

**Dalton Piercy Parish Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
**Virtual meeting held on the online platform 'zoom'.**

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

**In Attendance:** Clerk J. White

Meeting began at 7.00pm.

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

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr M Patrick.

**Accepted and Approved.**

**2. Declaration of interests:**

None.

**3. Public Forum:**

None.

**4. Minutes of meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Also, special meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.**

Both sets of minutes were **Approved** as a true and accurate record. (Prop MI Sec. LN)

**5. Red Gap.**

**a) New Projects 2021**

Cllr Timothy (via LN) put forward the idea of a bluebell flower project in the existing wooded area of the Batts and suggested the project could cost around £3,000.00.

Cllr Jackson suggested a 'Community Orchard' also in The Batts where a selection of mixed fruit trees would be planted in an area next to the wildflower meadows. Also, providing the opportunity for residents to dedicate and plant more trees in memory of loved ones.

Prices obtained by MJ for 50x trees=£1,095.00 and labour/ground preparation from TVWT at £1,824.00.

Cllr Jackson **proposed** DPPC should go ahead and apply for both projects (separately)

**Seconded DR. Agreed.**

Cllr Ireland **proposed** the Clerk should apply for a new laptop computer to upgrade the current PC laptop. The application should be in conjunction with the other Parish Councils in the Rural West of Hartlepool) **Seconded DR. Agreed.**

Cllr Timothy (via LN) put forward the idea of improving the 'footpath' on the village green in front of The Terrace. This is a slip footpath and the only pedestrian route through that part of the village. He suggests a 'Hexpath' type solution – one that does **not** require a sub base (and planning permission) – that is strong enough to endure heavy foot traffic and horses.

Cllr Noble **proposes** DPPC go ahead with the application on the assumption the materials will cost around £10-£20.00 per meter. **Seconded MJ. Agreed.** Cllr Noble will measure and obtain quotes for fitting.

The Clerk obtained a quote from HBC to install decorative kits for the street lights in the village. It was **Agreed** that at £1,500.00 per light this would be too expensive.

It was agreed Cllr Rezai should go ahead for the next phase application for the Village to Three Gates footpath at £4,950.00.

On behalf of DPVHA Cllr Rezai reported that an application for the Village Hall would be submitted this year and hopes the renewal of our Village Hall would be supported as a priority.

## **b) Historical Projects**

### **Solar light project**

Details from HBC have been provided with some queries from DPPC regarding the quoted prices. HBC have committed to install a new light at the bridge and at the entrance to the Village Hall, this is separate to the 3-light project.

Prices for wired lights at the 3 locations we have funding for are higher than our funding allows. Advice to date is that Solar powered lights may not be suitable.

**Action:** Clerk to work with the officer for further details and clarity on the offer.

## **6. Substantive items.**

### **a) Broadband**

Tees Valley Mayors office have suggested a company are interested in providing a service for the village. We are yet to be provided with any information. This could be due to upcoming elections and Councils being in purdah. **Action:** Clerk to continue chasing information.

### **b) Volunteering opportunities**

Cllr Jackson suggested meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 10am to remove weeds/thistles and sprinkle seed at the wildflower meadows.

The village litter pick continues on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

**Action:** Clerk to email volunteer list and provide details on the noticeboard.

## **7. Maintenance Report:**

Cllr Noble reported;

Special thanks to our volunteers and Cllr Jackson for work on the wildflower meadows this last month. The meadows have been strimmed and raked in preparation for the seasons ahead. Cllr Jackson also strimmed the 'old' meadow at the far end of the Batts to see if any plants remain there. He also re wired the fence at the entrance to the Batts and next to the play area and planted Blackthorn saplings to further discourage people from using the fenced area as a route.

Thanks also go to those who helped split the snowdrops at the play area, hopefully this will improve the display next year.

Finally, thanks to Mr and Mrs Donnelly who donated some young oak trees to replace the damaged trees in the Batts. They have been planted by our volunteers.

## **8. Ward Councillors Report:**

No report – All DPPC councillors expressed their disappointment that there is no report or attendance again.

## **9. Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman reported; he had contacted HBC to find out if it is a requirement for Ward Councillors to attend Parish Council meetings – it is not.

Cllr Ireland reminded Councillors that our Ward Councillors do not hold ward surgery meetings as they attend Parish Council meetings.

Councillors were very concerned that our Ward Councillors are not attending Parish Council meetings or holding ward surgeries.

#### 10. DPVHA Report:

On behalf of DPVHA Cllr Rezai reported;

The Village Hall association have instructed an Architect and Planning Consultant to put together a provisional scheme to replace the hall.

The DPVHA will be putting an application to the Red Gap fund for a storage shed to keep equipment in a safe place should the hall be demolished.

A lease for the hall land has been promised from HBC but is yet to be agreed.

#### 11. Personnel Report:

No report.

#### 12. Financial report:

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

#### Financial Transactions 12<sup>th</sup> March – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Receipts	£
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
Payments	£
J White Clerks salary	217.20
J White reimburse – zoom monthly fee	14.39
D M Ireland - stationary	25.19
GS Bell (fencing) ltd	1,776.00
GS Bell (fencing) ltd	4,737.60
M Jackson (receipts petrol/wire)	20.29
	<b>£6,790.67</b>

#### 13. Correspondence

Shared ahead of meeting, covered under other agenda items.

#### 14. Planning Applications:

H/2020/0453 amended plans 4x 4-bedroom holiday cottages, Abbey Hill Cottages

- Discussion: a very small amendment difficult to tell what it is. All previous comments are maintained and objection remains.

H/2020/0480 Land change of use from agricultural to domestic garden, land north of 27 Highgate Meadows

- Discussion: Very strong concerns regarding the protective buffer zones surrounding the Howls ancient woodland. Cllr Jackson confirmed the woodland that stretches to the neighbouring farmers land is considered as part of the wood and should afford the same

protection. It was **agreed** Cllr Rushworth will produce the text for an Objection from DPPC. Cllrs will also submit their own personal objections.

H/2021/0027 Detached garage and stable building, Willow Tree Farm. (part retrospective)

- A discussion took place, questions raised by Councillors included; is this a genuine rural business? Is it being operated as a holiday let? And have HBC ever inspected the letting records as a condition of the original planning permission? There is a lack of Bridleway paths in the area. Dalton Back Lane, as a dangerous road, is not suitable for increased use by horse riders. It was **agreed** DPPC should object on this basis.

## **15. Matters of Concern to Councillors**

Cllrs continue with their concerns regarding speeding traffic through the village.

Cllr Noble put forward a request from an allotment holder to move the boundary fence – only a small amount – so an existing fence is in line with the new fence. Cllr Noble has inspected and the changes seem appropriate. **Approved.**

Meeting closed at 9.06pm

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021