

**Dalton Piercy Parish Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
**At Dalton Piercy Village Hall.**

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

**In Attendance:** Clerk J. White, Mr S, Savage candidate for Co-option. Also 4 members of the public

Meeting began at 7.03pm.

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

None.

**2. Declaration of interests:**

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

**3. Public Forum:**

- *Dalton Back Lane Pot Holes. Request update as some have been filled – only the very worst. The road remains in a poor state of repair. The Clerk reported HBC had advised the section of road closer to Three Gates has had pot holes filled. This area is not on the schedule for resurfacing. Due to budget constraints only part of the road will be resurfaced. The worst section closer to Brierton will be resurfaced soon.*
- *Overgrown shrubs along the village roads continue to cause line of sight issues and push drivers into the centre of the road at narrow points. Very concerned an accident may occur at Three Gates junction due to cars travelling from the A19 at speed and not being able to see them when leaving the junction. Shrubs are also covering the footpath outside North View. **Action:** Clerk to write to the land owners.*
- *The Grove Planning Application – (conversion to a children’s home). This application is much preferred to a potential alternative which could be further housing development at the plot and even include demolition of the house. The house and garden are important to the character of the village. Through experience in work, institutions such as this one are well managed. No objection to it.*

**4. Minutes of meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> July and Special meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.**

15<sup>th</sup> July Minutes - amendment to point 3. '2x Dormer' **Proposed M.I. Sec M.P. Approved**

Special meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> July Approved as a true and accurate record (proposed L.N. seconded M.I.)

**5. Co-option of new DPPC Councillor**

Cllrs Ireland and Noble held an informal interview with Mr Steve Savage who is the only candidate that has come forward in light of the current vacant councillor position.

Their recommendation was to Co-opt Mr Savage as a Councillor at DPPC this was unanimously **Approved**.

Mr Savage signed the declaration and was welcomed to the position by the Chairman.

Cllrs were particularly pleased that as a new resident at Highgate Meadows Mr Savage had come forward and look forward to working with him for the benefit of the village in the future.

**6. Tree Works by Amey for Northern PowerGrid**

The Clerk reported plans have been submitted to us from Amey to prune a substantial number of trees that are close to the overhead power cables supplying the majority of homes in the centre of the village.

Cllr Rezai expressed his concern as he had personal experience where trees on his own land were substantially cut. The trees were left deformed and will never truly recover.

Cllr Jackson also expressed concern as he had witnessed healthy trees being removed in The Howls due to overhead power lines. It was admitted it was more cost effective to completely remove the tree as oppose to just pruning it. **Action:** As it is the Parish Councils responsibility to protect the assets of the village, the Clerk should arrange a meeting with Amey to discuss the limit of cutting. Cllrs MJ and LN to be in attendance.

## 7. Voneous broadband information event

The Clerk reported Voneous, a high-speed internet provider, have installed equipment in the village and will soon be ready to roll out their service. Cllrs **Agreed** Voneous could host a pop-up information event on the village green (as they have requested) subject to them completing a 'village green booking form' and proving they have public liability insurance.

## 8. Vote of 'no confidence in HBC' and proposed charter.

Cllr Rezai provided an update following a meeting of the Parish Council Chairmen and HBC leader Shane Moore and Chief Exec Denise McGuicken. The meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> August was some 2hrs long and was minuted by an HBC officer.

The PC Chairmen put forward a draft copy of a proposed charter after this had been considered by the Parish Councils in the Borough of Hartlepool.

In order to be transparent Cllr Rezai wishes to share as much information relating to the negotiations between the PC's and HBC as possible without prejudicing the decisions made.

There is to be a monthly meeting between the PC Chairmen and HBC. Cllr Rezai reiterated that HBC Councillors receive 'maintenance' payments for their roles while PC Councillors are all voluntary. The PC's objective is to manage the villages to their best ability with support from HBC.

The PC's requested a separate opportunity from the general public to voice comments at planning committee meetings.

HBC wish to release a press release with an update stating there has been a meeting and discussions are moving forward.

HBC will let the PCs know when the next meeting is to take place.

A discussion took place.

DPPC Councillors expressed a wish that in the spirit of goodwill, in advance of the charter, it would be useful for the PC's and Clerks to have specific names for points of contact at HBC.

Action: Clerk to send an email directly to Denise McGuicken requesting where the Dalton Piercy play area bin is? (**Proposed** MI, **Seconded** MJ – **Agreed**.)

## 9. Red Gap projects

The Clerk reported she had prepared paperwork to submit a One Stop Shop planning advice application for the 'light project' and requested a cheque payment for the fee be raised (£158.00) this was **agreed**. As it has previously agreed not to install a light at the play area site MI **proposed** the decision to find an alternative site in the village for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Red Gap funded light be delegated to the maintenance group. This was **agreed**.

Cllr Rezai **proposed**; Cllr Jackson and the maintenance group deal directly with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and go ahead with the newly awarded Red Gap projects as soon as possible. Cllr Noble further **proposed** TVWT should be invited to complete 2 days maintenance of The Batts wildflower meadows per year. **Agreed**.

Preparation of the orchard, bluebells and 'hexpath' footpath improvement is likely to take place between Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022.

## 10. Maintenance Report:

Cllr Noble reported;

Members of the public have informed us more fencing at The Batts has been stolen.

Our thanks to Councillor Jackson who has continued to work on the wildflower meadows and the 'battle of the thistles'! passers by can help by removing seed heads from the thistles and dock as we continue to encourage the wildflower species over the more invasive varieties.

9x volunteers cleared invasive reeds from the village pond. A job very well done! It was **agreed** Cllr Jackson could continue some work at the pond and 'plug' the gaps at the 'dam' to encourage more water retention.

Action: HBC 'Covid' sign at the play area fence will be removed and given back to HBC. Also, Clerk to write to HBC Chief exec to enquire what is happening with regards to the litter bin replacement and what is the protocol to replace the 'Caution children playing' sign that was destroyed in a car crash.

### 11. Ward Councillors Report:

No attendance or Report.

**Action:** Clerk to write to Brenda Loynes, Mike Young and Cameron Stokell asking them to send a report and attend next months meeting.

### 12. Chairman's Report:

Has been provided under point 8.

### 13. DPVHA Report:

**Councillor Patrick** reported;

A letter was sent to all signatories of the section 106 agreement for the Dalton Heights development. The letter was sent with a view to amend the wording of the contract to allow funds to be directed for redevelopment of the village hall.

The previous land owner confirmed they are no longer in ownership and DPVHA should contact the new land owner. A Director of Wynyard Homes (the developer and current land owner) confirmed they have no issue with amendment to ensure the funds are directed as laid out by DPVHA.

As yet there is no response from HBC.

### 14. Personnel Report:

The Personnel Group will have an appraisal meeting with the Clerk next week.

### 15. Finance

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

#### Financial Transactions 9<sup>th</sup> July – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Receipts		£
		0.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
Payments		£
J White Clerks salary x2 months	(217.20x2)	434.40
Defibrillator pads		105.60
ICO fee		40.00
C+C Walker 2x grass cuts		403.20
Wave (water bill)		38.41
J White (Poolie time environ waste removal)		90.00
E Egglestone (payroll)		123.12
C+C Walker 2x grass cuts		403.20
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>1,637.93</b>

## 16. Correspondence

Shared ahead of meeting, covered under other agenda items.

- A number of comments from residents raising concerns about the planning application at The Grove.
- A resident submitted a query relating to planning permission and a new building at a neighbouring property. The Clerk reported she had forwarded contact information for development control.

## 17. Planning Applications:

- H/2021/0346 The Grove, Dalton Piercy. Change of use from residential to a care home for up to 5 young people.  
The Chairman invited each person present to give their opinion on the application.  
Following a vote with a majority in favour of NOT objecting to the application, it was **agreed** to comment with the following concerns; safety aspect of the plans particularly the need for 20 parking spaces which implies a large volume of traffic to the site. DPPC have continually expressed their concern relating to road safety and that the road into Dalton is not suitable for any increase in traffic volumes. Particularly at this location where there is a narrow pinch point at a blind corner and hill.
- H/2021/0207 Three Oaks Brierton Lane, erection of a two-storey extension.  
No comment to add.

## 18. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Jackson reported a number of tree limbs and mature sycamore trees had been removed from the wooded area (Bogglebeck) alongside the 'Elwick footpath', behind College Close and Highgate Meadows. His concerns are; there is no formal protection for significant trees and tree canopies around the village which are important homes to wildlife and add to the character of the area.

Cllr Jackson **proposed, seconded** by M.P. that DPPC immediately work with HBC officers to secure protection orders for significant trees in and around the village. **Agreed.**

Meeting closed at 9.12pm

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021