllr Noble suggested that going forward DPPC include Section 106 preferences in every planning application comment submitted to the Planning Portal involving Dalton parish.
- (c) **Highgate Meadows Gravel path** - Correspondence was received to Cllr Noble confirming DPPC were written to formally and the planning committee decision cannot be undone re footpath. Cllr Noble contacted Tony Hanson, insisting the Parish Council were not involved in the consultation of the conditions of the gravel footpath with Wynyard Homes/HBC and Highgate Meadow residents have right of appeal six months following the decision. Tony Hanson declared he did not agree there was no consultation with DPPC and the application was published on the portal in July 2021, then included in plans with Wynyard Homes in October 2022 and received no objections from DPPC. He confirmed HBC would not support any amendment to application from DPPC on highway safety grounds. Cllr Noble advised residents' complaints cannot be made to secretary of state by a third-party.
- (d) **Caravan** – a discussion was had regarding people living in a caravan within a Livery Stable business and if planning permission was needed. **Action:** Clerk to contact HBC.
- (e) **Smell from drains** – a resident has paid for an independent surveyor, who spoke to Northumbrian Water. NW carried out repairs and their issue with sewage is now resolved. Problems with smell in the village still ongoing. Resident sent report and locations to Clerk who is contacting NW. Awaiting response from Northumbrian Water.

## 11. Personnel Committee Report

Nothing to report

## 12. DPVHA Report

Cllr Patrick waiting on planning committee decision, to organise resident meeting re Village Hall Plans.

## 13. Financial Reports

Clerk presented the reports which were unanimously **agreed** and **accepted**. **Action:** Clerk to set up ICO renewal fee on direct debit to avoid late payment fees and get deduction in cost. Cllr Noble advised she is setting up online banking with NatWest.

## Financial Transactions 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Payments</b>	<b>£</b>
ICO (renewal fee)	40.00
County Durham Association of Local Councils (Clerk training)	10.00
Mazars (annual audit fee)	252.00
Edward Egglestone (payroll support)	21.00
HMRC PAYE (Clerk salary tax)	55.80
Clerk salary	223.40
CE & CM Walker (grasscutting)	463.20
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£1,065.40</b>

### 14. Correspondence

- (i) Damage from tree growing out of bridge – **Action:** Clerk to contact HBC for inclusion on programme of works (ii) Road signs – 40mph road markings (roundels) to be installed. (iii) Traffic Calming – reported in Chairs report. (iv) Litter – Resident asked if Gary Jones HBC details could be advertised on DPPC website to encourage litter picking. Alternatively, residents can contact Clerk who can supply High Vis jackets, pickers and green litter bags. **Action:** Clerk to update on website. Cllr Ireland thanked resident for their cooperation for the litter picking in the village. (v) Resident queried a breach of contract noted in Agenda for Planning Committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr Timothy advised the breach was due to Wynyard Homes failing to plant hedging in the ‘buffer’ zone between the Howls ancient woodland and Highgate Meadows resident’s fences.

### 15. Planning Applications

- **H/2022/0456** (Village Hall) – Cllr Timothy proposed DPPC write a support letter. Cllr Ireland **seconded**.
- **H/2023/0057** (bypass) – Cllr Timothy proposed objection, due to design issues impacting on the villages. Cllr Noble **seconded**.

### 16. Matters of Concern to Councillors

LN – DPPC Facebook Page – **Action:** Clerk to start new Facebook page.

LN – Register of Interest Forms – **Action:** Clerk to update DPPC website, creating a link to Dalton Piercy Councillor's Register of Interest forms on HBC website.

Meeting Closed at 8:56pm

Next Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023