**Dalton Piercy Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Council meeting**

**Thursday 15th June 2017**

Members present: Councillors L. Noble, D. Rezai (chair), K. Johnson, M. Patrick, A. Burroughs

HBC Rep: Cllr. Loynes

Apologies for absence: Cllr. A. Timothy

Declarations of Interest: A. Burroughs (Allotments), K. Johnson (Planning).

Visitors: M. Patrick, D. Hall, T. Hall, M. Lowe, E. Dunning

**Approval of the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 11th May**

It was proposed that the minutes be approved as correct.

Proposed: Cllr. Patrick; Seconded: Cllr. Noble (5-0).

**Public Participation**

It was requested by Cllr. Rezai that public participation was ensured to not be personal.

A resident reported potholes close to Three Gates.

Another resident enquired as to the grass outside of North View, which has become extremely weedy. It was discussed that the council had contacted the grass cutters and that they were unable to carry this out. It was decided that the clerk should write a letter to Wilplan asking them to return to the village and de-weed and re-seed the area.

Furthermore, a member of the public complained of the bushes at three gates farm, saying visibility was terrible for road users, to which Cllr. Loynes explained she would deal with this

ring her report.

A resident also mentioned that there was a lot of weeds where Dalton Heights and College Close had footpaths, and that the paths were also uneven. Cllr. Loynes agreed to look into this. It was also asked which solicitor acted for Mr. Morfitt during the legal case regarding the easement, to which the clerk replied that TBI had said that they had no correspondence on file for who his solicitor was. Cllr. Rezai explained he would find out who this was, as the resident was not happy with this.

**HBC Report**

Double Yellow Lines – This job is to be advertised again, with the addition of extra double yellow lines at the other side of the road at Three Gates Farm.

Pot Hole –The appropriate member of HBC was to be advised of this pothole and would inspect it before the next meeting.

Bushes – A couple of different teams had visited the village to inspect bushes which are problematic for road visuals. Someone in the village had advised an inspector that bushes near the allotments were the allotment holders responsibility. Cllr. Loynes had also agreed to visit the village with an inspector in order to show him the correct places which were problematic.

Flooding – The ditches to prevent flooding were cleared last year, and four gulleys had been installed in the village to assist with drainage. It was agreed that the most recent heavy rainfall hadn’t flooded the village, and that there was an improvement.

Sewage Smell – This is still a problem, and Cllr. Loynes had sent HBC engineers to the village who could not detect the smell. Northumbrian Water would be contacted.

Village Hall – Cllr. Loynes explained that although HBC currently are saying that they would only let a 25 year lease, she would try and see if there was a better deal she could obtain for the purchase/long lease of the land.

Footpath – Cllr. Rezai mentioned the footpath at Three Gates, and asked if HBC could possibly renovate it.

A resident complained that Christopher Akers-Belcher had said, during the planning meeting, that Dalton Piercy was sustainable, however no renovation to basic amenities ever occurs, for example sorting the footpath out from Three Gates to The Windmill.

Cllr. Loynes then explained that she couldn’t comment, however she did vote against the planning application, and that developers needed to build bungalows as they were desperately needed within the town.

The same resident then expressed concerns that Cllr. Johnson had declared a pecuniary interest in the planning application at the top of Dalton Heights, and questioned the morality of him sitting on the council knowing of the development.

Speed Signs – Cllr. Noble expressed that when DPPC had requested the speed signs, they had requested solar powered ones in a different position. Cllr. Loynes explained that the engineers had deemed there were too many bushes in the way, and that she would check when asked whether Elwicks were solar powered.

**Matters Arising**

Edging Stones for Green

Cllr. Noble had obtained quotes from multiple companies, and it was agreed Dawsons Land would be the cheapest and best option, with a price of £864+VAT for 18 stones. It was proposed that they be used for the project, and that the funds would be applied for through Red Gap Wind Farm Funding.

Proposed: Cllr. Rezai; Seconded: Cllr. Patrick (4-0, Cllr. Burroughs abstained due to dealing with the company in the past).

Residents expressed concerns about the stones, suggesting posts may be another option, however the council agreed that stones had been decided to be the best option.

Flytipping- Rose Cottage

Cllr. Noble explained that there were two big stones that may be used for the village green, but also a large concrete block still there. It was agreed that the stones should all be moved at the same time, by DPPC.

Maintenance of Track (Lower Piercy Farm)

Cllr. Timothy to draft letter to be sent to the property, asking for improved maintenance.

Defibrillator

The clerk is to research options for a defibrillator, however it was decided that the Red Gap Wind Farm funding shouldn’t necessarily be used for this, and other funding should be sought as there is enough already available.

**Substantive Items**

Easements

To be dealt with in the exempt meeting due to financial nature.

Rural Plan

Nothing to update.

Land Registry Village Hall

Cllr. Loynes agreed to try to arrange a better deal that a 25 year lease of the land.

Red Gap Wind Farm

A special meeting will be arranged to discuss the potential projects for the fund.

Flooding

HBC have put four gulleys at the top of the village, and this seems to now prevent flooding during heavy rainfall.

Sewage

Cllr. Loynes dealt with this issue.

BT Broadband

No update to report – when contacted, they are still drawing up the contract. The clerk was asked to contact BT and ask if they might move a bit quicker, as the vouchers could have been used elsewhere in another scheme.

Parking at North View

Jane Tindall had emailed to say that the land on which the parking had been carried out was Village Green, however Cllr. Timothy had maps which proved otherwise. Cllr. Timothy would be asked to respond to this.

Furthermore, for the area of the green which was being churned up by cars, Thirteen Group had said that they would be able to tarmac it. It was decided that they be emailed for further info and should go ahead with this.

Proposed: Cllr. Burroughs; Seconded: Cllr. Johnson (5-0).

**Village Residents Association**

Playground – Cllr. Burroughs presented options from HAGS for a new playground, after meeting with a representative from the company. During the research for this project, it was found that there are twelve children living within the village aged between 5-12,as well as grandparents who regularly care for their grandkids, meaning equipment for 5-12 year olds would be most suitable.

The price for HBC’s one stop shop for planning applications would be £120, and the minimum spend for a playground would be £10,000, for the most basic option including installation and matting. Cllr. Burroughs presented samples of the wood and matting for the playground. The wood wouldn’t need treating for another twenty years.

It was also discussed that a playground would need to be surveyed for safety once a year, and that signage warning against injuries and liability insurance would be required. Furthermore, it was said that the area chosen was a good idea, however the clerk was asked to contact Anglian Water to see if the barbed wire fencing they had could be changed for safety purposes.,

There were two options for arrangements for the playground, one for £8,700, and one for just over £10,000. It was proposed that the most expensive option should be pursued for Red Gap Wind Farm funding.

Proposed: Cllr. Rezai; Seconded: Cllr. Noble (5-0).

Picnic Bench – It was also discussed that picnic benches should be researched for price ibn further detail, and a wooden table with a concrete base may be an option.

**Planning Applications**

H/2015/0353

There was nothing further to update for this issue. However, a resident expressed her concern that Cllr. Johnson was attending the council meetings when he had interest in the matter. Cllr. Rezai explained that after seeking legal advice, this was an acceptable procedure. The resident also expressed further concerns about the morality of the situation.

**Financial Report**

Accepted as presented.

Proposed: Cllr. Johnson; Seconded: Cllr. Burroughs (5-0).

**Correspondence**

Zurich – Insurance

An email from Zurich had been received regarding renewing insurance for DPPC. It was discussed and decided that we should renew the insurance, however should request that a member of staff from Zurich should visit the village to ensure that the council is properly covered for everything.

Proposed: Cllr. Rezai; Seconded: Cllr. Noble (5-0).

**New Agenda Items**

The Windmill

Cllr. Burroughs mentioned that the manager from The Windmill had asked if they could have barrels after noticing them at Three Gates, in order to feel part of the village.

It was discussed and decided that this was not the council’s responsibility, and they would not be purchasing barrels and flowers for The Windmill.

Transparency Fund

Cllr. Burroughs mentioned that applications for the Transparency Fund were closing soon, and the clerk should look into this and see if it was possible to apply for funding.

Contact Point

Cllr. Noble mentioned that Dalton Piercy appeared to be the only council within the Village Life without contact details. The clerk agreed she was happy for her email and phone number to be published, as well as the chair agreeing he was also happy for this to be the case for his number.

**Any Other Business**

Annual Return

The annual return was accepted as presented, and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Rezai; Seconded: Cllr. Johnson (5-0).

**The Meeting closed at 9:30 pm.**

**An exempt meeting to discuss closed issues occurred following this.**

**The date of the next meeting is Thursday 13th July 2017 at 7.30 pm**