

Dalton Piercy Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.55pm on Thursday 13th June 2024 at Elwick WI Hall.

Present: Cllrs Ireland (Chair), Patrick, Middleton and Timothy.

In Attendance: Sandra Valkauskaite, 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllrs Noble, Rushworth, Ward Cllr. Martin-Wells

2. Declaration of interests: Cllrs Patrick, Dalton Piercy Village Hall Report.

3. Public Forum

- A resident asked about Cllr Noble, informed that she is doing well.
- A resident informed about overgrown grass from gate to Sambucca – HBC informed by the same resident and have already confirmed that someone will come out to cut a grass in the next few days.
- A resident expressed disappointment that the Ward Councillor was not in attendance at the meeting once again.

4. Minutes of last meeting: Unanimously agreed as an accurate record.

5. Matters Arising:

a) **HBC Enforcement Issues:** No further information. **Action: Chair** will send a follow up email.

b) **Letter to resident regarding Village Green Encroachment:** Response received but resident did not appear to understand that the issue was about the extension of the drive onto the village green, not the colour of the gravel; a third letter has been sent to this effect, no response received as yet.

It was unanimously agreed that if the resident did not comply by the end of the month, the Parish Council would hire a contractor and bill the resident for the gravel removal. The resident to be informed that there were alternative options to placing gravel on the village green, if they wished to pursue the issue.

Cllr Timothy suggested that photographs be taken every 6 months of all paths/roads on the village green, and digital copies kept on the Clerk's laptop, also make notes on the map of the village green as to where pictures have been taken from for clarity.

Action: Maintenance Committee to undertake photography and mapping.

c) **Banking.** The Chair explained her concerns about risk when only one person authorised a transaction, on behalf of the Parish Council, as required by NatWest; all concurred that this was not ideal. The Chair then gave a detailed comparison between NatWest and Unity Trust. Savings account rates are higher at Unity Trust, up to three authorised signatories are allowed for on-line transactions. It was noted that NatWest only allow for one signatory for on-line transactions; the Chair has completed the form several times over the last 18 months, but has yet to become an authorised signatory for on-line transactions.

The major difference is that Unity Trust charge £6 monthly fee. After a brief discussion all **agreed** that the Unity Trust fee was not an issue if there was greater security with transactions. All **agreed** that the

Clerk should open a Unity Trust account immediately. It was further **agreed** that other savings accounts need to be researched, before deciding to transfer from NatWest but that whichever was agreed, all funds in the NatWest savings account should not be transferred into a 2-year savings account, but only a proportion, with some going into a 6-month savings account, and some into a one-year account.

All **agreed** that if they were not happy with the length of time taken to open the new account and arrange for the approval of signatories/authorisations, the process could be stopped.

Action: Clerk to start registration process.

6. Ward Councillor's Report: Report not received.

7. AGAR completion: The Chair noted the Internal Auditor's Report in which 2 issues were raised: (i) there was no copy of the Clerk's payslip for January. (NB: Copy of the missing payslip received from Eggleston but after Internal Audit completion).

(ii) There was no record in the Minutes of which residents had received funds for maintaining the flower tubs. It was **agreed** that this will be recorded from now on.

8. Chair's Report: Nothing new to report.

9. Personnel Committee Report: Nothing to report.

10. Maintenance Committee Report: The annual Allotments Inspection will take place the week commencing 24th June. Tree near the play area has been done. Fence in The Batts was looked at and awaiting the quote.

11. Finance Report:

Financial Transactions 7th May – 12th June 2024

Receipts	£
TOTAL:	0
Payments	£
Digital Recorder	70.99
Norton 360 Software	14.99
Zurich Insurance	<u>563.45</u>
TOTAL:	649.43

NB: The Clerk had difficulty producing an accurate report as she has no track of BACS payments. It was **agreed** that the Grass cutting invoice for May, Internal auditor's invoice and the invoice for subscription to Cleveland Association of Local Councils be paid by cheque.

Cllr Noble had proposed via e-mail, a further transfer of funds from current account to savings account; this was **agreed**.

The Chair proposed that, in future, only the amount allocated to expenditure in the yearly budget, be kept in the current account and anything over this be automatically moved to the savings account, and that the Financial Regulations be amended to reflect this.

Amendment of Financial Regulations proposed, seconded and **unanimously agreed**.

12. Dalton Piercy Village Hall Trustees Report: Design of new Village Hall completed, now waiting for quotes from various contractors.

Applied for extra funding from Red Gap as bat watching while demolition in progress increased. If no extra funding provided from Red Gap, will ask HBC for more funding.

Demolition should start in September, after bird nesting season. All neighbours been informed.

13. Correspondence: Circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

a) Ward Councillor forwarded email about change in local police officers. NB: Invitation and agenda sent to police – no response.

b) Hartlepool and North Tees Hospitals Group asking residents to complete a survey – QR code circulated for people to complete survey if they wish. To be placed on village Notice Board.

c) Email from resident about another resident parking his car near allotment to clean his car – noted.

d) Resident forwarded letter from Ward Councillor about fly tipping. Been told there is no planning obligation for CCTV, Cllrs would purchase CCTV if HBC prepared to do something with collected proof of fly tipping but no response from HBC received.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors: Cllr Patrick requested speeding be put back on Agenda as previously agreed it should be a standing item until the issue was satisfactorily resolved. **Action:** Clerk

Cllr Middleton raised a concern about overgrown weeds around the village. Following a brief discussion it was agreed the solution would be to have someone available to undertake general 'handyman' tasks, as and when required, such as weed clearing, fence repairs, etc. Chair to draft an advert for Village Life and circulate to Councillors for comment.

Meeting closed at 7.57pm.

Next Meeting to take place at Elwick WI Hall, 7.00pm Thursday 11th July 2024