

Dalton Piercy Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 14th December 2023 at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Sarah Brady (Clerk) and 8 members of the public

Meeting started at 7.03pm

1. **Apologies:** Ward Cllr Martin-Wells.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Noble, Savage and Patrick – DPHVA
3. **Public Forum**
 - A resident informed that another resident who owns The Stables near Sambuca hotel has apologised to the whole community for the disturbance and mud on the road whilst he is making an area for his vehicle in his field. His apologies were greatly received.
 - Cllr Patrick advised of a notice on Facebook advertising manure free to collect to people near Sambuca's restaurant.
 - A resident advised they attended the Ward Councillors Surgery meeting on 29th November and raised the following issues with Ward Cllr Martin- Wells.
 - Drainage Issues from The Grove – there has been a temporary fix. A survey is to be carried out to find the underlying issue.
 - Drainage issues in the village – gulleys in the village need flushing by HBC.
 - Road Sweeping – request of road sweeper to alleviate any blocked drain issues.
 - Flytipping – request to supply statistics on and before COVID rule changes at Recycling centre.
 - Highgate Meadows Sign – request for Dalton Heights sign to be replaced for one stating 'Dalton Heights leading to Highgate Meadows' to avoid visitors struggling to find Highgate Meadows. Cllr Noble updated that Cllr Wells was progressing with sign.
 - Speed Limit Signage – Peter Nixon is in the process of getting roundels organised to be painted on the approach roads into the village.
 - HGV Restrictions – request for signage directing HGV traffic to the A179. Further request to have an engineer assess the weight restriction allowed on the bridge.
 - Public Footpath Accessibility – request for HBC to improve the pathways in winter when heavy with mud.
 - Ward Cllr Martin-Wells Attendance at DPPC Meetings –Cllr Martin- Wells reported that he is unable to attend on Thursday evenings. Resident suggested change of DPPC meeting night. Cllr Noble updated that Cllr Martin- Wells suggested Cllrs and residents attend Ward Cllrs surgery to raise issues. Resident has arranged tour of village with Cllr Martin – Wells on 9th January 2024. Details to be emailed to Cllr Noble.
 - A resident raised concerns about the path near the duck pond eroding. A resident corrected it was a village green track, Cllr Noble informed an easement was also in place allowing

access for one dwelling at The Grange. The owner was responsible for maintenance of the track. There is also an historical access to farm fields along the track.

- A resident noted concerns about the hexapath still being unsafe even though chippings had been laid – Cllr Noble advised she is picking up caution signs on the 15th December to be installed.
- A resident raised concerns regarding a manhole cover getting full of silt near paths at Highgate Meadows. Cllr Ireland advised the resident needed to contact the site developer. Cllr Savage updated that he had spoken to people working for Wynyard Homes who advised they are to make good the paths in the New Year and will be starting the final stage of the development.

4. **Draft of Minutes 9th November 2023** – changes made to page 2, item 2 and page 1, item 4. Changes agreed and minutes unanimously agreed and accepted as a true accurate record of the meeting.

5. **Matters Arising:**

- (i) **Business Savings Accounts** – Clerk updated on two banks that offered highest rates. A discussion was had regarding period for access for money. Agreed to apply for savings account with NatWest with 35-day access period and 3.4% interest rating. Cllr Noble advised interest rates had recently gone down. **Action:** Clerk to apply for best interest rate. Cllr Timothy proposed that as soon as the Savings account was open, £30,000 be transferred to it from the Current account; this was **unanimously agreed**.
- (ii) **Grass Cutting Costs** – Cllr Ireland advised all villages apart from Greatham pay for their own grass cutting with a contribution from HBC due to the grass needing maintenance more regularly than HBC could supply. HBC cut grass every 21 working days.
- (iii) **Caravan planning app** – Clerk updated that Tony Dixon, enforcement office at HBC, had replied requesting a little more information regarding the caravan livery stable. Clerk had recently sent over satellite images of location and awaiting response. Cllr Savage asked if it had been mentioned about the two motorhomes at lower grange. Another concern was brought by Cllr Noble regarding along Dalton Back Lane and a possibility about another house being build behind the back of Endurotex business premises and a possible breach of easement. **Action:** Clerk to ask enforcement office to investigate all three.
- (iv) **Tree in Bridge** – Kieran Bostock had advised this had been actioned. Resident to confirm if tree has been cut back.
- (v) **Allotment Regulations** – had been reviewed and updated and uploaded onto website.

6. **Maintenance Committee Report**

- (i) **The Batts** – wood chippings from the old Christmas tree have been spread across the footpath in The Batts.
- (ii) **Supply Box** – box has been relocated by Rob Daley to new Christmas tree. Cllr Noble wanted to pass on a thank you message to a resident who fitted the lights and timer.
- (iii) **Christmas Tree Lights** – decision on lights to be taken down or left on the tree to be made in the new year.

- (iv) **Caution Signs** – Cllr Noble updated signs have arrived.
- (v) **Village Life Donation** – all Cllrs agreed Cllr Noble to pay in £30 for donation.
- (vi) **Remedial Work** – Cllr Patrick informed he has received one quote of £2,300 for remedial work on trees for 6 months works. He is still awaiting more quotes.
- (vii) **Volunteers** – Cllr Patrick raised an issue of not being able to rely on volunteers to carry out works for free. Council has a budget for maintenance that is still to be used. He proposed hiring a maintenance person to be on the books to be able to do odd jobs in the village. Cllr Savage **agreed**. **Action:** Cllr Patrick to investigate.

7. Ward Councillors Report: None to receive. Cllr Noble informed Ward Surgeries will be held every 2 months. HBC managing director cannot insist Ward Cllrs turn up to Parish Council meetings but has advised she has pushed for the Ward Surgery meetings to take place.

8. Red Gap Project – Cllr Noble advised footpath project has been complete. Clerk to finalise completion report and send to Grantscape. Invoice for works still to be received.

9. Chairs Report

- (i) **Parish Liaison Meeting** – Cllr Noble attended recent meeting and asked again about speed bumps. Initial estimate quote sent by Peter Frost, waiting on quote for 4 and 5 tarmac traffic bumps in village. Clerk has sent email requesting quote. Likely DPPC will not be able to afford to fund themselves. Cllr Noble required about funding – HBC advised no funding available and no opportunities for funding currently.
- (ii) **S106 Variation** – Cllr Noble asked if variation for Highgate Meadows had been completed. Solicitor advised it hadn't been finished but everyone has agreed to it. She updated about funding for three areas from new development. Cllr Timothy questioned the small amount of funding that was available out of the whole development. Cllr Noble advised funding from S106 is shared within Hartlepool town as well as the parish council if it will benefit the residents of the parish councils.
 - i. **Play Area** – needs to be specific to play area. Cllr Noble advised we already have maintenance for play area so money will need to go towards equipment for the area. Funding available up to £1500.
 - ii. **Tennis** – funding available of approximately £300. Cllr Noble suggested marking a badminton course in the village hall but that was not allowed for funding. It was passed for Dalton Piercy to use funding to hold tennis lessons for children in the village.
 - iii. **Playing Pitches** – this funding is unavailable as Dalton Piercy has no outside pitch facilities.

Cllr Noble will receive an email to confirm funding allowance for the village.

- (iii) **Ward Councillor Surgeries** – as previously discussed, these will be held every two months.
- (iv) **Speeding** – Cllr Noble was told there was no funding available for this issue.
- (v) **Big Conversation Project** – Cllr Noble advised of a poster advertised for residents across the borough to go on via QR code or link to website and submit their views on what they want from HBC.

- (vi) **Bypass** – has not gone to planning. Hoping to be pushed to January meeting. Highways England who is running the bypass restriction has told HBC they cannot build more than 250 homes in the entire borough until the planning has been passed.
- (vii) **Village Green Policy** – had some legal issues which have now been resolved. This needs to be discussed in a separate meeting and the outcome to be issued in the next parish council meeting.

10. Personnel Committee Report

Cllr Patrick informed that the Clerk has handed in her resignation. **Action:** Cllr Noble to advertise vacancy in village life and Clerk to advertise vacancy on website and Facebook. Cllr Noble thanked the Clerk for her work whilst in the role.

11. DPVHA Report –

Cllr Patrick updated Kieran Campbell has been on site and spoken to the objectors. One of the issues was accommodating the car park, which was forced upon the planning of the village hall due to the car park situation. Kieran Campbell has taken advice from car parking association, and we may be able to reduce the number of available parking spaces. Kieran is to meet with the architect to carry out a site meeting. Cllr Noble advised if someone did withdraw their objection, it may still go to planning due to the size of the community project.

12. **Financial Reports** – Clerk presented the reports. Cllr Ireland expressed concerns that DPPC were over their planned budget. **Action:** Cllr Ireland to investigate transactions relating to overspend in the budget. Cllr Ireland proposed a separate meeting to discuss 2024 budget once budget report has been checked and agreed. Meeting agreed to be held Thursday 4th January at 7pm at Dalton Piercy Village Hall for Cllrs to discuss budget and precept. A resident asked if they can attend. Cllr Ireland advised residents are welcome to the public meeting to listen to the plans but cannot input.

13. **Correspondence** – none to receive.

14. **Planning Application** – none received.

15. **Matters of Concerns to councillors** – Cllr Savage mentioned general concerns that were already covered on the agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.33pm.