

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 9th December 2021
At Dalton Piercy Village Hall.

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

In Attendance: Clerk J. White and 2 members of the public

Meeting began at 7.04pm.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr 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 regarding the health of mature trees around the village – Elwick footpath/road sides. Specifically following storm Arwen.*
- *A request for footpath 'Gridforce' to be extended along the village green following a successful installation close to The Terrace and Batts entrance.*
- *Request for DPPC accounts to be made available in full (cash book) and meeting minutes to be made available sooner.*

4. Minutes of meetings held on 14th October 2021.

Proposed M.P. Sec S.S. Approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting with a spelling amendment to point 6. Line 2.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

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

Cllr Rezai provided the following update;

A meeting was held with our MP Jill Mortimer where concerns regarding lack of progress were expressed. Jill was keen to support the Parishes in improving communication between Parish Councils and HBC.

6. Storm Arwen Damage and fallen tree.

In the early hours of the morning on Saturday 27th November Storm Arwen swept across the UK bringing some of the strongest winds ever to hit Dalton Piercy.

Many properties suffered lost roof tiles and blown down fences. We do not believe any property suffered significant damage. However, there were numerous trees brought down and significant debris blown onto the highways. Roads around the village were blocked by fallen trees. HBC were very quick to respond and cleared the roads before most people were out and about. Trees fell blocking public footpaths in The Batts and on the 'Elwick footpath' – one very large tree narrowly missing a house in College Close. The trees were cleared over the coming days by the land owner/HBC/volunteers.

Cllr Ireland reported a tree on the Elwick path remains uncleared. **Action:** Clerk to contact Countryside access officer at HBC.

Falling under the responsibility of the Parish Council; the large Ash tree at Manor Fields which is protected with a TPO lost one of its largest limbs – luckily falling onto the green at Manor Fields. This made the tree appear unbalanced towards the highway. The Clerk reported this to HBC officers who responded by sending an emergency assessment team. The tree was deemed no immediate danger. Also, fallen trees on the edge of the highway were deemed safe by them.

Later that week Cllr Jackson met HBC Arborist on site. Following this meeting a written report detailing work required on the tree was sent to DPPC. This includes reducing the size of the remaining limbs to a similar length of the broken limb. No work is required on the broken limb. While not deemed urgent the tree should have this work completed before it comes into full leaf with a view to extending the life of the tree for a significant amount of time. Under emergency safety powers a planning application is not required to undertake this work (due to TPO).

Cllr Jackson volunteered to clear a fallen tree from The Batts. Cllrs expressed concern for the wellbeing of volunteers using power tools to carry out work on behalf of DPPC. **Action:** Clerk to look into training requirements.

The mirror used for traffic visibility which is located on the green and used by those leaving College Close was blown over. Unfortunately, the mirror was smashed in the fall.

The Clerk had completed some initial research for replacement and commented that while not on DPPC asset list the mirror is on Village Green and HBC Highways had advised in the past that they would not install or replace mirrors for use as an aid to assist with visibility on the highway.

M.I. **Proposed** the mirror should be replaced on safety grounds with a budget of £225.00 and a reasonable installation quote. **Seconded** by L.N. **Approved** 4 to 1.

DR expressed a potential legal concern and highway safety.

MJ noted DPPC are replacing like for like a positive safety tool that has been in use for as long as anybody present at this meeting can remember.

7. Red Gap Projects

The Clerk reported;

The 'Gridforce' installation is complete where the footpath across the green close to The Terrace has been improved with an 'under grass' solution to support improve the footpath and prevent it becoming muddy/slippery and uneven during winter months. The award from RedGap for this project is £3567.00. The total cost of the project was £3801.00. This is an overspend. However, it should be noted this includes VAT which is recoverable by DPPC and can not be included in the RedGap claim.

Solar light project is ongoing – it was **resolved** the maintenance should choose the final light fitting design.

Cllr Jackson requested a post be created on the DPPC Facebook page to ask residents for their ideas for future projects. Clerk to **Action** in the new year.

8. Maintenance Report:

Cllr Noble reported as follows;

- A new flower barrel has been installed at Abbots Lea to replace that which was damaged by a car.
 - Volunteers cleared some scrub from the pond area and planted spring bulbs.
 - Planting of trees/shrubs in The Batts looks likely to go ahead at the end of January – there will be a call for volunteers!
 - The Annual Play Area annual inspection report was completed by Tyne and Wear Play Ltd. There were no imminent issues reported other than it was noted the top shackles on the rope walk were not secured with a locking pin and there was no litterbin in the immediate vicinity.
Action: Clerk to send the report to Wicksteed the equipment supplier and query the installation spec of the rope walk. Also, to request some spare 'green covers' used to cover the bolt connectors on the equipment.
 - Cllr Jackson expressed his concern regarding the amount of leaf debris close to the bridge which is likely to cause blockage of the drains resulting in problem flooding of the area. The Clerk advised she had already reported this issue to HBC using their online portal. **Action:** Clerk to contact senior HBC officers again to make them aware of this as well as noting the drain cover on the green in this area is yet to be improved.
 - There has been no progress in repairing the 'Warning Children Playing' sign that was damaged by a vehicle leaving the road. Cllr Jackson requested the sign be repaired. Cllr Ireland reported that damage caused to the Village Green in Elwick results in a £100.00 charge to the culprit. It was **resolved** the sign should be repaired and payment chased from the person responsible for the damage. Clerk to **Action**.
 - The clerk received email notification the defibrillator had been deployed. Upon inspection the equipment appeared untouched. It was cleaned down and relisted ready for use.
- a) Volunteer Christmas Gifts. It was **resolved** to gift bottles of wine to those who have volunteered their time to help around the village this year. Cllr Noble put forward a list of names (14 people) Budget up to £6pp.
- b) Village flower pot maintenance. It was **resolved** payments would be made to those maintaining the pots and cart at the same rate as previous years which was £20.00 per pot and £30.00 for the cart. **Action:** Cllr Noble of the maintenance group to provide a list of names to receive payment to the Clerk.

9. Ward Councillors Report:

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

10. Chairman's Report:

Has been provided under point 5.

11. DPVHA Report:

Councillor Patrick reported; DPVHA continue to work towards obtaining section 106 funds for development for the hall. Planning Consultants have sent initial plans to provide an idea what could be provided on the site. Trustees have some feedback on these ideas. Once complete there will be a public consultation based on these ideas. A design statement from the consultant will be provided to HBC which is necessary to complete the lease for the land.

12. Personnel Report:

Nothing to report.

13. a) Finance Report

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

Financial Transactions 12th November – 9th December 2021

Receipts	£
	0.00
TOTAL:	£0.00
Payments	£
J White Clerks salary	£217.20
J White – annual contribution for telephone/internet	£120.00
Tyne & wear play ltd (play area annual inspection)	£125.00
Wave water bill	£65.98
Pear technology (mapping tec support)	£120.00
Tees valley wildlife trust (batts orchard)	£560.00
Meryl Gardens (ash tree removal)	£600.00
M JACKSON (reimburse 500xhawthorn hedging + strimmer line)	£316.98
TOTAL:	£2,125.16

14. Budget for financial period 2022/2023

The Clerk presented an actual against budget report with an additional column which accounted for the proposals made at last month's meeting.

Councillors entered an extended discussion and scrutinised each item on the budget.

Following this discussion, the amended amounts were **agreed** as is laid out in the table below;

Budget Proposals	Actual 21/22	As at 9th December 2021	2022/2023 proposed amount	Notes
EXPENDITURE:	£	£	£	
Clerk's Salary inc PAYE & payroll	2,659.00	2,321.04	3,038.19	£20.52x12 payroll (246.24) salary + 5%(annual increase?)£2791.95
Clerk Training /Conf/ SLCC subs	250		250	slcc fees due in feb
Travel	50		50	
Contribution to Tel/Broadband	120	120	180	increase of £60 (£5 per month)
Administration (post & stationery)	150	103.42	150	need envelopes and stamps
Audit	400	435	450	increase of £50
Insurance	500	514.01	550	increase of £50
Room Hire	450	450	450	
Web-site	£180.00		200	web host fees due in feb increase of £20
NALC subs	100	93.45	100	
Pear technology	120	120	125	increase of £5
HBC play area inspections	200	125	300	hbc quarter inspections £150 annual inspection £120 increase of £1
Gen. Village Maintenance	1200	988.11	2000	increase of £600
Donations	100		150	Village life+other donations increaqse of £50
Legal /Professional fees	1,000.00	40	1,000	
The Batts maintenance	1,000.00	932.88	1,000	
Tree care	2,000.00	600	2,000	
water bill	200	104.4	200	
Miscellaneous	100	852.39	100	
Annual Parish meeting	100		100	new item to cover costs of meeting and refreshments.
Sub-Total	10,879.00	7799.7	12,393.19	
Grass cutting	2,188	2016	2340	grasscut plus 7%
Sub-Total	13,066.90	9815.7	14,733.19	
Village projects (red gap)		12,394.44	????	applications to remain below £5000 and require no contribution.
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13,066.90	22210.14		
INCOME:				
Precept	9,500	9,500.00	11,900.00	
Concurrent	2,624	2,624.00	2,624.00	
Grants	xxx			
Allotment Rent	225	269.94	225	
Village projects (red gap)	...			
Bank Interest	...			
VAT Reclaim	xxx			
Wayleave	61			
Miscellaneous	xxx			
TOTAL INCOME	12,410.00	12,393.94	14,749.00	
BALANCE	-556.9			

It was **resolved** the precept demand for the financial period of 2022/2023 would be £11,900.00

15. Correspondence:

Shared with Councillors ahead of the meeting.

Included;

Updates from HBC: Cleveland police engagement flyer, pharmaceutical needs review and Avian flu update.

Resident emails: Tree damage, litter pick enquiry/offer of help.

16. Planning Applications:

No new applications.

The Clerk reported; applications for The Grove – change of use to a residential care home for children and Three Gates Farm - new access road had been approved by HBC.

17. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

None to report.

Meeting closed at 9.31pm
Date of next meeting: Thursday 13th January 2022