

Dalton Piercy Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.37pm on Thursday 10th October 2024 held at Elwick WI Hall.

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

In Attendance: Sandra Valkauskaite, Clerk, 2 members of the public.

Resignation of Cllr Rushworth. Councillors expressed their appreciation for his many years of service and agreed to purchase a small gift in appreciation. In line with council procedures, the position will be advertised on the council's official website, notice board and Village Life.

Action: Clerk to email HBC for relevant forms.

1. **Apologies:** PCSO Yasmine Calvert

2. **Declaration of interests:** Cllrs Noble and Patrick Item 12. DPPC Village Hall.

3. **Public Forum:**

All items are taken from one email sent by a resident, which covered, amongst other items: Children's playground - at the last meeting there was a discussion about improving the access to the playground; the installation of a footbridge across the beck on the opposite side of the road to the Play area.; lack of attendance and support from Ward Councillors - we have three Ward Councillors and none have attended for over 3 years now – with the proposal that if HBC are trying to save public money, can we remove the cost of at least one of them? Engagement with Residents- it was clear from the last meeting that residents are not engaged with the DPPC or village life in general. Do the DPPC have any plans to improve this for the benefit of the village? Perhaps if we saw the above list of issues being addressed you may get more interest from residents in Council Meetings, volunteering, financial support for the new Village Hall etc

- **Safe alternative access across the bridge** – it was noted that the land on the other side of the beck does not belong to DPPC. Quote for undertaking the legal investigation as to land ownership etc would be from £2 000 to £2,500. The resident agreed that this matter should not be progressed.
- **Fly tipping** – HBC cannot guarantee prosecution even if evidence is provided. Trial with mobile CCTV is to be carried out in Hart village, once completed might be spread to other villages. All we can do is keep raising the issue with HBC.
- **Maintenance of The Batts** – will discuss under Maintenance Report.
- A resident asked if The Batts is still managed by Teesside Wildlife Trust and was informed by a Councillor that this is no longer the case. It was noted that maintenance of the public Right of Way in The Batts is the responsibility of HBC.
- **General tidy up** – will to be discussed under Maintenance report.
- **Tree care on the village green** – as the trees have TPOs, permission from HBC is required in order to trim the trees on the village green. Meryl Gardens looks after trees in The Batts.
- **Website** – all up to date and Accounts corrected.
- **Childrens' playground** – see Maintenance report.
- Budget 2024/2025 – budget is based on previous year's spend and estimates of likely increase in cost of living together with any new spend identified from discussions between Cllrs and members of public.
- **Lack of attendance and support from Ward Councillors** – Ward Councillor cannot be forced to come to DPPC meetings, all we can do is send an invitation. The Chairman has spoken to our MP about this issue and and was informed he will look into it.

- **Engagement with Residents** – Cllrs explained that since Covid, public involvement has died off. Cllrs are hoping for things to pick up once Village Hall is built and there is a place for people to meet up.
- **Section 106 money from HBC** - Will we receive the money with interest or without – DPPC Councillors themselves not sure and will ask HBC.

4. **Minutes of last meeting:** Unanimously agreed as an accurate record after correcting as follows:

- Item 5. Matters Arising word *been* to be deleted.

5. **Matters Arising:**

a) HBC Enforcement Issues: The correct form has been found, completed on the most serious issue and submitted, together with evidence, including photos, for investigation by HBC.

There was a caravan parked near Dalton Piercy coming from A19. Cllr believes it might have been used as a home but there is no evidence of people living there at the moment. Cllrs now believe it might not be lived in, and the complaint will therefore be dropped.

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

7. **Chair's Report:** The Chairman reported:

- She had attended the recent Parish Liaison meeting and requested a Police presence at a future a future meeting to address speeding issues.
- She had requested HBC to encourage developers to communicate with Parish Councils when choosing new street names; it was noted that HBC has a say in the naming of streets but no control over the naming of new developments.
- Timings of HBC committee meetings have been changed to allow those Councillors who are in employment to attend more frequently. The new Council is more open to listening to rural issues. Parish Councils have been invited to nominate Councillors to join the five HBC Policy Committees – PC Chairmen agreed to share out the committees as resources are limited; Cllr Ireland has joined the Finance and Policy Committee, and Cllr Noble the Neighbourhood Services Committee.
- She had attended the HBC Planning Design consultation where a number of questions had been asked, for example what style housing people liked, what parking, street furniture etc. She had proposed that developers be required to provide at least one parking space per bedroom at every dwelling.
- Finally, she informed that the DPPC Clerk had tendered her resignation, due to pressure of her full-time employment and other commitments.

8. **Personnel Committee Report:** Recruitment of a new Clerk to be undertaken immediately.

9. **Maintenance Committee Report:**

Cllr Noble reported:

- Quotes for have been received for improving the play area access. To provide a non-slip path made using dolomite and a hand rail - £1,100. **Agreed** to accept. Discussion to be held at a later date about funding for play area's improvement.
- Wood chippings will be put down to improve the path in The Batts.
- Quote received for maintaining wild flower meadows in The Batts of £1,900. Cllrs felt the quote was too high and wished to discuss other options. They also felt it would be helpful to get a quote for the full maintenance of The Batts first.
- Quote of £1,200 from Meadowfields Ltd had been received for weed control around the village. **Action:** Clerk to email Walkers for another quote.
- Cllrs counted abandoned flower tubs and currently adopted ones that need to be replaced as they were beyond repair. **Action:** Cllr Middleton to obtain another quote for replacing and planting

adopted flower pots. Clerk to put a notice on DPPC Website and Notice Board asking if anyone want to adopt flower tub – i.e. to water it regularly.

10. Red Gap Community Fund:

Cllr Noble reported that:

- Grantscape money had been received for the Solar panels.
- She had provided the necessary information to Zurich insurance company, and was waiting to hear if these were covered by the present policy or if there would be an extra charge.
- It was suggested that an application be made to fund the new access to the play area – unanimously agreed. **Action:** Cllr Noble to submit application.

11. Finance Report:

Financial Transactions 11th September – 08th October 2024

Receipts	£
Grantscape Reg D C	1,200.00
TOTAL:	1,200.00
Payments	£
CE & Walkers Ltd (grass cutting)	763.20
Clerk's Payroll	245.62
Clerk's Payroll	245.62
PAYE HRMC	184.20
CE & Walkers Ltd (grass cutting)	254.40
TOTAL:	1,693.04

Financial Report **accepted**.

Following receipt of the Financial Transactions and Actual against Budget Reports, it was noted that whilst the council appeared to have underspent a lot, there was still a lot to pay for in the near future.

12. DPVHA Trustees Report

Cllr Patrick informed that the demolition of the old hall had been postponed. Five trees have been planted in front of the fence near village hall.

13. Speeding: Ongoing issue.

14. Correspondence: Circulated to Councillors. Roadworks 14th October outside White Cottage. One email received outside the 14 day rule and therefore postponed until next meeting.

15. Planning Applications – H/2024/0210 Erection of a dwelling and detached garage on land adjacent to Manor Farm and Dene Garth - **No objection**.

16. Matters of Concern to Councillors: Cllr Savage noted that the main drain on the pond is grassed over and blocked. He agreed to clear it at his earliest convenience.

17. Next Meeting: to take place at **7pm** at Elwick WI Hall, Thursday 14th November 2024

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

DRAFT