

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 9th January 2020
at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Rezai (Chair), A. Timothy (attended from point 8), L. Noble, M. Ireland and M. Patrick.

In Attendance: Clerk J. White, Ward Cllr Loynes, 1x member of the public.

Meeting began at 7.05pm.

The Chairman welcomed those present and wished all a Happy New Year.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr A Burroughs
Accepted and Approved.

2. Declaration of interests:
None.

3. Public Forum:

A resident questioned if the village be getting broadband.

The road surface on Hart back lane is still poor. With no A19 bypass this is a route often used by residents.

The junction at Three gates still has poor visibility of traffic from the left. The hedge blocks the view. This makes it very difficult to turn right towards the village from Dalton Back Lane. A matter of safety. Also, it has been witnessed that cars go the wrong way around the island.

Action: Ward Cllr Loynes to contact the land owner.

4. Minutes 10th December 2019

The Clerk put forward her sincere apologies as the minutes are not yet available.

She experienced difficulties with the PC laptop for the last month, since the Christmas break it has been unusable. The laptop is currently with a computer technician.

Cllr Ireland reported that recently there have also been issues with both Hart and Elwick laptops, due to a computer virus, which required professional help to fix.

It was **agreed** this item would be moved to the next meeting.

5. Matters Arising:

Village Green Damage

Matter moved to later in the meeting when Cllr Timothy is in attendance.

6. Substantive Items:

a) Vacant DPPC Councillor Position.

There have been no responses to the vacant position advert.

It was **agreed** a flyer would be produced and dropped to all residents in the Parish Clerk and Cllr Noble to **Action**.

b) Litter pick and equipment.

It was suggested the PC might arrange a community litter pick. Some residents have volunteered to take part should the PC provide equipment.

To be covered further under Ward Cllrs report.

By the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Loynes provided her report as the next item.

7. Ward Councillors Report:

- £2,000.00 promised for the footpath is to be organised to be sent direct to DPPC.

- Litter, BL is waiting on a response from officers to advise if HBC can help and or provide equipment for litter picking. The Last time a request was made, HBC were unable to help. Other organisations purchased their own equipment.
The Clerk mentioned she is aware of other local community groups that volunteer to pick litter. HBC supports them by collecting the bags of waste produced after an area has been cleansed. **Action** BL to find out how to report collected bags ready for collection by HBC.
- The Christmas tree lights are still on – the relevant officer is on holiday. Action: BL to organise switch off asap and investigate getting a new box
- HBC fully aware of the issues regarding rural broadband internet access. They are working on a joint project with the TVCA to provide a funding case to provide access to those not yet connected to high speed internet.
 - The Clerk provided an additional update on works about to take place in the village; HBC highways dept provided notice that Dalton Road would be closed for 2 weeks. The Clerk contacted HBC to find out why? This application was made by BT Openreach who stated the works were for cable works. BT Openreach are almost impossible to get through to. However, the Clerk emailed a number of departments. None of which could provide any information as to why these works were to take place on our road. The Clerk also contacted Keith Wilson at TVCA to see if he could shed any light on the situation? Also, to question if broadband installation is made to be made to every property in the surrounding area.

Action: The Clerk and BL to continue pressure for information.

- Next phase of footpath requires confirmation of land ownership. If DPPC find out and confirm who the land owner is please forward to HBC. Cllr Ireland stated it is clear which section is, the relevant officer would be able to check with the land registry who the registered owner is.
- The Chairman highlighted some issues with the workmanship on sections of the already completed footpath. Also, horses are using the path which will cause damage to the path. It was suggested signage may need to be installed.
- Elwick bypass update – Highways England had the plans for the proposed bridge for a significant amount of time. Only relatively recently they informed HBC the bridge is not in a suitable position and would need to be moved (20 meters or so) HBC have now resubmitted adapted plans to Highways England and await their response. Hopefully this will be given the go ahead soon as the funds are available.

Councillor Timothy joined the meeting.

8. Village Green Damage

A company called Aptus utilities has been instructed by Wynyard Homes to install utilities to the development at Dalton Heights. A company called Clancy Docwra, as part of the water installation, dug a hole in the village green for access to the water main. The companies applied to HBC for what is known as a section 50 for permissions to carry out these works (this application is for carrying out works on the highway)

The Clerk reported this to HBC who say they do not provide permissions for works on private land. Furthermore, an HBC officer attended site who stated the manner in which the road was closed was not satisfactory. Workmen assured the officer they would physically provide assistance to guide cars around the blind corner.

A discussion took place in which it was put forward the work on the village green does not have permission, as none was asked for. So, this work amounts to trespass and is illegal. After investigating this issue, the Clerk discovered that; the PC should have received 3 months' notice from the company wishing to carry out this work. There is a right of access to water supply and wayleave payments do not apply (wayleave is applicable to other utilities including gas, electric, telephone).

Aptus Utilities are also storing their equipment (pipes and fencing) on the village green without permission.

The Clerk reported that she contacted Wynyard Homes, Aptus Utilities and Clancy Docwra before Christmas and informed them this was land owned by the PC. Yet, in the new year, work continued again without any notification.

AT proposed, seconded by MP that the Clerk writes to Aptus Utilities and Wynyard Homes instructing the works cease with immediate effect. Their current works constitute trespass

and criminal damage. DPPC expect the companies involved to communicate with us, to agree a way forward, within 48hrs of the notice. If no contact is made within this time DPPC will take the matter further and ultimately could pursue legal action.

Unanimously Agreed.

For the benefit of Cllr Loynes;

- Cllr Patrick asked for an update regarding the public footpath which Wynyard Homes have applied to have diverted permanently (Elwick footpath). The Clerk confirmed a response had been received from the officer at HBC but did not state the final decision.
- Cllr Patrick further asked for an update regarding the complaint submitted by DPPC regarding a drainage trench recently dug from the Wynyard Homes site into 'Bogglebeck' which is the 'ditch' that runs alongside the Elwick footpath. The water then drained along the trench, down into roadside drains. HBC officers have not responded to DPPC. However, Cllr Timothy reported he also personally submitted a complaint to which HBC responded they had investigated and there was no issue found.
- A pot hole close to the Windmill Hotel was also reported.

Cllr Loynes left the meeting.

9. Red Gap Projects

Deadline for applications is 13th May 2020.

a) 2017 projects

- Play Area. Still awaiting HBC planning decision.

We had been advised the application is not going before the planning committee and is recommended for approval.

Action: Clerk to contact play equipment supply company and check prices and order lead time.

b) 2018 projects

- It was **Agreed** the Clerk with help from Cllr Noble should order the noticeboard due to a long lead time.

c) 2019 projects

- Cllr Noble has organised for a company to quote for a new well cover. The brickwork needs some attention and cleaning up. The wet 'spring' area next to the brick well stack also needs attention.
- Cllr Noble has sourced a suitable pump but is yet to source a trough. Photographs will be circulated to Cllrs for a decision.
- Work in 'The Batts' is due to commence in the spring.
- Digital Mapping project is complete. Extra training sessions may be provided in the future.

10. Budget financial period 2020/2021.

Listed as point 8. on the meeting agenda.

The Clerk provided Councillors copies of the draft budget she has prepared.

She pointed out some items which are known will increase and/or had been higher than predicted during 2019/2020.

A discussion took place.

Changes to the budget were agreed as follows;

Insurance left at the same higher amount of £500.00 due to expected increase in assets.

General village maintenance increased to £1,000.00

Clerks salary annual increment £100.00

Web hosting fees increase £80.00

Donations decreased by £200.00

Legal and professional fees decreased by £1,000.00
Water bill increase to £200.00
New item – ‘The Batts’ maintenance £500.00
New item – Tree care £2,000.00

It was **agreed** the Precept demand upon the general fund administered by the billing authority of Hartlepool Borough Council for 2020/2021 should be £8,000.00

The total amount required, including precept, grant and concurrent payments totals £10,860.00

The demand form was signed by the Chairman and counter signed by Cllrs Timothy and Noble and the Clerk.

It was **agreed** DPPC’s annual donation of £25.00 towards Village Life magazine should be paid.

11. Chairman’s Report:

The Chairman and Cllr Patrick visited TBI solicitors to discuss the planned grant of easement to Hartlepool Water.
This is getting to the final stages of the arrangement. **Action:** The Clerk is to liaise with TBI and nominated Cllrs DR and AT to arrange necessary advertisement and notices.
The Chairman expressed his disappointment in lack of progress with the village hall.
Other items have previously been mentioned at this meeting.

12. Maintenance Group Report:

- A new electrical box is required for the Christmas tree. Waiting on update from HBC.
- Tree works carried out last year on a fallen tree branch from ‘The Batts’ neighbouring a residents property revealed the tree itself is dead and will at some point need removing.

13. Personnel Group Report:

No report to receive.

14. Financial

a) Financial report

The Clerk presented the financial reports which were **accepted**.

Financial Transactions 11th December 2019 – 9th January 2020

Receipts	£
Grantscape – 17.12.19	1,148.28
Grantscape – 17.12.19	2,295.00
Legal case costs – 28.12.19	1,000.00
Northern electric wayleave (nr Dalton beck)	60.21
TOTAL:	£4,503.49
Payments	£
Clerks salary Dec 19	206.02
Clerks salary Jan 2020	206.02
Village Cart flowers 19/20	90.00
2x Village flower tubs	40.00
Meryl gardens (tree branch removal)	250.00
TOTAL:	£792.04

15. Correspondence.

- Letter from a resident regarding dead tree
- Letter from NAS regarding ongoing Allotment issues.

16. Planning Applications

- H/2019/0436, Adjacent to Hart on the Hill. This application arrived after the agenda was produced. **Action:** Clerk to comment on the application regarding concerns over the loss of wooded area. Trees and shrubs have already been cleared from the site. DPPC would like a condition applied to the permission stating that any meter of tree removed from this site, a native tree should be provided for planting in the Parish.

17. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Timothy requested any advert/leaflet for the vacant Parish Councillor position should emphasise the good news and work currently going on within the Parish Council.

18. Items exempt to the press and public

a) Allotment issues

Ongoing.

The appointed Cllrs will continue to deal with the matter.

18. Date of next meeting: Thursday 13th February 2020
Meeting closed at 9.18pm