

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 10th October 2019
at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Clerk J. White

3 members of the public.

Meeting began at 7.05pm.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr A Timothy, M. Patrick
Accepted and Approved.

- 2. Declaration of interests:**

Cllr A. Burroughs – Allotments.

- 3. Public Forum:**

- A large pot hole recently appeared close to the Windmill Hotel entrance.
- Cllrs further expressed concern about rubbish and burning of rubbish from this site.
- An expression of concern regarding access to the village allotments as a wheelchair user.
- The Chairman responded; the PC are currently dealing with issues at the village allotments.
- A request for an update as to when action will be taken regarding overgrown land at Abbots Lea
- Clerk to **Action.**

- 4. Minutes of meeting held on 12th September 2019.**

The following amendments were **accepted** and **approved**;

- *M Ireland* added as present (line 1)
- *'been repaired by a resident'* (10. Line 1) Followed by this extract;
The three strings made of 10m connectable lengths, 2x 10m lengths were damaged and removed. The undamaged pieces of these two lengths were salvaged and repaired to be kept as a spare connectable length which is now kept in storage.
- *'Receipt reimbursement paint/maps HBC etc'* (financial transactions - payments – line 2)

Minutes of special meeting held on 20th September 2019

Accepted and approved.

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman.

- 5. Matters arising:**

- a) **Dalton Lane road safety issues**

Councillors raised continued concern regarding speeding vehicles through the village. In the past it has been suggested that physical speed barriers should be looked into. A19 gap closures have not alleviated the problem. It was suggested that since the closures the problem may actually be worse, particularly along Dalton Back Lane. The improved road surface (after pot hole resurfacing) may also be contributing to speeding vehicles. Further concern was raised about access to A19 north – the road across to Hart village from Dalton Lane/Elwick Road crossroads, is in a very bad state of repair. This is now a necessary route for many village residents after the A19 gap closures. Pot holes, passing places and fly tipping/debris all need to be addressed on this route.

Action: Clerk to write to HBC Chief Executive and Ward Councillors to raise concerns and query remedies for the problems.

- b) **Fallen tree removal**

It was **agreed** a tree surgeon should be instructed to remove the fallen tree (located in 'The Batts' on the boundary of a resident's property)

- c) **Vacant DPPC Councillor position**

It was **agreed**, after following the statutory notice period, should DPPC be instructed to Co-opt a new member, the position should be advertised and expressions of interest accepted.

d) **Creation of Disciplinary and Complaints Committee**

As is laid out in DPPC Complaints Procedure a Disciplinary and Complaints Committee should be made up of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and two other Councillors.

It was **resolved** the structure of the committee should remain as laid out in the policy.

The Chairman invited volunteers for the remaining two positions.

Cllrs Noble and Ireland volunteered.

It was **accepted** and **agreed** DPPC Disciplinary and Complaints Committee members are; Chairman Cllr Rezai, Vice Chairman Cllr Timothy, Cllr Noble and Cllr Ireland.

Cllr Ireland volunteered to produce and circulate draft terms of reference for the Committee.

Ward Cllr Loynes entered the meeting.

6. Substantive Items:

a) **Broadband**

The Clerk reported a resident had informed her the private company who intended to install broadband to the village has 'changed the goal posts' and require more people to sign up to their agreement than was originally suggested and so, would not be installing at this time.

As it has previously agreed the Clerk wrote to our MP, Teesvalley Mayor, ITS representative and our Ward Councillors to highlight the ongoing issues and request a way forward.

Action: Clerk to chase a response before next months' meeting.

b) **Legal case ruling**

The Clerk reported costs associated with case REF/2017/1149 (which had previously been awarded to DPPC), have been reviewed by Judge Thorowgood who, once again, ruled full costs are awarded to DPPC, the full amount is due to be paid by 30th October 2019.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Rezai, **seconded** Cllr Burroughs;

DPPC should investigate means of collecting the funds and if necessary, instruct a legal representative to claim the funds should they not be received by the deadline. Cllrs Timothy and Noble, originally nominated to deal with the case will continue with the matter. **Agreed.**

7. Red Gap projects:

a) **2018 projects**

- Defibrillator monies have arrived.

- A part claim for village improvements has been submitted, funds are expected next week.

- £180.00 has been quoted to install benches which are now currently stored at the Village Hall. Thanks to Cllr Patrick for oiling and storing the benches previously. Installation price was **agreed.**

It was suggested the PC may wish to consider dedicating the benches.

Action: Clerk to look into engraving options.

- Play area, noticeboard and bench planning application is still with HBC awaiting decision.

b) **2019 projects**

- Village Green Biodiversity project; Some trees on the Village Green have been crown lifted. Bird and bat boxes have been installed. **Action:** Clerk to submit funding claim.

- The Batts Biodiversity project; Tees Valley Wildlife Trust who are delivering the project, undertook two days of work on site along with volunteers - thanks to those who helped out. This involved clearing some areas. TVWT may return to site before Christmas. There will be a call for volunteers in the spring time to help deliver the rest of the project.

- Digital Mapping. **Action:** Clerk to chase registration with PSMA.

- Footpath extension; HBC have indicated a start time in around 6-8 weeks for the next phase of footpath installation. There is a query over ownership of land and how the footpath will adjoin a track where it meets the road.

Action; Cllr Rezai and Clerk to investigate track and report to HBC.

8. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman wished to point out issues at the village allotments are taking a lot of time. Cllr Rezai expressed a historical wish for the village allotments to hold open days for members of the community to visit. Cllr Burroughs stated allotment holders were not against this idea but this could not happen due to legislation issues. Footpath extension – Chair has been liaising with HBC.

9. Ward Councillors Report:

- Dalton cross roads to Hart Back Lane; HBC are working on repairs to the road surface. DPPC Councillors expressed concern and safety issues for users accessing the A179 to go north. It was suggested the road could be made one way.
- Cllr Loynes reported there are further problems with the proposed new Elwick A19 flyover, HBC are currently working with Highways England for a resolution.
- The Chairman updated Cllr Loynes on concerns mentioned earlier in the meeting; overflowing waste at The Windmill Hotel and Speeding traffic through and around the village. 20Mph signs are ignored. Would a physical speed deterrent be appropriate?
- Cllr Loynes reported a day of action had taken place in Elwick village where a number of speeding fines had been issued. DPPC requested a similar operation in Dalton Piercy.
- DPPC request the electrical box for the Christmas tree supply is fixed.

Cllr Loynes left the meeting.

10. Maintenance Group Report:

Village Hall land – HBC are still looking into the matter and suspect another party may have interest in the land. **Action:** Cllr Loynes should be made aware of DPPC investigation and findings from the past.

Flower tub payments, some tubs have not been planted this year, some planted once and some twice. £20.00 for pots and £30.00 for the Cart. **Action:** maintenance group to confirm to Clerk which pots have been maintained.

It was **agreed** a letter should be sent to residents looking after the pots that a payment would be sent at the end of the growing season subject to the flower pot being maintained all season. Should any pot not be adopted it will be removed.

11. Personnel Group Report:

No report to receive.

12. Financial

a) Financial report

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

Financial Transactions 13th September – 10th October 2019

Receipts	£
Grantscape - Defib	2,465.55
TOTAL:	£2,465.55
Payments	£
J. White (Clerks salary Sept 2019)	206.02
Meryl Gardens Tree Care	1,100.00
Mazars Audit	288.00

L Noble (bird/bat box, key)	76.66
C&C Walker (2xgrass cut)	384.00
TOTAL:	£2,054.68

- b) Audited AGAR 2018/2019
The certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return including the External Auditor's Certificate and Report has been received from Mazars.

The Clerk read the External auditor report and minor scope for improvement in 2019/20.

DPPC took all recommendations on board for implementation going forward.
The document will be uploaded to DPPC website.

13. Correspondence.

Tees Valley Rural Action Community Funding; DPPC suggestions- Wildlife walk around The Batts/Howells. **Action:** Clerk to contact the group.

Correspondence regarding the allotments for discussion during section 16.

14. Planning Applications

H/2019/0246 – Application for variation to planning application H/2018/0227 (Coniscliffe Road Development Hartlepool) DPPC have no comment to make, the application is outside the Parish and has no direct impact.

- Cllrs raised concerns about the Dalton Heights development **Action:** Clerk to write to HBC and ask who will be responsible for adoption of roads/street furniture open areas etc.

15. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Ireland expressed concern regarding the length of DPPC meetings. Meetings should be no more than 2 hours long.

16. Items exempt to the press and public

a) Grant of Easement

It was **resolved** the Village Green Policy and Village Design Statement are attached to the agreement to protect the finish of any access track and ensure it is in keeping with the village.
Action: Clerk to write to solicitor.

b) Parking Complaints

It was **resolved** further clarity to DPPC Allotment Rules and Regulations are required. The new regulation will be:

- 2.7.3 *Loading/unloading at Allotment gates (on Village Green adjacent to Rose Cottage), will be allowed no more than 3 times in any one week up to a maximum of 30mins. each time. DPPC recognise that in **exceptional circumstances** a tenant may anticipate a longer period may be needed. In this case the Clerk **MUST be contacted in advance** to request permission from DPPC.*

Action: Clerk to write to all Allotment tenants to inform them of the update in line with tenancy agreements.

c) Allotment issues

Action: Clerk to respond to residents' letters.

Action: Maintenance group to check new allotment locks and add WD40 for maintenance.

All correspondence was presented along with DPPC allotment rules and regs, a discussion took place. **Action:** Clerk to acknowledge all correspondence from NAS and allotment tenant.

It was further **resolved** an allotment inspection would take place shortly after 14th October 2019. Cllrs Noble and Timothy continue to deal with the issue which continues to use a considerable amount of time resource of the PC.

Reimbursement of allotment costs – moved to the next meeting.

18. Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th November 2019

Meeting closed at 9.50pm