

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 12th March 2020
at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Clerk J. White and 2 members of the public.

Meeting began at 7.05pm.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs A Burroughs. Also received from Ward Cllr B Loynes.

Accepted and Approved.

2. Declaration of interests:

M. P. – Village Hall.

3. Public Forum:

- Pot holes on Dalton Back Road heading towards Greatham are becoming very deep.
- Shrubs at 3 gates junction still cause line of sight issues. Action: DR to report to BL
- Request for an update regarding broadband internet and lack of service in the village.

The Chairman moved 'Broadband' to the next item to respond to the member of the public's concerns.

4. Broadband

The Clerk reported; The Village now has high speed fibre cables installed by BT to a point near The Terrace and near the Christmas tree.

Unfortunately, BT informed us they have NO plans to connect existing houses in the village. The service is installed to supply the new housing development.

The Clerk submitted a complaint to BT regarding this. It is very difficult to contact BT, the Clerk submitted complaints on numerous grounds with very little response.

The Clerk has been in touch with a digital officer from the Tees Valley Mayors office who will support us in efforts to get the village connected.

The good news is, fast cables are here. Historically, the reason we were denied broadband was due to the cost of installation of this cable. **Action:** The Clerk and Councillors continue to add pressure for full connection.

5. Minutes 13th February 2020.

The minutes were **Accepted and Approved** with the following amendment: 5. C) line 4 (typo) *buses*. Proposed LN Seconded AT.

6. Matters Arising:

a) The Batts fencing, insurance claim

The Clerk reported; a claim for stolen fencing in 'The Batts' has been submitted to our insurance provider. The excess is £100.00, 2 quotes for like for like work are required to make the claim.

A discussion took place.

Action: Clerk to obtain 2 quotes. Also, due to concerns about future thefts the clerk should seek advice from suppliers and quotes for works which may deter thieves. (wire fencing alternative?)

- The Clerk also reported; Grass cutting quote from our providers C&C Walkers had been accepted. They are due to start the cutting season in around 2 weeks' time.

Action: Clerk to ask for a quote for grass maintenance work in The Batts also for footpaths to and from 'Three Gates'

7. Allotment rent for the 2021/2022

A discussion took place. Concerns were raised that allotment rent is not covering the cost of water supply to the plots.

Cllr L N proposed, seconded by Cllr MI; a flat rent charge of £35.00 per annum plus 2020 water bill + 2% shared proportionately to the land size of each plot.

Unanimously agreed.

8. Substantive Items:

a) Litter Pick – Call for volunteers.

The Clerk reported litter picking equipment has been purchased and DPPC is registered with the keep Britain Tidy campaign.

It was **agreed**; litter picks will be held on the third Saturday of each month (during spring/summer) 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Meeting at the Village Hall. Beginning on 21st of this month.

Action: Clerk to produce flyer/poster for notice board.

9. Red Gap Projects:

a) 2017 project

- Play area, ongoing. **Action:** Clerk to contact suppliers and Grantscape to update.

b) 2018 projects

- Noticeboard is ordered and due to arrive soon. Cllr LN requests 50 magnets are purchased for the board at £4.99 x 12. **Approved.**
- Footpath phase 2, invoice is yet to be received from HBC. **Action:** Cllr Rezai will speak to HBC.

c) 2019 projects

The Batts, 1st phase completed. TVWT to continue work any time now.

The village pump; Pump and well are purchased. LN reported options for cobbles have been looked into. Use on blue stones and granite style cobbles **approved.**

Installation can commence next week.

-Spring well nr Rose Cottage; Builders advice to improve the area is to: build a false wall around the existing, install coping stone which will cover the new and existing wall. This will also cover the newly installed iron grate to prevent theft. Tidy up lower stone wall (where spring water trickles through) allow water to drain into the ground 'square area' which is to be cleared out. Edging stones replaced using stones from surrounding area, French drain installed to drain excess water (preventing dangerous soft ground) and finally install a membrane and fill with gravel. Total cost £470.00.

A discussion took place. **Unanimously approved.**

- Village Green /Trees, £40.00 remains in the budget. LN proposed
 - Solar lighting, DR, MI and JW attended a site meeting with an officer from HBC who provided lots of suggestions regarding lighting in the village.
- His opinion was that Solar lighting is not appropriate due to the areas to be covered – shaded areas will not get enough sunlight in winter months when they are needed most. He suggested other wired options.

Proposed locations are; bench and footpath close to Manor fields entrance. Play area, equipment covered only and entrance to 'The Batts' to be located close to the new bench.

The officer assured Councillors the lights would light the ground directly and not impact on any neighbours.

Action: Clerk to provide map details to HBC officer.

d) 2020 project suggestions

Street light upgrade. (to install decorative covers)

10. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported he had a number of meetings this month in relation to the Village Hall and associated land. The Clerk was in attendance at a meeting with Cllr B Loynes and HBC officer K Bostock. Cllr Ireland was in attendance at a further meeting with Cllr Loynes. The meetings were very positive. Working with Leader of HBC Cllr S Moore and Cllr M Patrick as the Village Hall Association representative, proposals for a way forward and securing the Village Halls' future are afoot.

11. Ward Councillors Report

No report.

12. Maintenance Group Report

Cllr Noble reported;

- The area close to Manor fields where along with a volunteer she will work to clear and tidy up the area. However, there will be a large amount of waste. Cllr Noble requested a skip. Cllr Rezai suggested a landscape company (chips and remove waste) would be cheaper.

Approved.

- Pond info sign needs cleaning.
- Aptus damage to the green has been seeded. It is yet to grow and will be reassessed at a later date.

Clerk reported; Aptus will be undertaking further work in the village at a later date. She suggested DPPC request a contribution from them for warning signs for our planned litter picks. **Approved.**

Also, to review the grass damage outside Abbots Lea and the Christmas tree and clean any waste left on the track close to the pond on their return.

- Tractors are damaging the verge close to the pond. LN proposes blue edging stones and a large corner stone (as previously agreed) should be installed after Aptus utility work is completed. **Action:** Clerk to use mapping technology to plot the area and obtain prices.
- The Clerk reported; earlier today MP, LN and JW met a representative from Aptus utilities who have a contract to install an upgrade to the electricity supply for the Dalton Heights development. The route of the new cable will be; From the salt bin at the bottom of College Close, across the road to the pond corner, along the village green following the highway approx. 1.5m in from the verge to the rear of Manor Fields where it will cross through farmers fields to an upgraded (from the existing) pylon.

A discussion took place.

Action: Clerk to contact Aptus to inform them Northern PowerGrid do not have permission from DPPC to install cables in the Village Green until a wayleave/easement agreement is in place.

The alternative is to close the road into the village to install the cable. It is DPPC's preferred option to come reach a wayleave agreement for installation along the verge. The option with as little disruption to the village as possible.

- Power lines and Street light is becoming obscured by large trees outside Kynmaren.

Action: Clerk to report to HBC.

- A large tree on the Village Green close to the allotments has been cut, this is potentially a sensitive issue. LN proposes it is moved to the exempt section. **Approved**

13. Personnel Group Report:

SLCC enrolment is expired Clerk requests approval for payment. **Approved.**

14. Financial

- a) Financial report

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

Financial Transactions 14th February – 12th March 2020

Receipts	£
	0.00
TOTAL:	£0.00
Payments	£
K Simpson (Wrought iron well cover)	370.00
J White (one.com web hosting)	228.21
J White (Litter pick equipment)	112.01
TOTAL:	£710.22

15. Correspondence.

The Clerk listed this months' correspondence which included an offer from a resident to plant a tree close to the pond and help maintain the area.

This was welcomed along with any resident wishing to volunteer to help tidy/maintain the village. It was noted permission needs to be sought for any works to the Village Green.

16. Planning Applications

No applications received

Cllr Ireland reported; The Rural Plan group made a presentation to HBC planning department regarding the rural plan with a full explanation of it. This was received very positively by HBC.

17. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

None

2 x Members of the public left the meeting.

18. Items exempt to the press and public

- a) Village Hall – update with VHA.
On behalf of VHA Cllr Mike Patrick updated Councillors.
It was **agreed** DPPC fully support the VHA to go forward and accept HBC's suggestion of a 99-year lease renewal.
- b) Tree on Village Green.
A large tree on the Village Green at the picnic area, bordering the village allotments, has been cut – with large limbs removed. This is contrary to our Village Green policy and amounts to criminal damage.
Action: Clerk to report incident to the police and seek advice to see if the tree is stable and safe.

18. Date of next meeting: Thursday 9th April 2020

Meeting closed at 9.31pm