

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 8th October 2020
at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Clerk J. White.

Meeting began at 7.05pm.

Government restrictions relating to Coronavirus pandemic remain in place.

Covid-19 best practice with strict hygiene and social distancing measures are being adhered to.

Persons wishing to join the meeting remotely were given the option to connect online via the programme 'zoom' No requests were received.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr A Timothy. Also received from Ward Cllr B Loynes.

Accepted and Approved.

2. Declaration of interests:

Not on the agenda -Village Hall; M.P. D.R. L.N.

3. Public Forum:

- Non present.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 10th September 2020

Approved as a true and accurate record without amendment. (Prop MP
Sec. LN)

5. Substantive items:

a) Vacant DPPC Councillor position.

No news, the position is still vacant.

We encourage any persons interested in getting involved to come forward,

b) The Batts ongoing maintenance

The wildflower meadows and bee banks require annual maintenance – cutting and annual seed sowing. It was suggested local contractors could be contacted for quotes. Cllr Ireland **proposed** this should be investigated and considered at the next meeting with further proposals that include prices. **Agreed**

6. Red Gap Projects:

- The Batts biodiversification project has some monies outstanding it was suggested this could be used to further enhance the village pond. **Action;** Clerk to contact TVWT for quotes/advice regarding ongoing maintenance (including reeds). The invoice final phase invoice has been received from TVWT **Action:** Clerk to claim from Grantscape then pay TVWT.
- Play area; equipment is to be installed week commencing 12th Oct. Directional fingerboard location close to the bench and information board on the village green was **approved**. Still to source a picnic bench, suggestions of 2 benches and 1 picnic bench were discussed. DPVHA is in possession of a new picnic bench that is yet to be installed and was offered by

DPVHA trustees for use at the picnic site. The DPVHA would then purchase a picnic bench once the village hall work is completed. It was **agreed** this bench should be used.

Action: Clerk to source hazard tape and not in use signage for the site to be used until ROSPA cert is issued.

- 3rd Phase of footpath from Three Gates to Village; **Action:** Clerk to contact HBC and arrange a site visit prior to going ahead with next phase to discuss quality of the path installation. To consider edging the path and quality of finish. Cllr DR request to be present at meeting.
- Blue edging stone project; Original quote from Meryl Gardens included purchase and installation of blue edging stones to extend the existing stones further along village green tracks. Particularly the track next to the pond. It was **agreed** the project should include installation of boulders to protect the village green on the corner of the pond. On advice from our contractor the stones should be of a larger size, part buried and concreted in to prevent stones being removed.

Action: Clerk to ask contractor to reinstall dog waste bin and spring well coping stones.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman shared a letter from Mike Hill MP prior to the meeting. He pledged to contact Anglian Water in support of funding for the play area work.

Cllr Rezai has been in contact with Cllr B Loynes who again pledged her support for DPVHA and a new village hall. She stated the association must submit a business plan to HBC in order to secure the land lease.

D.R. spoke to Cllr Alan Timothy who confirmed he would accept the position of Vice Chairman to DPPC.

D.R. reported fly tipping on Dalton Back lane to HBC – this continues to be a problem.

HBC have filled the pot holes on Dalton Back lane. The work is satisfactory – a full resurface would have been a better solution.

D.R. is in the process of obtaining 'no parking' signs for the village green. It was **agreed** a sign should be placed on the green near The Batts also on a tree in the centre of the village.

8. Ward Councillors Report

No report.

9. Maintenance Group Report

An inspection at the Allotments found repair works as instructed by DPPC have been completed the area (unloading gate) is now in a satisfactory condition.

One plot remains uncultivated. Cllr Noble **proposed** should this tenant wish to end their tenancy a partial refund of rent for the rest of the tenancy period should be given. This contradicts the Allotment Rules and Regulations. However, should the plot remain uncultivated for a longer period than is necessary it will become very overgrown. Seconded DR. **Agreed.**

Cllr Noble **proposed** DPPC should consider installing a closed board fence to the boundary of the allotments where currently there is no closed board fencing. **Agreed.**

Grass seed and crocus bulbs have been planted in areas around the hedge at Manor Fields and the Well Spring.

10. Personnel Group Report:

None to receive

11. Financial

a) Financial report

The Clerk presented the financial reports which were **accepted**.
(Proposed MI, Seconded MP)

Financial Transactions 11th September – 8th October 2020

Receipts	£
HMRC – VAT126 claim for 19/20	3,560.16
TOTAL:	£3,560.16
Payments	£
C+C Walker 3xgrass cut	594.00
Clerks Salary + Backdated annual increase	284.28
L Noble reimbursement bulbs grass seed compost	245.83
Zurich insurance payment correction	32.12
TOTAL:	£1,156.23

b) Financial regulations policy 2020 update

Cllr Noble **proposed** the amount before a contract is sent to tender should be increased from £1000 to £3000. **Seconded M.I. Approved.**

The regulations were **approved** with the above as the only amendment.

c) Clerks salary annual review

In accordance with NALC PayScale for 2020; Clerk Mrs J White has been in position for 2 years which relates to LC1 (9) @ £10.86 per hour x 20hrs = £217.20 per month. An increase of £11.18 over 20hrs.

This is to be backdated to April 2020.

12. Correspondence.

None

13. Planning Applications

H/2020/0215 – Mayfield House

It was agreed DPPC would send a strong objection to this application on the grounds that; Against the Rural Plan, no exceptional circumstances, unacceptable change to the rural landscape, goes against DP Village Design Statement, closing the rural gap between the site and the proposed western extension to Hartlepool, safety concerns regarding extra pressure on the blind bend. The design itself does not allow for adequate car parking.

Extension to house at Three Gates – it was **agreed** DPPC have no comment to add.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Ireland raised comment regarding the governments planning white paper. She suggested DPPC should submit comment on the paper and felt the document had significant 'holes' in it which could have a detrimental effect on planning decisions in our local area.

It was **agreed** Cllrs Ireland, Noble and the Clerk should work together to submit comment.

Cllr Rezai would like to know if HBC are responsible for cutting branches that hang into the highway? There are a few points on Dalton Road through the village where branches overhang including on the sharp bend around the village allotments. **Action:** Clerk to contact HBC.

15. Items exempt to the press and public

a) Easement.

It was **agreed** the map and measurements provided by TBI were correct. DPPC should continue with the process and follow all advice from TBI Solicitors. It was further **agreed** that Cllr Noble could stand in for Cllr Timothy or Rezai to deal with this item when necessary.

b) Allotments

Cllr DR **proposed** a plot holders request should be granted permission. **Agreed.** Cllrs further **agreed** DPPC should obtain a quote to install new fencing around the allotments where currently there is no closed board fencing.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 12th November 2020

Meeting closed at 8.17pm