

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 11th February 2021
Virtual meeting held on the online platform 'zoom'.

Present: Cllrs D. Rezai (Chair), L. Noble, M. Patrick, M. Ireland S. Rushworth and M. Jackson

In Attendance: Clerk J. White

Meeting began at 7.04pm.

UK government restrictions due to the Coronavirus Pandemic continue, this includes instructions to work from home.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr A Timothy. Ward Cllr B Loynes
Accepted and Approved.

2. Declaration of interests:

None.

3. Public Forum:

None.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 14th January 2021

Approved as a true and accurate record. (Prop LN Sec. MI)

5. Substantive items

a) Broadband

The Clerk reported she had received a generic email from BT Openreach stating the voucher scheme we applied for last August was due to end in March. As we are yet to receive a quote or any other correspondence from Openreach regarding our application this is somewhat concerning.

A discussion took place.

Cllr MI **proposed, Seconded** by DR that a letter to the minister in charge of broadband/internet coverage (DCMS), including copies to our local authority, MP and our combined authority metro mayor be sent asap. Highlighting our situation and raising the issue after exploring every avenue open to us, each time falling through the net and failing to secure internet connection for our residents – with a full history. Subject to any response, it is time to invite the press and media to print our story and promote our issues. Furthermore, Cllr Jackson could organise a 'sign' for the entrance to the village advertising the lack of internet here. Unanimously **agreed.**

b) Red Gap projects.

- Play area

The Clerk has instructed HBC to carry out quarterly inspections of the play equipment as was previously agreed at an amount of £50.00 per inspection. The set-up fee is £150.00 which will be included in our funding claim.

Quotes to replace the play area/allotment boundary fence were shared by email as a closed tender application. The chosen contractor (L.N. did not vote) was Geoff Bell fencing. £4,737.00 (inc VAT). The work is due to start any day – weather permitting.

The award from the Red Gap Community fund is £16,128.00 assuming an additional 20% contribution from DPPC (£4,032) bringing the total project spend to £20,160.00.

Total spend on the project so far is £17,459.00. To take full advantage of the award from Red Gap it was agreed to include the Play area/ Allotment boundary fence costs taking the total to £21,407.00.

The smaller fence along the beck boundary costing £1,400.00 is covered by the contribution from Anglian Water (£2,000.00)

- The Batts

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust have completed their work to create Bee banks and Wildflower meadows along with an owl nesting box and further nest boxes. They also refurbished the information board.

TVWT have been paid, the remaining amount in the fund award is £544.00. To allow us to maintain the areas a strimmer (£405.78) and wildflower meadow seed (£84.37) has been purchased. It was **agreed** the remaining balance of £53.85 should be returned to the fund and the project closed.

- Blue Edging Stones (pond track)

The work to install new edging stones – extending the existing curb stones, along the track next to the pond is complete. We were also able to extend the ‘blue’ stones at other locations in the village.

Funding award = £2,525.00. Claim = £2,250.00. It was **agreed** the remaining £275.00 should be returned to the fund and the project closed.

- Improvement of village common areas (noticeboard)

All aspects of the project have been claimed for (final amount £2,610.35 for noticeboard) leaving £26.87. It was **agreed** this amount should be returned to the fund and the project closed.

Action: Clerk to contact HBC to start lighting project. Also, complete work on the Christmas tree electricity supply.

Suggestions for the next funding applications are encouraged. Application deadline is May 2021.

Cllr Rezai wishes to ensure residents are aware of the scheme and encourages everyone to put forward their ideas. Action: Clerk to create a notice.

Cllr Jackson will approach TVWT for further project ideas in The Batts.

6. Chairman/Ward Councillors Report:

Cllr Rezai reported;

He attended a site meeting with Peter Frost (Highways HBC) and Cllr Patrick at the Three Gates footpath. DPPC’s concerns about the footpath were relayed to Mr Frost. The meeting was positive and Mr Frost confirmed HBC would ‘adopt’ the footpath, this includes weedkilling. Mr Frost confirmed the paths construction was always to be of crushed ‘road planings’ he advised upgrading the path surface to an asphalt type would be too expensive. This is a possibility which could be looked at in the future.

Cllr Rezai raised concern about the path being used for car parking. Letters are to be sent to those neighbouring the path to remind them it is not to be used for parking.

Other issues raised with HBC included potholes and fly-tipping on Dalton Back Lane and the main Dalton Road, also the drainage trench at Hart on the Hill.

Cllr Ireland asked if the maintenance commitment from HBC has ever been presented in writing?

Action: Clerk to seek written clarification from Peter Frost.

There has been no contact from Cllr Stokell, Cllr Loynes is unwell at the moment and Cllr Young it is a very busy period at the moment.

7. Maintenance Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

The Snowdrops at the play area need splitting to manage and improve the display for the future. It was **agreed** volunteers should be asked to help split and replant the bulbs in the immediate area once the plants are 'in the green'.

A long-term management plan for The Batts wildflower meadows needs to be established. It was **agreed** in the first instance DPPC would call upon volunteers to cut and seed the areas. Should there not be enough interest/help Tees Valley Wildlife Trust will be contacted and asked to complete the work. Their fees being around £200 per day. Cllr MJ volunteered to start the strimming work should the equipment arrive soon.

It would be useful to compile a list of volunteers and hold their details, should they give permission, to be notified of any future opportunities. This was **agreed** Clerk to **Action**.

The Clerk left the meeting – laptop crashed at 8.05pm.

8. Financial report:

The Clerk presented the financial reports which were **accepted**.

It was **agreed** to release and pay the Cheque to HBC for footpath phase 2 after assurances were given to the Chairman at his recent meeting with HBC representative for Highways Peter Frost.

Financial Transactions 15th January – 11th February 2021

Receipts	£
	0.00
TOTAL:	£00.00
Payments	£
<i>HBC – reissued cheque footpath phase 2</i>	<i>4,677.96</i>
J White Clerks salary	217.20
J White – reimburse wild flower meadow seed	101.25
DPVHA – picnic bench	231.00
L Noble – reimburse xmas tree light spares	67.58
Mazars – ext audit	240.00
J White reimburse – strimmer etc	486.93
J White reimburse – one.com web host fees	126.90
TOTAL:	£1,470.86
	<i>£1,470.86+ £4,677.96 = £6,148.82</i>

9. Correspondence

- Quotation from Walkers grass cut for acceptance?
- Introduction from Andy Hampson, Police constable on the engagement team at Cleveland Police and a specific initiative Operation Hinkley for Allotment holders.

10. Planning Applications:

H/2020/0416 (Woodside extension) - No comment to add.

H/2020/0453 (4x 4 bed holiday cottages, Abbey Hill Cottages) After discussion it was agreed an objection should be submitted.

H/2020/0387 (475xdwellings, business units and infrastructure) Strong objection – still no Elwick bypass causing unacceptable strain on village through roads including through Dalton Piercy, Elwick and on Worset/Hart Back Lane. The current road infrastructure into Hartlepool itself is also becoming overwhelmed with traffic at Wooler/Elwick Road junction and Hart Lane/Serpentine Gdns junctions. These are the 2 access points to the town from Elwick Road – an essential route for those who live in the rural west. Also, HBC have already granted permission to a number of large schemes that more than covers the local quota as laid out in their own local plan.

11. Matters of Concern to Councillors

None.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 11th March 2021