

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 12th November 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.

The UK government have imposed stronger restrictions due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, this includes instructions to work from home.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr A Timothy.

Accepted and Approved.

2. Declaration of interests:

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

3. Public Forum:

- No comments.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 8th October 2020

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

5. Matters Arising:

a) Application to upgrade public footpaths to Public Bridleway

'Notice application for modification order' received from HBC. Application is being made by The British Horse Association to upgrade to a Bridleway the public footpath that runs through The Batts. As land owners DPPC have been notified. We have been informed by neighbouring land owners the footpath to Elwick and the footpath from The Batts to Brierton are also on the application. HBC have advised an opportunity to comment will be given some time next year.

Cllr Rezai **proposed** DPPC should write to The British Horse Society to ask them to explain exactly what they have in mind. It was **agreed** DPPC would look into the application further and contact those necessary when requested to do so by HBC.

b) Vacant Allotment Plot

The Clerk reported a plot holder ended their tenancy. The plot has a new tenant after one of the persons on the Allotment waiting list accepted a tenancy on the vacant plot. We wish them well and hope the new tenants enjoy and reap the rewards from being an allotment holder.

c) Councillor resignation

Cllr Rezai accepted Councillor Amanda Burroughs resignation as a Councillor to DPPC. He went on to thank her for all she has done for the Parish and sends best wishes for the future.

6. Substantive items:

a) Vacant DPPC Councillor position.

We have some interest in the vacant position. We now have 2 vacant positions. Cllr Rezai nominated MI and LN to complete informal interview for the positions along with the Clerk. MI and LN **Accepted**.

b) Electricity connection/upgrade Wayleave Agreement

A wayleave agreement from Northern Powergrid was circulated digitally by the Clerk and **approved** by Councillors. This is for an upgraded power line that will run underground along the village green road verge past Manor Fields to the pond and up to Dalton Heights. The Clerk returned the signed document to Northern Power.

7. Red Gap Projects:

- RNB/484 (Play equipment) – Equipment installed Oct 12th. Wicksteed did not leave any temporary fencing as they had agreed to do. The barrier fencing on site was kindly lent from a resident. Waiting on 2x safety signs and 1x directional finger post scheduled for install next week. ROSPA inspection planned for around 25th November.

It was **agreed** notification of the opening for the play and picnic area should be for the residents only, via the website, Village Life and noticeboard.

G Bell invoice to be paid. No claims made to Grantscape for project RNB/484 as yet.

- RNB/1696 (improvement of Village Commons) – Notice board money to be claimed this month.
- RNB/2897 (Footpath stage 3) – Contacted HBC earlier this month. Yet to receive a reply. HBC planned work schedule includes replacement of footpath to the windmill. Project not yet contracted.
- RNB/2891 (Batts and Village Biodiversity Project) – 2nd and final invoice sent waiting on response from Grantscape. **Action:** Clerk to pay invoice to TVWT on receipt of Grantscape funds.
- RNB/2892 (Restoration of Historic Village Green Installations) – project completed.
- RNB/2898 – I'll await further updates.

RNB 2020-1630 daffodil planting. Project is contracted. Project ongoing, invoice yet to be claimed from Grantscape. Thanks to Sharon and Alan Timothy for leading the project, lots of volunteers have been involved. Bulbs have been planted along The Batts footpath which extends the springtime daffodil walk, as well as around the village. Some leftover bulbs have been donated to Hart and Elwick Parish Councils to plant around the villages. MI confirmed they are delighted! Planting to continue next Saturday 1pm to 3pm and Sunday 10.30 to 12.30. A great effort by all involved.

Solar lights. Not yet begun. Grantscape have been notified due to Covid delays we expect to begin in the new year. **Action:** Clerk to contact HBC and get project moving in the new year.

Blue stone edging. Met with Meryl Gardens who confirmed their quote of £2,525.00 to complete the work and can start at the beginning of December. This includes the pond track where contractors have been instructed to install the curb edge and the track is to be 5m wide along with protective stones on the green. Other track blue stones to be extended and restored where possible.

8. Chairman's Report

Cllr Rezai reported he had been in contact with a Director at Anglian Water who confirmed a £2,000.00 donation towards our play and picnic area. He had originally requested £5,000.00 donation which he felt was appropriate given the size of the treatment works in our village and recent upheaval while the plant and new pipe were upgraded/installed. We gratefully accepted the £2,000.00 donation. Cllr Rezai suggested a request could be made to them to upgrade the boundary fence between the play area and Anglian Water land.

Cllr Rezai is hoping for a little more cooperation from our Ward Councillors as there has been very little contact lately. We have been thankful in the past that Cllr Loynes regularly attended our meetings and understand ill health and the pandemic have prevented this of late and hope to improve contact over the coming months.

Cllr Rezai has, once again, been in contact with our MP Mike Hill and raised ongoing issues regarding broadband and the village hall. There appears no further progress at this time.

The Clerk added an update on broadband fibre; This last week there have been a number of Openreach vans in the village. The clerk approached one of the engineers who confirmed they are in the village undertaking a survey to ascertain what would be involved to install fibre broadband to the door of every resident along with the associated cost. He confirmed once his report is complete it will be a number of weeks before we are informed of the outcome. This is the expected next step as part of the Better Broadband scheme we have signed up to.

9. Ward Councillors Report

No report.

10. Maintenance Group Report

Hand over inspection to new Allotment tenant has taken place. The tenant has requested a skip to clear the plot. Cllrs considered the request; it was **agreed** that unfortunately on this occasion as this is not required as one of the allotment regulations a skip would not be provided by DPPC. Cllr Noble requested a further 2x No Parking signs. This was **agreed** Cllr Rezai to **action**.

11. Personnel Group Report:

None to receive.

The Clerk informed Councillors that she would be attending an online course run by the SLCC for Clerks in the local area next month.

12. Financial

a) Financial report

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

Financial Transactions 9th October 2020 – 12th November

| Receipts | £ |
|--|------------------|
| Grantscape | 2,754.50 |
| LN – amazon order refund. | 73.84 |
| TOTAL: | £2,828.34 |
| Payments | £ |
| Zurich insurance – additional cover for play equipment | 111.99 |
| DR Allotment rent refund | 31.25 |
| ST reimbursement for daffodil bulbs – red gap project | 1,005.97 |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| HBC – reissued cheque footpath phase 2 | 4,677.96 |
| Petty Cash | 28.40 |
| DR reimbursement 3x no parking signs | 39.00 |
| Edward egglesstone – payroll | 117.12 |
| G Bell – bench fitting + replacement fence wire | 126.00 |
| G Bell – safety fence installation | 2,232.00 |
| J White Clerks salary | 217.20 |
| TOTAL: | £8,586.89 |

As instructed earlier this meeting hold cheque payment to HBC until next steps in the project are organised with relevant HBC department.

- a) Budget 2021/2022 – to begin considering proposals
Cllr Ireland suggested in the coming year Dalton Piercy as a whole would likely be submitting a large application for Village Hall funding to the Red Gap community fund, the Parish Council should consider their applications very carefully as they do not wish to be in conflict.
Cllr Rezai confirmed the footpath extension project is still ongoing and there would be a funding application for that. Cllr Ireland suggested if there is nothing else urgent the Parish Council should stay with the one project.

13. Correspondence.

A resident enquiry regarding broadband – see update earlier in this meeting.

Allotment holder correspondence – To be considered during an exempt section of the meeting.

14. Planning Applications

No new applications.

15. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Ireland, Noble and the Clerk met to discuss the government planning white paper. Clerk to submit comments as a priority.

Cllr Rezai raised issue with fly tipping around the village 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 inform Ward Councillors of the issue.

Cllr Rezai mentioned the branches on the roadside at the sharp corner close to the Allotments are overhanging the highway causing an issue. **Action:** Clerk to report to Highways HBC.

16. Items exempt to the press and public

- a) Allotment holder letter

Cllr Noble reported on the letter contents and background which was considered. **Action:** A letter to plot holders in line with DPPC regulations. November correspondence to plot holders to be kept on file.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 10th December 2020

Meeting closed at 8.12pm