**Dalton Piercy Parish Council**

**Draft Minutes of meeting held at 7.40 pm on Thursday 10 May 2018**

**at Dalton Piercy Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Rezai (Chair), Burroughs, Moses, Noble, Patrick and Timothy

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllr Loynes, Acting Clerk M. West, Incoming Clerk J. White and 7 residents

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr J. Bearby
2. **Introduction of new Clerk:** The Chairman welcomed Jennifer White, newly appointed Clerk to DPPC, who would be taking up the post from 1st June. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Mrs. West, Clerk to Elwick and Hart parishes, for the considerable work she had undertaken in getting Dalton Piercy Parish Council working more effectively and in particular for overseeing the recruitment of the new Clerk, whom she had offered to support over her first month or so in office.
3. **Public Forum:**
4. A resident raised concern about the public footpath from Three Gates to the A19, which is almost covered in weeds and dangerous to walk on in some parts. Cllr Loynes stated that Officers of the Borough Council were in process of clearing footpaths around the borough. The Clerk noted that she had raised this issue last month with the relevant officer and he had agreed to treat Dalton Piercy as an urgent matter. Cllr Loynes asked to be given his name. **Action:** Clerk to provide name of officer to Cllr Loynes.
5. Mr. Jackson asked who owned The Batts; it was his understanding that The Batts had been bought for the village and was simply managed by the Parish Council. If this was the case then the Parish Council could not claim it as an asset, and the land would have appreciated considerably in value since its acquisition. Rather than debate the issue, the Chairman asked the Clerk to investigate and write to Mr Jackson on this issue. **Action:** Clerk to write to Mr. Jackson re The Batts.
6. Mr Jackson stated that he wished to discuss a flier issued by the Residents’ Association. The Chairman refused to allow this as the matter was nothing to do with the Parish Council.
7. Mr Jackson then raised concern as to why the letter he had circulated to all residents about the land claimed by Mr. Johnson, had not been responded to by the Parish Council. The map VG75, attached to his letter and signed by the former Borough Solicitor in 2014, clearly showed the land was Village Green. Either the Borough Solicitor was wrong or the parish Council was wrong, he wished to know which. The Clerk agreed to investigate and write to him. **Action:** Clerk to write to Mr Jackson about this issue.
8. Mr. Jackson raised concern about a barbecue/party held by the Residents’ Association on Saturday. He wished to know if this was breaking the Allotment rules? He stated that he did not wish to make an issue of it but simply to raise concern that alcohol was being consumed and the party had continued until past 10.00pm and a car left parked overnight. The Chairman noted that he clearly was making an issue of it, and that no rules had been broken. The owner of the car had lost his keys, which is why it had remained there.
9. A resident noted with concern the rising amount of litter collecting around the grass verges in and around the village.
10. A resident raised concern about the disruption caused by the road closure last month, whilst repairs to the drains were made. Residents had not been notified in advance of this and it had caused a great deal of disruption – not least because the HBC website had stated that it would be reopened on the Monday but had not been.
11. A resident asked why the village did not have a defibrillator. Cllr Timothy responded that the Parish Council were in process of refurbishing the old telephone kiosk and turning it into a space for a defibrillator which was to be provided by HBC; the work should be completed this summer.
12. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Burroughs – Website.
13. **Minutes of 12th April 2018:** Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
14. **Matters Arising: (8b)** Cllr Burroughs wished to clarify that she and her husband would continue to maintain the green areas and hedges in the Kids Club Allotment should the PC agree to change its use as requested by the DPRA. Cllr Bearby would continue to Chair the Kids Club and all residents would be expected to sign the Allotment rules before being allowed to use the allotment.

**(5b)** Antique Cart – Cllr Noble reported that a joiner had responded to the invitation to tender for the repair of the cart, and had submitted a preliminary quote of £500, stating that it could cost more depending on what he found once the plants were removed. In the meantime, Cllr Noble stated that her neighbour had agreed to make a temporary repair to the flower boxes whist an application is made to the Red Gap Community Fund. This offer was gratefully **accepted.**

1. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman stated that nothing much had occurred since the last meeting other that the election of the new parish and ward Councillors. He congratulated Cllr Loynes on her re-election.
2. **Ward Councillor’s Report:** Cllr Loynes apologised for the disruption caused by the drain repairs and explained that it was difficult to avoid as it had proved impossible to do the work without closing the road. The works had taken longer than anticipated and she regretted that further disruption would be caused at the same place later this year, as officers would be replacing the drains in order to ameliorate the problem of flooding here and the road would be resurfaced. She would ask officers to inform the Clerk as soon as they know when they plan to begin the work, in order that DPPC could put the information on their website. Cllr Loynes also mentioned:
* The light on the village hall – an officer should have contacted the Acting Clerk about this Clerk stated No contact as yet.
* Grass verge cutting – HBC are behind with this due to the weather but are hoping to get all verges cut very soon.
* The land on which the village hall stands – the best she has been able to negotiate is a 25-year lease, but there is no guarantee that this will be at a peppercorn rate for the whole period. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would pursue the possibility of a better deal, preferably leading to the ownership of the land; possibly inviting all three Ward Councillors, the Leader of HBC and Chairman of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Committee to visit the site. In the meantime the Chairman of DPRA stated that she would write to Gill Alexander about the issue, giving the residents’ view on the poor state of repair of the village hall, and the need for an appropriate building for villagers to hold events, which could only be funded if the land was owned or held on a long lease by DPPC or the Village Hall Association.
* Litter picking – she had tried to obtain litter pickers for DPPC. Officers were adamant that if Traffic management at £1,000 was not acceptable then, due to H&S issues, a minimum of 2 lorries would be required, with one vehicle providing protection to workers clearing up litter. Councillors felt this was unnecessary, and the Clerk noted that Elwick PC had undertaken a litter pick with no more than black bags, litter pickers and high viz jackets. No traffic management or lorries were required, just a proper risk assessment and common sense. It was noted that some of the litter around Dalton Piercy was coming from the refuse wagon itself!

Cllr Patrick noted that the double yellow lines had still not been painted at the corner of Dalton Back Lane, nor had the overhanging trees/hedges been cut back as requested to improve drivers’ line of sight.

Cllr Burroughs noted that the cess pit at Sambucca’s was due for another deep clean, as it was last done at Christmas and should be done every 4 months. The strong smell (not of food!) is most noticeable in College Close.

Cllr Loynes agreed to inform officers of these issues. **Action:** Cllr Loynes to inform officers.

Cllrs Loynes and Timothy and Mr. Jackson left the meeting at 8.20pm.

1. **Dalton Piercy Residents’ Association Report:** The Chairman of DPRA reported that a Petting day was to be held by the Kids Club at the allotment on 9th June; this would be open to all residents, young and old. Progress was being made on the Computer Club, with the possibility of the loan/gift of 8 laptops having been received. DPRA and the Village Hall Association had agreed to work closely together, and a request was made for any unwanted board games to be donated. The Clerk noted that requests made by DPRA, at the April meeting, should now be decided.
2. Cllr Burroughs proposed, seconded by Cllr Noble, “that DPRA be given £50 towards the fees to register with ICO”; before voting on this proposal, Cllr Rezai proposed an amendment. viz: “that DPRA be given £100 towards the cost of ICO registration and stationery”, this was seconded by Cllr Patrick. Cllr Burroughs withdrew her proposal and the amended proposal was put to the vote and **agreed** unanimously.

(ii) The change of leaseholder of the third allotment from Kids Club to DPRA, and renaming it the DP Community garden Allotment; this would not prevent the Kids Club from using the site but would allow other residents access to the allotment, providing they were members of the Association and had signed agreement to the rules. The Clerk raised concern about the insurance implications and tenancy agreements. Councillors **agreed** the proposal **‘in principle**’ subject to a review of the Allotment Tenancy agreements, insurance, times and uses of the allotments. Cllr Noble proposed, Cllr Moses seconding, that “the parking arrangements at the Allotments be reviewed”, this was unanimously agreed, with the maintenance Group asked to undertake both tasks.

(iii) First Aid training- DPRA may now be able to obtain this free of charge, options are still being investigated, therefore the Councillors were asked to defer this item.

1. **Flower Tubs:** Cllr Burroughs informed that there are currently 18 flower tubs around the village, only 7 of which appear to have been planted this year. This was a matter of concern as the tubs were intended to beautify the village. Last year, several people failed to maintain their tubs and plants died. The Clerk informed that in other villages, residents ‘adopted’ tubs and planted and watered them, at no cost to the parish council and that both Elwick and Hart villages are holding ‘Best Flower Tub’ competitions this year. Cllr Noble proposed that Mrs Dodds, who supplied and planted flowers for 3 tubs and the cart, should be given £30.00 towards the cost as had been done in the previous year. This was **agreed** by all. It was further **agreed** that the Clerk should write to all villagers who had adopted a tub to ask if they wished to maintain it this year, if not it would be removed, Cllr Burroughs to supply her with the list of names. **Action:** Clerk to write to flower tub adopters, Cllr Burroughs to deliver.
2. **Village Green Grass Cutting:** It had been noted that two residents had asked the grass contractor not to cut the grass in front of their premises. It was **agreed** that, as the grass in question is part of the village green and the contractor is employed to cut all of it, the Clerk should write to the two residents, informing them that the contractor will be cutting the grass in future and that they are not to hinder him in any way. It was further noted that the garden border at Rose Cottage had been extended onto the village green again, with stones and ornaments added, despite the resident having received a solicitor’s letter on behalf of DPPC instructing him to remove it. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write informing him that the border must be removed within 14 days or legal action will be taken.
3. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports which were accepted. She also reported that the end of financial year VAT reclaim had been submitted, and that the ICO fee was to rise to £40.00 per annum.

**Receipts: £ Payments: £**

HBC (Precept, Concurrent & Council Support Grant) 9,510.00 Baxketh Ltd (Skip & Van) 252.00

TBI LLP (on account) 14,750.00 Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting) 550.00

**TOTAL: 24,260.00** D.M.Ireland (Petty cash) 30.00

 CLCA (subscription) 91.70

Edward Egglestone & Co. (payroll) 82.08

Viking Direct Ltd. (stationery) 94.97

**TOTAL: 1,100.75**

1. **Red Gap Projects:** The Clerk reported thatof the five current projects, one – the pondhad been completed; the contract for the supply of the Play Equipment had been agreed, though the fencing and tree cutting was yet to be agreed – it was anticipated that this project would be completed this summer, though firstly part of the land had to be exchanged with non-registered village green to allow the safety fencing to be installed and planning permission sought for the play area; suppliers for the refurbishment of the old telephone box into a defibrillator cabinet had been identified, though one quote was still awaited; the fencing of The Batts contract had been approved, though as yet there appeared to be no indication that the contractor was actually ready to undertake the work; the parking grids were to be installed on 21st May, and a footpath across the green from Abbots Lea to North View, was to be installed, as requested at the April meeting. The contractors would be storing their equipment on the Village Hall site with the agreement of the VH Association. It was **agreed** that: Cllr Burroughs should chase the outstanding quote for the telephone kiosk; that the Clerk should make the Planning Application to HBC, at a non-refundable fee of £144; that the application to deregister the village green and exchange with land from outside North View should be made as soon as possible; that the Clerk should inform TBI that only one portion of land is now available for the easement exchange with Anglian Water and that the Clerk should write to all residents at North View informing them that no vehicles must be parked outside Nos 1&2, and 7&8 North View from 8.30 am on 21st May, and likewise Mr. Hanby at Manor Farm and Mr. Proudlock at Rose Cottage requiring them to remove any vehicles to allow the works to be undertaken at the allotments. The latter letter to inform that the police will be called to move the cars should they still be blocking access at 8.30am on 21st.May**. Action**: Cllr Burroughs to ‘chase up quote for refurbishment of kiosk, Clerk to ‘chase up’ fencing contractor, make planning application, contact TBI, write to residents about parking.

**Proposals for future projects**: It was **agreed** that this year bids for the following projects be made to the Red Gap fund: A new double-fronted Parish Council Notice Board, cost approx. £2,000; Christmas Tree lights, cost approx. £800; 3 x benches – I for the pondside, 2 for The Batts**,** cost approx. £1,000; replacement fencing and gate for the Community Garden Allotment, quote awaited; New footpath from Three Gates to the village, quote awaited.

1. **Website issues:** *Cllr Burroughs declared an interest and left the room.*The Clerk raised again concern that the former web-master had not been remunerated for his work over 7 years, nor apparently had he even received a letter of thanks. All agreed that this was remiss of the parish council. Cllr Patrick proposed, Cllr Noble seconding, that “James Burroughs be given £1,000 in respect of his work as webmaster to DPPC and that a letter of sincere appreciation for his work be sent”. This proposal was unanimously **agreed**. **Action:** Clerk to write to J. Burroughs.
2. **Correspondence: (a)** An email from Paul’s Travel stating that Service 65 will no longer travel through Dalton Piercy – no date for the cessation given. **Action:** Clerk to inform affected residents. **(b)** Highways England – response to letter re A19 crossing closures; **(c)** request from barrister that DPPC appoints a councillor to represent the PC at the trial and to provide witness testimony. It was **unanimously agreed** that Cllr Timothy be appointed to do this, as he had indicated a willingness to do so.
3. **Planning Applications:** None.
4. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Smell from Sambucca’s has been reported by several residents. **Action:** Clerk to contact Shane at Northumbrian Water.
5. **Date of Next Meeting:** 7.00pm on Thursday 14th June.

**Items for next agenda:** College Close land.

Meeting closed at 10.02 pm.