

**Dalton Piercy Parish Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021**  
**At Dalton Piercy Village Hall.**

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

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

This meeting followed the Annual Parish Meeting which over ran slightly. We began at 7.25pm.

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllrs M, Ireland, S, Rushworth and Ward Cllr Loynes. Accepted and approved.

**2. Declaration of interests:**

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

**3. Public Forum:**

- *Concerns continue due to poor visibility around the corner at the Three Gates junction and requests the hedge be trimmed back. The Clerk reported the land owner had recently committed to cutting the hedge back. Road signs are down on Dalton Back Lane (chevrons on the corner closer to Greatham)*
- *Cars are parking on the double yellow lines at Three Gates*

**Action:** Clerk to write to HBC enforcement.

- Very pleased to see Dalton Back Lane has been resurfaced. This makes a huge difference!

**4. Minutes of meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

**Proposed L.N. Sec M.P. Approved** as a true and accurate record of the meeting without amendment. The Chairman signed the minutes.

**5. Vote of 'no confidence in HBC' and proposed charter.**

Cllr Rezai provided the following update;

The Chairmen of the Parish Councils within the Borough of Hartlepool recently held an informal meeting, the aim being another 'push' for progress as at the moment nothing seems to be moving forward – there has been no contact from HBC.

An email was sent to our MP Jill Mortimer to see if she can offer any support.

A chase up email was sent to HBC leader, Managing Director, our Ward Councillor and the legal department asking for a response to the email sent from the 'Parishes' back in September.

As HBC have had a lot of time to digest and review the draft Charter provided by the Parishes, Cllr Rezai personally feels there is no harm in now providing a copy of the document for the public to view and he will request this happens with the other Parish Chairmen as this would be a collective decision.

**6. DPPC social media account and policy (Facebook)**

To further improve communication with the residents of Dalton Piercy the Clerk has created a Facebook page for Dalton Piercy Parish Council and urges all those who use social media to 'like and follow' our page.

The aim of the page is to share information and updates useful to all who are interested in the village as well as sharing photographs.

To find us search 'Dalton Piercy Parish Council' (@daltonpiercyparish) the cover photo is currently a picture of the Christmas tree and the profile picture the village gate.

A discussion took place regarding the draft social media policy where concerns were raised regarding the platform being used as a place to complain and potential for businesses to use the page for inappropriate advertising. The Clerk advised that she felt both of these issues were covered under the policy and the Facebook platform allows for this to be managed.

Councillors **unanimously agreed to accept** the social media policy and continuation of the Facebook page with a view to continually monitoring how successful the page is over the coming year.

All are urged to please use it!

## 7. The Batts and community engagement/benefit from the site

Cllr Rezai expressed his wish to make The Batts more accessible. Ideas for this included providing a seating area and/or a table and chairs.

He would also like to explore using the site to give back to the community, an area to provide food for the public – a public growing space.

A discussion took place where the consensus was that with sympathetic planting and management by DPPC the opportunity for the public to forage for produce would be encouraged. Cllr MJ volunteered to investigate a possible suitable site for a tree trunk style seating area and a 'help yourself' box of fallen fruits for passers by to take.

## 8. Red Gap Projects

The 'Hex path' project – to provide a safer footpath surface on the village green in front of The Terrace has been completed.

There was a significant amount of grid paving left over. As the contractor was on site to immediately carry out the work, Cllrs **agreed** via email that the surplus should be used to continue the path up to the entrance gate to The Batts. This would be at an additional cost of £600.00 which would not be funded by Red Gap. Again, Cllrs **agreed** this should be met from DPPC reserves.

All 'bluebells' have now been planted in The Batts – thanks to our volunteers!

Cllr Jackson reported some good news that his application for hedge funding had been granted and delivery of around 400 trees is expected later in January. These will be used to replace the stolen fencing in The Batts. He also reported small amounts of work by volunteers continues on the wildflower meadows (cutting)

**Action:** Clerk to chase HC for update on footpath to Three Gates progress – next phase.

## 9. Maintenance Report:

Cllr Noble reported as follows;

- HBC have replaced the village bins with 2 larger style litter bins. One close to the finger sign for the play area and one near the pond. The dog waste bin has been removed and the play/picnic area bin. There are no plans to replace these and dog waste should now be placed in the larger mixed waste bins. Cllrs expressed concern that there is no bin near the play equipment and picnic bench. Litter levels will be monitored to see if the 2 bins are sufficient over the coming months.
- HBC have resurfaced part of Dalton Back Lane; this has been a problem for some years and DPPC are pleased the work has finally been carried out. A massive improvement for road users in our area.
- Resurfacing work to College Close footpath and the path near The Windmill has also been completed by HBC.
- Trees/shrubs in Abbots Lea appear to have been trimmed. We assume residents undertook this work our thanks to them for improving the area.
- A flower tub at the entrance to Abbots Lea has been damaged. (We have reports it was by a car/trailer) It was resolved Cllr Noble could purchase a new tub as a replacement.
- The damaged 'Warning children playing' sign at the northern entrance to the village is still to be repaired.  
**Action:** Clerk to chase HBC again.
- There are some bluebell bulbs left – Cllr Noble requested permission to plant some bulbs at the pond area and around the hedge at Manor Fields? She further requested a budget of £30.00 to purchase ornamental bulbs to further enhance the pond area. This was **agreed**.

## 10. Ward Councillors Report:

Apologies received from Cllr B Loynes.  
No attendance or Report.

## 11. Chairman's Report:

Has been provided under point 5.

## 12. DPVHA Report:

**Councillor Patrick** reported;

Very pleased to see so many attend the Annual Parish Meeting earlier this evening and to hear positive comments and overwhelming support for the future of our village hall. DPVHA are still working behind the scenes to secure the halls future with a new land lease and brand-new building. Any persons wishing to get involved and lend their support on the project would be gratefully received.

There is yet to be any response from HBC regarding the request for 106 funding to be allocated for the hall redevelopment. DPVHA continue to pursue this.

## 13. Personnel Report:

Nothing to report.

## 14. a) Finance Report

The Clerk presented the actual against budget report and the financial transactions which were **accepted**.

### Financial Transactions 15<sup>th</sup> October – 11<sup>th</sup> November 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
L Noble Farmer Gracy Bluebells	£984.56
L Noble compost, plants for flower tubs.	£50.93
Meryl Gdns Hexpath installation and machine hire	£1,750.00
Meryl Gdns Hexpath installation (extension)	£600.00
Hutchinson (grove house) 50x fruit trees	£1,095.00
E Egglestone 6-month payroll fees	£123.12
J White - ink and annual meet refreshments	£91.50
C+C Walker 2x grass cuts	£403.20
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£5,315.51</b>
(J Parkers Dutch Bulbs RETURNED CHEQUE)	( -£1,008.00)

## **b) Proposals for Budget 2022/2023**

The Clerk drew the attention of those present to the actual against budget document.

Also, that the most recent bank statement has a balance of £9,933.44 with £5,315.51 due to be paid out this month.

There is an amount of VAT to be claimed and Red Gap project money to be claimed which will leave a predicted end of financial year cash reserve balance of around £5,000.00.

A discussion took place and comments included;

- Is the maintenance budget for The Batts enough? A commitment for 2 visits from TVWT will cost around £500.00
- Check insurance cover is sufficient and include legal protection.
- Account for inflation suggest 5%
- Should the tree care budget remain £2,000 for a second year as this amount has not been spent in 2020/21 so should remain in cash reserves?
- Should we include a 'hospitality/social' budget? – the clerk just spent £60.00 on refreshments for the Annual meeting.
- Future Red Gap projects; Fruit shrubs in the Batts (for public foraging) next phase of Three Gates footpath
- Use social media to see how residents would like the budget spent? Also, for Red Gap project ideas.

## **15. Correspondence**

Shared ahead of meeting, covered under other agenda items.

- Resident letter concerning the track at The Terrace – Clerk to offer a meeting with maintenance group.
- Resident letter with general queries.

## **16. Planning Applications:**

- H/2021/0425 *Extension to the side and rear of 3 Manor Fields, amendment*  
Appears to be changes to a proposed rear balcony: No comment to add.
- H/2021/0457 *Garage conversion to 4 Dalton Heights*: No comment to add.  
(Notice received after publication of meeting agenda)

## **17. Matters of Concern to Councillors:**

None to report.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

