

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 13th February 2020
at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Clerk J. White and Ward Cllr Loynes,

Meeting began at 7.06pm.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs A Burroughs and M Patrick. Also received from Ward Cllr M Young.

Accepted and Approved.

2. **Declaration of interests:**

None.

3. **Public Forum:**

None present.

4. **Minutes 10th December 2019.**

A discussion took place regarding some queries raised over point **xyz** in December 2019 minutes.

Also, Minutes 9th December 2020.

Accepted and Approved with no amendments necessary.

5. **Matters Arising:**

- a) **Grass cutting contract**

Quote for 2020 season is £165.00 per cut (ex VAT) it was **agreed** to continue with the contract at 14 to 16 cuts during the season.

Action: Clerk to get quote for grass cutting in 'The Batts' also footpath spraying towards 'Three Gates'

- b) **Broadband**

The Clerk reported that information from BT and Openreach is still limited, contact from the Wayleave team suggested there would be no works on the Village Green. However, BT engineers have been seen working in manhole covers located on the Green.

Action: Clerk to chase BT Openreach regarding Wayleave on the Village Green.

In efforts to ensure residents have access to fibre broadband – as we understand the cables are now in the village – the Clerk has contact with TVCA Chief Digital Officer who is helping to find information and champion our cause at meetings within his department also with bodies like Digital Durham who have links to BT. He suggested there may be opportunities to access funding in the near future to ensure connection.

Coun Loynes reported that HBC are also working with TVCA on schemes to connect areas in the borough that are not yet connected.

Action: Cllr Loynes to see how HBC can support us in achieving internet connection.

- c) **Tees Flex bus service.**

A new 'on demand' bus service has been launched covering the rural areas surrounding Hartlepool. Starting on Monday 24th February running 7am to 8pm. The bus can be 'ordered' using the tees flex app.

3 busses are in service covering our area, funded by TVCA and run by Stagecoach. The bus will not call in the village unless it has been 'booked' and will run across the 'rural west' and drop at certain central Hartlepool locations including the town centre and hospital.

This is a trial service, all are encouraged to use it!

Information can be found at DPPC noticeboard and website.

6. **Substantive Items:**

- a) **Village Green Damage.**

The Clerk reported a meeting took place with herself and Cllr Noble, representatives from Aptus utilities. Assurances were made that the green would be returned to its original condition. The work was due to be completed on 29th January. This has not happened. The

Clerk chased an update from Aptus who stated there had been some delays due to further chlorine testing required. Work is now expected to be complete on 21st February.

Action: Clerk to email Aptus with DPPC's expectations of how the green should returned to its original condition. Which includes; grass condition, blue curb stones, daffodil bulbs and mud on the track.

b) Vacant DPPC Councillor Position.

Ongoing -still no responses to the advertised position.

There is to be an election in May 2020 which covers all HBC Councillor positions due to ward boundary changes. This election will not include Parish Councillor positions within the borough.

c) Litter pick and equipment.

The Clerk reported information regarding litter pick and the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign. It was **agreed** the Clerk to sign DPPC to the scheme, order equipment upto the value of £100.00.

d) 'The Batts' stolen fencing.

After further fencing had been reported missing around January 2020 the Clerk contacted Cleveland Police and DPPC insurance. Our insurance company will cover the work. Excess is £100.00. The insurance company requires invoices from the original work and 2 quotes for repair works.

A discussion took place about possible ways the fence may have been taken and how theft may be prevented in the future.

Action: Cllr Ireland will raise this issue with the rural crime forum. Any advice from Cleveland Police will be adhered to.

7. Red Gap Projects:

a) 2017 project

Play area – The safety fence which was part of planning permission has been passed by HBC. The play equipment was removed from the full planning application as it is classed as permitted development.

b) 2018 projects

c) 2019 projects

- The well cover for the brick well/spring close to the play area is ready to be fitted. The Clerk reported a builder who looked at the job suggested getting the cover fitted first and addressing tidying up the outside after it is fitted. This was **agreed**.

Cllr Noble reported there is a boggy area adjacent to the well where it appears spring water is naturally making its way down the hill this area needs to be addressed as a safety issue.

- The well on the village green close to College Farm – Cllr Noble reported; a 'pump' and stone trough have been sourced and purchased. It was **agreed** blue edging stones (the same as those around the green) should be purchased and used as an edging with 'cobble stones' as an infill over the existing concrete base.
- Digital mapping project – Cllr Rezai thanked Cllr Ireland for her work on this project. It is now complete with a number of Councillors trained in using the software along with the Clerk. Cllr Ireland reported she is working along with officers at HBC to share maps and information for the benefit of all.
- Footpath – verge ownership still to be confirmed by HBC before the next phase. Also, ward Councillor contribution of £2,000.00 has been transferred directly from ward cllrs budget to HBC. **Action:** Clerk to have distances confirmed for each phase against costings and confirm verge ownership.
- Solar lighting – ongoing.

d) 2020 project suggestions

Reported as follows;

- Footpath stage 3
- Blue Stone edging for the village green
- The Batts; stream management/erosion work. **Action:** Clerk to contact Tees Valley Wildlife Trust for ideas.
- Village information boards (replacement for The Batts/near pond etc) along with information leaflet which would benefit visitors and residents.

8. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported he held numerous discussions with Cllr Loynes which included issues regarding continuation of the footpath, visibility issues at Three Gates Corner and the Village Hall. The Chairman, along with the Clerk attended the launch event for the Tees Flex bus service.

9. Ward Councillors Report

Cllr Loynes presented an update regarding the Village Hall and an email from the leader of the Council Shane Moore. HBC put forward a number of options which would facilitate a future of the hall including its redevelopment. This included options for leasing and purchasing the land. DPPC members welcomed this news, as DPVHA chairman was not present it was **agreed** meetings should be arranged in the near future to discuss options. DPPC **agreed** their preferred option was to purchase the land with a restrictive covenant which would stipulate the site can only be used as a site for a Village Hall – for the benefit of the community.

Cllr Loynes brought forward a response from Chris Scaife the Countryside officer for HBC which stated that HBC installed stiles were intact on the footpath to Elwick near Boggleck. New furniture is due to be installed to replace the broken gate. There are no issues regarding trenches from the current development site.

DPPC Councillors queried this response Cllr Loynes to **action**: Has the ancient footpath been redirected as per the recent application? DPPC believe there is a trench crossing the footpath and this should be checked again.

Waiting to hear back from officers re issues at Three Gates junction.

Officers report there is no signage that could be used to keep horses off the new footpath.

Cllr Timothy requested information about permissions to install yellow directional signs for new development.

Cllr Loynes left the meeting

10. Maintenance Group Report

No report to receive.

11. Personnel Group Report:

No report to receive.

12. Financial

a) Financial report

Norton anti virus cover is due to expire – quote seems high. **Action**; Clerk to look at other suppliers.

Our grasscutting contractor C.E. & C.M Walker Ltd provided a quote of £165.00 (ex VAT) per cut. For the 2020 season approx. cuts 14-16.

This was **accepted**.

The Clerk presented the financial reports which were **accepted**.
Financial Transactions 10th January 2020 – 13th February 2020

Receipts	£
Legal case costs – 28.01.20	1,000.00
Grantscape VG trees/bird box 1661/2896	81.80
Grantscape The Batts p1 1661/2891	2,453.00
Grantscape footpath p1 1661/1702	7,804.00
TOTAL:	£11,338.80
Payments	£
Clerks salary Jan 20	206.02
Anglian Water (wave water bill)	63.36
Noticeboard company uk ltd	2,530.80
W Robinson&sons ltd (pump for VG)	338.40
Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (Batts phase 1)	2,453.00
Hartlepool Borough Council (footpath phase 1)	7,804.00
TOTAL:	£13,395.58

13. Correspondence.

- Letters regarding Dalton Piercy allotments
- Letters requesting amendments to minutes
- ICO investigation
- Broadband/road closures complaints and updates
- Resident letter complaint re trench and drain/runoff from development site

Councillors reviewed correspondence regarding requests to changes minutes from the November meeting and December meeting in 2019. After reviewing evidence provided by the Clerk it was **Agreed** no changes should be made.

It was **agreed** responses to letters should be dealt with by the relevant sub groups/appointed Councillors.

Cllr Ireland reported that the HBC consultation re the Draft Council Plan is important and urged all Councillors to respond. There is no mention of the villages surrounding Hartlepool. Also, a Green Infrastructure Consultation which includes public rights of way.

DPPC should review and submit comment on both documents.

14. Planning Applications

No applications received

The Clerk was happy to report that our application no H/2019/0375 has been approved. This included the retrospective application for parking bays, fencing for the playarea, benches and new noticeboard.

Cllr Noble proposed DPPC should support Greatham Parish Council as they are dealing with an application that contradicts the Rural Plan.

Cllr Timothy nominated Cllr Noble to comment. **Approved.**

15. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr. Rezai raised concern about damage to the verge and encroachment close to the pond.

Action; Clerk to check digital mapping software for a definitive measurement of the track near the pond.

Cllr Rezai reported concerns about Quad bikes crossing the A19 and approaching the village area late at night. **Action;** Cllr Ireland will raise this at the Rural Crime Forum as a concern.

Cllr Noble reported;

College Close Land application has not been forgotten.

She tried to contact DPVRA to arrange collection of documents with no response.

16. Items exempt to the press and public

a) Allotment issues

The group voted to deal with ongoing issues (Cllrs Timothy, Noble and Patrick) reported the next phase of the DPPC complaints procedure should be undertaken which is an internal review.

The internal review panel should include an external expert person and two Councillors who have yet to be involved with decisions in this process.

18. Date of next meeting: Thursday 12th March 2020

Meeting closed at 9.31pm