

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 10th December 2020
Virtual meeting held on the online platform 'zoom'.

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

In Attendance: Clerk J. White. One member of the public.

Meeting began at 7.00pm.

UK government restrictions due to the Coronavirus Pandemic continue, this includes instructions to work from home.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr A Timothy. Ward Cllr B Loynes

Accepted and Approved.

2. Declaration of interests:

None.

Cllrs acknowledged that as the village hall is not on the agenda it is not necessary to declare interest.

3. Public Forum:

- Comment via Cllr Rezai; Loose dogs appear to be kept on the 'cowboy field' site. As well as excessive bonfire burning. Cllrs discussed and advised any issues like this should be reported directly to the authorities (Police/Borough Council) Action: Cllr Rezai to forward the details to resident of authorities.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 12th November 2020

Approved as a true and accurate record with the following amendment; Add Cllr Patrick to point no 15. (Prop MI Sec. LN)

5. Matters Arising:

a) Northern Power Grid tree pruning at Dalton Back Lane

Cllr Rezai and the Clerk reported on correspondence from Northern Power informing us of tree work to be carried out on the power lines for safety reasons in the Three Gates area. This will affect a number of properties as well as along the main highway.

A notice is to be displayed on our noticeboard, date of work yet to be confirmed.

6. Substantive items:

a) Vacant DPPC Councillor positions.

Interviews for the vacant positions were carried out by Cllrs Noble and Ireland with the Clerk present. Recommendations will be made during the exempt section of this meeting.

7. Red Gap Projects:

- RNB/484 (Play equipment) – The ROSPA inspection is now complete and we have the certificate. The play equipment and picnic bench are now open for use by the public.

The invoice from Wicksteed (£14,000 ex VAT) has arrived it was **agreed** a £300.00 charge for temporary fencing should be removed from the invoice as it was never supplied.

Boundary fence between the waterboard land and the play area – it was discussed upgrade/improve the fence. Cllr Rezai reported Hartlepool Water supply funds to the Durham Community Foundation and we could apply to this fund for this fence. There is also the Allotment boundary fencing to consider. **Action:** Clerk to look at remaining budget and look into applying for the fund.

- RNB/2891 (Batts and Village Biodiversity Project) – An underspend of £544.00 for this project. A discussion took place it was agreed to purchase a substantial strimmer which must be kept at the village hall. Also some Wild flower meadow seed.
- RNB/ Blue stone edging – Meryl Gardens have completed their work. Clerk is yet to receive their invoice. It was **agreed** they should be paid as soon as it arrived. The project award is £2,525.00.

RNB 2020-1630 daffodil planting. Project completed and closed.

- Three Gates footpath DR to update during report.

8. Chairman's Report

Cllr Rezai reported he had been in contact with Ward Cllr Brenda Loynes. Cllr Loynes has been unwell and Cllr Rezai wished to pass on his best wishes. Cllr Loynes confirmed HBC officers would be in touch regarding the footpath extension. They would also be renewing the footpath close to the Windmill. The signs around the village are due to be inspected and cleaned.

After Cllr Rezai's concerns regarding Ward Councillors low attendance at our meetings; Cllr Loynes advised she attended as much as she can and has regularly in the past. She informed us that Cllr Stokell stated he has not been invited to any DPPC meetings and Cllr Young has been isolating due to the pandemic.

The Clerk clarified she had regularly invited Cllr Stockell to our monthly meetings since October 2019 when she advised our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm. She did acknowledge an invitation had not been sent on every occasion.

9. Ward Councillors Report

No report.

10. Maintenance Group Report

Cllr Noble reported;

The Allotment external fence has been painted. The pond reed work is completed and to note this is not a Grantscape project.

It was **agreed** to grant permission for an allotment holder to replace some fence panels.

The Christmas tree lights have a section that was not working when they were switched on. A resident replaced this set with the spare we had to get them all back on. To purchase 10m from the supplier is £44.00 for 2 sets it's £61.00. **Prop** LN Sec DR **agreed** to buy 2 sets.

11. Personnel Group Report:

Clerk completed the SLCC course. Clerk would like to continue with more training throughout this year. Councillors pledged their support for this.

The zoom meeting is about to time out. Cllr Patrick proposes DPPC purchase a license for the zoom platform. This was **agreed**.

The meeting paused
The Clerk restarted the meeting on Zoom with all present.

12. Financial

a) Financial report

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

Financial Transactions 13th November – 10th December 2020

Receipts	£
Grantscape daffodil bulbs	838.31
Grantscape The Batts biodiversity	1,723.00
Anglian Water play area donation	2,000.00
Allotment rent	25.00
TOTAL:	£4,586.31
Payments	£
<i>HBC – reissued cheque footpath phase 2</i>	<i>4,677.96</i>
J White Clerks salary	217.20
Wave water bill	18.94
Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (batts phase 2)	1,723.00
L Noble reimbursement (paint for allot fence/noticeboard)	47.85
TOTAL:	£2,006.99
	+ £4,677.96 = £6,684.95

It was **agreed** to continue holding the cheque for HBC footpath work until a site meeting is held with HBC representative.

a) Budget 2021/2022

A discussion took place and Councillors worked through the draft provided by the Clerk.

Other points to note;

Query over Village Hall rent. Should this be charged on a meeting-by-meeting rate?

Clerks salary should include increment as well as 2% increase.

Clarification sought on break up of Precept/concurrent/grant payment.

Does the legal/professional fee rate need to be high? – What fees do we expect to pay?

Break down of predicted Project costs for 2021/22 period.

It was agreed to pay the Clerk the one-off broadband/telephone contribution of £120.00 for 2020/21 period.

13. Correspondence.

All correspondence previously mentioned in this meeting.

Zoom meeting lost connection Cllr Patrick left the meeting.

14. Planning Applications

H/2020/0350 – side extension at Abbey Hill cottages. – No comments to add.

Variation to H/2020/0175 solar farm near hart. The proposed variation is to enlarge the sub station for the site. MI **proposed**; The sub station is in a prominent position if it were to be enlarged natural screening would be even more important and extra should be provided to screen this building. Due to the impact on the rural feel of the area the increase in size of this building should be objected too. **Seconded DR Approved.**

15. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Rezai raised issue with fly tipping particularly on roads around the village. The Clerk reported residents have mentioned this. She has reported the rubbish on HBC online portal. **Action:** Clerk to write to HBC highlighting the issue.

In previous meetings it has been agreed that residents should be thanked with a small gift at Christmas time if they had volunteered for the Parish Council. Over this last year DPPC have been very pleased to see more and more residents help with projects. By way of thanks, it was agreed the Clerk should gift a bottle of wine and thank you card to each household. Total budget not to exceed £100.00. List of volunteer names to be provided by Cllr Noble. **Agreed.**

16. Items exempt to the press and public

a) Vacant Councillor Positions candidate interviews.

Two village residents were interviewed by Councillors Ireland and Noble. It is their recommendation to DPPC that both candidates should be co-opted. Unanimously **agreed**.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th January 2020