

Dalton Piercy Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

17th April 2025

Present: Cllrs Ireland (Chair), Middleton (Vice-Chair), Grylls, Noble, Patrick, Savage

In attendance: C Porritt (Clerk); Two members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr Alan Timothy; Ward Cllr Andrew Martin-Wells

2. Declaration of Interests: Cllrs Noble and Patrick – Item 12.

3. Minutes of 13th March 2025: Amended item 14.5 to read “Hedges have been trimmed and sections of road between Elwick crossroads and Worset Lane are to be repaired.” **Accepted** with amendment.

4. Matters Arising: None.

5. Ward Councillor’s Report: None received.

6. Chair’s Report:

Parish Liaison Meeting: Attended on April 14th.

Speeding through Rural Parishes: Two Highways officers were in attendance. Have submitted a request for a senior Police Officer to attend meetings. Raised issue (alongside other parishes) about increasing incidences of speeding through the villages.

Elwick By-pass: HBC awaiting order for compulsory purchases; expected completion date of by-pass in 2028.

Rural Plan and Charter: HBC want to keep the Charter in place and are committed to abide by the Local Rural Plan *unless* it is in the interest of the whole Borough to diverge. There are no developments in the plan for Dalton Piercy. Issues are mainly all to do with Planning.

The Chair Will attend Rural Crime Forum at the end of April.

7. Personnel Report – Nothing to report

8. Village Maintenance:

- 1. Trees:** Dangerous Pond Trees will be removed w/c 21st April. Received reports of two trees in The Batts one leaning over a public right of way, needing inspection. **Action:** Trees to be assessed and removed by Meryl Gardens if they pose a risk to the public.
- 2. Allotments:** Plumber has restored water supply. Tenants annual contracts to be sent out. **Action:** Clerk and Cllr Noble to liaise to assess if increased water charges will affect future rent rates.
- 3. Village Cart:** A resident has been maintaining and planting the flower cart. **Action:** Meadowfields to be contracted for future maintenance if resident wishes to give it up ; Resident to be reimbursed £90.00 for the past years maintenance and planting of the cart and three pots.
- 4. Weeds:** Meadowfields have sprayed weeds in village.
- 5. Benches:** Meryl Gardens will refurbish benches and remove rotten fencing.
- 6. Batts Gate:** Details of proposed £2,000 RHINO gate circulated to councillors prior to meeting. Vote **unanimously rejected** due to cost. **Action:** Meryl Gardens to replace with cheaper standard galvanised gate.

9. Traffic Calming Measures: HBC wish to undertake a full public consultation before starting. Ongoing.

10. Insurance Claim Progress: Clerk’s request for higher payout was successful. £953.40 has been received into bank.

11. Parking and vehicle access surrounding Village Green: **Action:** Cllr Ireland to obtain quotes.

12. Dalton Piercy Village Hall Trustees Report: Formal request for DPPC’s £30,000 contribution has been received. **Unanimously agreed.** **Action:** To be transferred as soon as possible.

13. Finance Report: Transactions for 10.03.2025 – 14.04.2025

Receipts	£
Bank Interest	106.73
Insurance Payout	953.40
TOTAL:	1,060.13
Payments	£
Website Provider	210.00
Village Signs	11.37
Stationery	34.07
Clerk Salary & Media Allowance (March)	321.60
Plumber	97.85
Allotment Fencing	1,992.00
TOTAL:	2,816.89

Also presented was Actual against budget Up to April 5th 2025, including bank reconciliation. Reports **accepted**. 2025/2026 precept of £16,870.00 was received on 16.04.25. Previously awarded Red Gap funding has not yet been received. **Action:** Cllr Noble to chase up Red Gap; Clerk to add financial reports to website.

Clerk advised councillors to be cautious with spending for 2025/26 as spending commitments (Traffic Scheme and Village Hall) will place reserves approximately £3,500 below the recommended £10,000 minimum. **Action:** Clerk to continue monitoring financial position.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

1. **Parish Insurance Policy:** DPPC's Public Liability policy currently covered to £20,000, significantly less than it is felt needed. **Action:** Clerk to contact insurer and request change to £1m.
2. **Village contractors:** All contractors hired must have valid risk assessments and their own public liability insurances. **Action:** Clerk to check all contractors policies are up to date.
3. **Tree Insurance:** Cllr Savage conveyed a news report about fatality risk to the public of falling trees. **Action:** Cllrs to keep monitoring village trees, and ensure insurance policy is watertight.

15. Correspondence:

1. **Choir Event:** Request to add charity poster to Parish notice board **accepted**. **Action:** LN to add.
2. **Insurance Claim:** Received information of a potential personal injury liability claim against DPPC. Insurance company have been informed. Ongoing.

16. Public Forum:

1. **Dalton Piercy Historical Information Boards:** Signs are badly faded. **Action:** English Heritage to be asked of possibility of funding replacements.
2. **Litterbug Signs:** Replacements installed.
3. **Village Sign Cleaning:** Requested update. DPPC awaiting insurance policy clarification. Ongoing.

17. Planning Applications:

- H/2025/0027 – Two Storey extension (Amendment) – No comment.
H/2024/0180 – Solar Farm at High Barns, Elwick (Amendment) – No Comment.

18. Date of Next Meeting:

Annual Meeting of Parish Council to begin 7:00pm Thursday 22nd May 2025, followed immediately by usual meeting; Elwick WI Hall, TS27 3EF