

**Dalton Piercy Parish Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021**  
**At Dalton Piercy Village Hall.**

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

**In Attendance:** Clerk J. White and 1 member of the public

Meeting began at 7.45pm.

UK government restrictions due to the Coronavirus Pandemic continue, strict social distance policy remains in place.

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr Rushworth – Accepted.

**2. Declaration of interests:**

DR, L.N and M.P – Village Hall (all are trustees of DPVHA)

**3. Public Forum:**

- Pot holes on Dalton Back Lane are very bad and a danger particularly to cyclists and motorcyclists. Can not understand why the road was resurfaced recently on the main Dalton Lane and this stretch was not? The Chairman reported that along with the Clerk he had a meeting earlier this month with the officer in charge and the issue had been raised directly with him.
- Will residents be consulted regarding the recent 'vote of no confidence' in HBC and requesting a move to Durham County Council?

Due to the above question, the Chairman asked for item 6 on the agenda to be dealt with next;

**6. No Confidence Vote – Villages in the Rural West of Hartlepool took a vote of 'No Confidence' in Hartlepool Borough Council.**

Cllr Noble reported; a long response arrived from the leader of HBC; the Parishes will be working together to send a joint reply to this. Part of this response will include a request from the rural Parish Councils to create a Charter between Parish Councils and HBC. The aim being to clearly lay out a way in which each level of local government can work together for the benefit of all.

A meeting between the Parish Council Chairmen and the Council leader is being arranged.

In direct response to the member of the public; the vote was taken by Parish Council members as they felt there was no other option after being ignored by HBC on too many issues. Should the no confidence vote lead to a situation where the rural area requests to leave the Borough of Hartlepool a public consultation would take place.

Cllr Jackson **proposed** the printed documents (letters) should be released into the public domain – displayed on our website. **Seconded M.P. Agreed.**

DPPC Councillors expressed their continued disappointment that there is, yet again, no report or representation from HBC or our Ward councillors.

**4. Minutes of meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

- a) DPPC Annual Meeting – **Approved** as a true and accurate record (proposed M.P. seconded L.N.)
- b) Full DPPC meeting - **Approved** as a true and accurate record (proposed M.P. seconded L.N.)

## 5. DPVHA – Village Hall update

Cllr Patrick reported;

As has been the case for some years now DPVHA with the full support of DPPC have sought to secure a renewed land lease for the village hall. This would secure the halls future and enable DPVHA to bid for funding to repair/replace the hall. The lease is yet to materialise from HBC. DPVHA have instructed a solicitor to facilitate the lease and chase HBC.

The new housing development by Wynyard Homes at Dalton Heights were obliged to provide 'Section 106' monies. In this case £66,000.00. The agreement between the land owner, HBC and the developer stated that the monies would be used in the local community. It states the funds would be spent on providing a play area. Should a suitable site not be identified, the funds would then be used to develop the village hall, should this not be suitable the funds should be used towards a bus service for the village. For some time, DPVHA had hoped the '106' monies would be awarded to fund development of the Village Hall.

It must be noted that; This '106' contract was signed in November 2017 – with no consultation with DPPC or the village as a whole.

DPPC had applied for funding for play equipment in May 2017. This funding bid was successful and granted in August 2017.

Through our appointed solicitor, HBC informed us there are no longer any funds available for Dalton Piercy from the 106 monies. They are not obliged to give the funding as a suitable site for a play area was identified and developed with other funding.

Cllr Rezai requested a meeting with HBC Chief Executive to discuss the situation, this was refused. Citing, HBC have already explained their position as a reason.

Cllr Noble believes the spirit of contract is straight forward and should they wish HBC could go ahead and release the funds to DPVHA to fund a new hall.

A discussion took place and it was **AGREED** DPVHA and DPPC would work together to secure this funding to develop the village hall. Also, that section 106 monies specifically this example as well as future development projects should involve Parish Councils. This should be included in the proposed charter between the Parish Councils and HBC.

## 6. No Confidence Vote (see above - below public forum)

## 7. Red Gap Projects

a) 2021 confirmed applications;

Funding applications submitted to the Red Gap Community Fund for 2021 included:

- The Batts Community Orchard and Bluebell bulbs.
- 'Hexagrid' type path to improve the footpath on the village green along the roadside (close to The Terrace)
- Extension to the 'Village to Three Gates' footpath. (Phase 4)
- A new DPPC Laptop (for the Clerk) capable of running all software required.

b) Historical project update

Following a meeting with a Crime Prevention Police Officer the Clerk reported:

- Stolen fencing in 'The Batts' the fence continues to be targeted by thieves. Due to the isolated location the officer advises strongly against replacing the fence like for like – he felt this would actually encourage crime. And suggested the fence be replaced with a native hedge, similar to that in the surrounding fields. This may take some time to mature and could be supplemented with a wire fence in the meantime. It was agreed the Clerk should approach our insurance company to request £1,000.00 (significantly less than the original outlay for the fence) to facilitate this.

- The Clerk took the officer to the Play and Picnic area and asked; ‘does lighting an area encourage of discourage anti-social behaviour? The officer explained lighting an area can encourage people to congregate at those locations.  
There is yet to be a response from officers at HBC regarding planning for the lighting project. **Action:** Clerk to chase.

**8. Maintenance Report:**

Cllr Noble reported; The annual allotment inspections are due to take place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June. M.P. and L.N. will undertake.

Following a report from a resident concerning the siting of new blue cobble stones on the track close to Manor Farm, an inspection was carried out and no issues were found.

**9. Ward Councillors Report:**

No attendance or Report

**10. Chairman’s Report:**

Cllr Rezai explained there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes with regard to the ‘vote of no confidence’ including meetings, telephone calls, exchanging of emails and preparation of documents. Cllr Rezai thanked all those involved.

**11. DPVHA Report:**

See item 5.

**12. Personnel Report:**

The Clerk reported continual problems with the laptop computer which are hindering her day-to-day work for the Parish.

**13. Finance:**

**a) Financial Report**

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

**Financial Transactions 14<sup>th</sup> May – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
	0.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>	<b>£</b>
J White Clerks salary	217.20
C & C Walkers 2x grass cut	403.20
CLCA 2021/22 fee	93.45
P N Olsen int audit	75.00
Cash (petty cash)	37.95
	<b>£826.80</b>

**b) Unresolved items from DPPC Annual meeting;**

- i) To approve the Risk Register dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021;  
**Approved** – Point to note register includes a continually assessed Covid 19 risk assessment as a separate document.  
**AGAR for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**
- ii) To agree the Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021  
The Clerk read the questions as laid out in Section 1 of the AGAR. Councillors answered 'yes' to each question apart from question 9 which was not applicable to DPPC. The Chairman signed the form, witnessed by the Clerk.
- iii) To agree that the Clerk is the Responsible Financial Officer for the year 2021/22  
**Agreed.**
- iv) Appointment of internal Auditor for the year 2021/22 and agree remuneration  
Our thanks go to Mr Olsen who completed the 2020/21 internal audit at quite short notice. Councillors **agreed** they are more than happy for him to continue should he be willing to accept. It was further **agreed** to pay £70.00 for his service.

**14. Correspondence**

Shared ahead of meeting, covered under other agenda items.

A resident wishes to carry out some tree work. Unfortunately, as DPPC do not own the land – and do not know who owns the land where the tree is located, we can not take responsibility for the tree or contribute towards any work carried out. **Agreed.**

**15. Planning Applications:**

None.

**16. Matters of Concern to Councillors:**

Cllr Jackson expressed his continued concern regarding speeding vehicles through the village. Emails have been exchanged between the Police and HBC. The Clerk confirmed HBC have committed to carry out a traffic survey in the coming months (not during school holidays). DPPC will continue pressure on the relevant authorities as DPPC continue to believe physical speed prevention is required in Dalton Piercy.

Cllr Noble spent some time evaluating DPPC Standing Orders. This is ongoing, so far, she feels there are no major changes required.

Cllr Rezai is very concerned about the deteriorating state of the Village Hall, in particular the affects on the health of those visiting due to the damp and mouldy conditions. He **proposed** a lab test should be commissioned to test the conditions within the hall. **Seconded L.N. Agreed.**

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021