

Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 14th February 2019
at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

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

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

Meeting began at 7.01pm.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs J. Bearby, A. Timothy, M. Patrick, L. Moses, Ward Cllr M Young.
Accepted and Approved.

- 2. Declaration of interests:**

Cllr A. Burroughs – Allotments, Abbotts Lea and website.

- 3. Public Forum:**

No members of the public present.

- 4. Minutes of meeting held on 10th January 2019.**

The minutes were **approved** unanimously as a true recording of the meeting with the following amendments:

Point 6. a)large usage *from an estimated bill.*

Proposed Cllr. A. Burroughs, **Seconded** Cllr L. Noble. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

- 5. Matters for report:**

- a) Legal case DPPC v T. Bates**

Cllr L Noble reported that the case had been heard in court. Mr Bates applied to the land registry to de-register certain tracks across the village green. DPPC contested this as the tracks are registered village green owned by DPPC. We have received the Judges ruling which is in favour of DPPC with all costs to Mr Bates.

Mr Bates has a right to appeal the decision to award costs, He must do so before 31.01.19. To date DPPC has heard nothing further on this matter.

It should be noted that this case has incurred a huge amount of cost (legal fees circa £10,000) including time. Thanks must be given to Cllr Timothy for his work on this.

As part of the investigation Judge Thorowgood visited Dalton Piercy to gain a full understanding of the village. In his summing up Judge Thorowgood stated that 'On the evidence before me the respondent does a good job of managing the green, with limited resources for the benefit of the amenity of the residents of Dalton Piercy as a whole.'

- b) Village Green tracks maintenance**

Cllr Noble reported that the council needs to clarify the policy on maintenance responsibility of the tracks that cross the village green. Also, what surface the tracks should be finished with.

A discussion took place.

A sentence on Dog Fouling should be included.

Proposed By L. Noble **Seconded** by A. Burroughs once the policy with amendment is approved a copy should be sent to all residents. **Agreed.**

6. Substantive Items

- a) Abbotts Lea land maintenance letter

The Clerk reported the letter to residents has not been sent to Abbotts Lea households as follow up has not been arranged.

A discussion took place.

The letter should make clear that if anybody wishes to object to DPPC maintaining the area as previously proposed they should do so in writing within 2 weeks of the letter date to the Clerk.

Clerk to **action**.

- b) Dalton Piercy Village Hall

See Ward Cllrs report.

7. Red Gap projects

- a) 2017 projects

Planning application has recently been sent to HBC.

Defibrillator – we have received an invoice (£1,200.00) from HBC for the defib in advance of it being installed.

- b) 2018 projects

- Clerk to **Action**: Send specification for allotment fencing to interested parties. Selection will be at March meeting – add to the agenda.
- Footpath – see Ward Cllrs report.

8. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that he has been liaising with Peter Frost HBC and Cllr B. Loynes regarding the proposed new footpath from Dalton Piercy to Three Gates.

He also reported that recently he experienced an accident on Dalton Back Lane where his car was damaged by broken curbs. Members of the public have raised concerns about damaged curb stones along the main roads to the village many times in the past. As a resident Cllr Rezai raised this issue with Cllr B. Loynes once more.

The Chairman expressed concern and disappointment about a recent television programme 'Skint Britain' which showed Hartlepool in a very bad light. Negative programmes like this have a cost to the whole area. Cllr Rezai would support any complaint to the programme makers from HBC.

9. Ward Councillors Report:

Ward Cllr B. Loynes reported that;

- Defibrillator is on order.
- Footpath from Manor Fields to Three Gates junction. Peter Frost team leader of Highways at HBC needs to confirm distances.
- Cllr Loynes presented an email response from Jim Ferguson HBC explaining the Developer Contribution secured by the section 106 agreement in respect to the Dalton Heights development. This was at the request of DPPC to ascertain where the funds are to be spent. DPPC's preferred choice would be a new Village Hall. In his email Mr Ferguson goes on to explain what the legal agreement requires the Council to spend the funds on; which in the first instance is a play area. He goes on to say the situation is not straight forward and variation would need to be legally defined.
- Speeding cars; HBC are looking into speeding issues at Newton Bewley, Elwick, Wynyard and Dalton Piercy. A discussion took place. DPPC councillors expressed their concerns about speeding in the village and the possible impact of premature A19 gap closures. They reminded Cllr Loynes that DPPC believe a physical barrier for speed should be installed here at Dalton Piercy.
- Dog Fouling: After some residents have complained about an increase in irresponsible dog owners allowing dogs to foul public and private grassed areas. Cllr B. Loynes explained HBC policy, fines can be issued with the correct evidence provided. DPPC will publish a notice in Village Life magazine reminding residents dog fouling is not acceptable and fines could be issued.

- Cllr Noble expressed concern about road signs around the village, being dirty/covered by vegetation/fallen over. Cllr Loynes will raise this with officers.
- Cllr Burroughs enquired if HBC could provide advice in respect of inspecting trees that are on DPPC land – specifically for risk assessment purposes. Cllr Loynes provided a contact name at HBC. Clerk to Action.

Ward Cllr B. Loynes left the meeting.

10. Dalton Piercy Residents' Association Report:

No report to receive.

11. Maintenance Group Report:

Cllr L. Noble reported;

- The maintenance group wish to extend their thanks to Cllr A. Burroughs for compiling a comprehensive maintenance record of all works carried out to Dalton Piercy 'tracks' by DPPC in the past. Hours of work have gone into pulling historical evidence together, creating a useful document record.
- Risk Assessment draft for 2019/20. Submitted for Councillors consideration. **Action:** Clerk to type up.
- Pot holes – There are a number of pot holes on village green tracks. A discussion took place. Maintenance group will be looking into possible suitable repairs.
- A discussion took place to ascertain where the allotment water supply is. **Action:** Clerk to look into this further and request a site visit from water company to point where it is.
- Cllr Noble requested permission to stain/paint the village flower pots. **Agreed.**
- Duke of Edinburgh volunteer completed his work which included but was not limited to; Leaf collection, oiling benches, re-plant fallen village tree, cleaning paths around the village hall + rubbish removal, tidying around the pond and Manor Fields area, cleaning road signs and village fence areas. Thanks also to Cllr Patrick and Noble for supervising. DPPC are very grateful for this contribution to the village, making Dalton Piercy a more enjoyable place to be for all. **Action:** Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Bakaer Noble. Cllr A. Burroughs has been assessor.
- DPPC would like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers who carry out works for the benefit of Dalton Piercy. Namely all those who have adopted village planters, Mrs Dobbs who looks after the village cart and Mr Burroughs for tree work and general maintenance around the centre of the village.
- Cllr A. Burroughs reported that Cllr L. Moses had requested to be part of the Maintenance Group. This was unanimously **Agreed**

12. Personnel Group Report:

No meeting this month. DPPC expressed their view that any courses the Clerk feels are necessary to facilitate/ improve he role would be supported by the council.

Clerk reported that she is getting on top of some historical admin jobs and is missing some VAT numbers required to make a VAT claim. Clerk will continue to investigate.

13. Financial

a) Financial report

The Clerk presented the financial reports which were accepted.

Financial Transactions 11th January 2019 – 14th February 2019

Receipts	£
	0.00
TOTAL:	0.00
Payments	£
Baxketh Ltd – 1x skip jan '19	192.00
J. White (Clerks salary Jan 2019)	206.02
TOTAL:	398.02

14. Correspondence.

- Notification from the Land Registry that the application by Mr Bates to deregister tracks across the Village Green has been rejected. **Action:** clerk to place the letter on the Village Noticeboard.
- Letter from resident re broadband. DPPC would like to clarify that they welcome any service that could benefit residents. However, they cannot endorse any individual provider. DPPC will continue to pursue government recognised schemes.
- HBC wrote to DPPC explaining that DPPC would not receive the full £2,600.00 as requested under the 'functions concurrent' section of the precept demand form. This is because the amount is capped to a percentage increase each year and our requested amount is above. The Clerk explained that she knew this to be the case and as was explained when the budget was set the grass cutting contract is £2,600.00 pa. The form asks what DPPC's functions Concurrent are so she filled the form with the actual amount it costs to carry out this role.
- The Clerk explained the cost break down from the Statement of Costs in the case Bates v Dalton Piercy Parish Council. Which are; Fee for (advice/conference/documents) £3,480.00 and Fee for hearing £7,440.00.

15. Planning Applications

- a) Parking Bays appeal
No news as yet. Waiting for a response from the inspectorate.

16. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

- Cllr. L Noble requests Cllrs begin to consider project ideas for the next round of funding, whilst also taking into consideration current budget restraints.
- Rubbish that was left behind by the skip contractor; the last skip was overfilled with items not permitted and were removed from the green by Cllr Nobles relatives and Clerk J. White. DPPC extend their thanks for this.

17. Exempt section

- a) Rose Cottage

Cllr D. Rezai **Proposes** DPPC investigate the possibility of issuing a license which would allow the residents to maintain a garden on Village Green. **Agreed.**

18. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 14th March 2019

Meeting closed at 09.15 pm.