

## Dalton Piercy Parish Council

### Meeting Minutes 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Present:** Cllrs Middleton (Chair), Grylls, Noble, Patrick, Savage

**In attendance:** C Porritt (Clerk), and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs M. Ireland and A. Timothy. Ward Clls Andrew Martin-Wells.
2. **Declaration of Interests:** Cllrs Noble and Patrick – Item 11.
3. **Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025:** Item 8.3: Removal of the word “maintenance” to read “resident to be reimbursed £90.00 for past years planting of the cart and three pots”. Accepted with amendment.
4. **Matters Arising:** None.
5. **Ward Councillor’s Report:** None received.
6. **Chair’s Report:** None received from Cllr Ireland (previous Chair).  
Cllr Noble reported that Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) have received money from UK Government to fund infrastructure projects, particularly the Elwick by-pass.
7. **Personnel Report:** Nothing to report.
8. **Village Maintenance:**
  1. **Pots:** Summer planting completed by Meadowfields. Cllrs are pleased with quality and look of the work.
  2. **Dene Garth:** Chippings were left in the car park by a new resident but were removed same-day once spoken to. **Decision:** All Dalton residents to be reminded of village Standing Order policy, available on the website. **Action:** Cllr Noble to include in the ‘Village Life’ newsletter; Clerk to post to DPPC website and Facebook page.
  3. **Allotments:** Tenant has reported rotten fencing and requested replacement. Quote for replacement received for £2000. Cllrs have inspected the fence and believe that it is secure; replacement deferred due to cost. **Action:** Clerk to write to tenant informing them of decision.
9. **The Batts Maintenance:** Contractor has done good work in sowing seed in the wildflower meadow as part of routine maintenance plan. Path cutting work is planned to improve access. Contractor believes that grass in the Orchard needs more frequent cuts than the current bi-annual schedule. **Action:** Clerk and Cllr Middleton to cost out maintenance schedule recommended in Batts 5yr Plan produced in conjunction with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.
10. **Parking and vehicle access at Dene Garth:**

**Parking:** Cllrs Ireland and Timothy not present to give update on parking bays plan.

**Traffic Calming Scheme:** Currently under public consultation by HBC; residents have until 20th June to respond. Cllrs unsure of full spec. of materials to be used, but anticipate receiving further details after consultation concludes.
11. **Dalton Piercy Village Hall Trustees Report:** DPVHA thanked DPPC for the £30,000 donation towards the new hall. Demolition expected to start on 26th June 2025.

## 12. Finance Report: Transactions for 15.04.25 – 05.06.25

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
HBC Precept, Concurrent & Grant	16,870.00
Allotment Rent	237.00
Grant for Play Area Pathwork	1,180.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>18,287.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>	<b>£</b>
Cart /pot plants reimbursement	90.00
Clerk Salary (April)	301.60
Media Allowance (April)	20.00
Tree Work	1,000.00
Grass Cutting (Four cuts)	1,080.00
Tree Care	980.00
Water Bill	33.29
Annual Insurance Premium	527.91
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>4032.80</b>

Also presented were Actual against budget (AAB) reports for April and May 2025, including Bank reconciliation. Clerk identified transposition errors in May's AAB and will re-do it. "Cart maintenance" reworded to "cart/pot plants" at Cllr Noble's request. Transactions and April's AAB were accepted. Invoices accepted from R. Caygell for work completed are not received, but expected. **Action:** Clerk to add April's AAB and transactions to website, and recalculate May's AAB for approval at July meeting.

**13. Audit:** AGAR has been returned from the internal auditor with some minor discrepancies in assets register. Also a payment made in April 2024 being both accounted for in 2023/2024 accounts as well as 2024/2025 accounts. AGAR approved by all councillors and signed. **Action:** Clerk to submit 2024/2025 AGAR by 30th June with advisory letter to explain any inconsistencies.

### 14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

- 1. Suspected Planning breach:** Councillors reported suspected breach of planning regulations to HBC in 2024 and have received no update. Wish to know what actions HBC have taken. **Action:** Cllr Noble to forward original submission information to Clerk for investigation.
- 2. Sign Replacement:** There are currently no English Heritage grants available to fund replacement signs. These are normally funded to English Heritage via the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

**15. Correspondence:** Clerk had absences in April and May due to illness; not all correspondence had been dealt with promptly from that period, causing difficulties. This was acknowledged by Clerk and Councillors.

- 1. Village Green:** Owners of a plot of land emailed DPPC in April to inform they wished to carry out work to level part of their easement track crossing the village green for safety reasons; DPPC understand this work has now taken place. **Action:** DPPC to send letter to residents.
- 2. Fencing:** A resident requested that a broken fence baton be replaced. **Action:** Cllr will ask Meryl Gardens to repair.
- 3. Fruit Tree:** The resident previously requesting to plant a memorial fruit tree has accepted all terms set out by DPPC. Resident has purchased the tree but wishes to wait until end of summer to plant. Unanimously agreed. **Action:** Clerk will email resident and inform.
- 4. Village Hall:** Clerk shared letter received from Village Hall Trustees thanking them for the £30,000 donation.

5. **Training Events:** Clerk shared details of upcoming training events for Councillors. **Action:** Clerk will circulate details to Cllrs.
6. **Northern Power:** Cllr Noble believes that correspondence should have been received regarding permission for a Wayleave. **Action:** Clerk to re-check emails.

**16. Public Forum:**

1. **The Batts:** Resident concerned with maintenance work in the orchard and the wild flower meadow; they believe the current work is drying out the orchard soil causing damage, as well as windbreakers being removed which has caused damage to an apple tree. Resident stated it was their opinion that DPPC are destroying what they have in the meadows. Resident also informed DPPC that he will be making a Police report against DPPC for illegally killing orchids with a rotavator. Resident left meeting.
2. **Financial Resources:** Another resident feels that more money ought to be spent on maintaining the village, and a balance of funding is needed. Resident was informed DPPC is trying to be prudent with finances in 2024/2025 as contingency reserves need to be increased. Resident then brought up example of £30,000 Village Hall donation as a DPPC expense, but was informed that this donation was funded by a £35,000 land swap of DPPC land for an easement, not by residents via the precept. All Dalton parishioners will benefit from a new Village Hall. DPPC also benefited from the remaining £5,000 being available to spend on village maintenance.
3. **Complaint:** Residents felt that they were not being shown appropriate respect by DPPC; they also felt a Cllr had acted verbally aggressively during their request for further maintenance funding. **Action:** Clerk to supply residents with copy of the Complaint Procedure. Residents left meeting.

**17. Planning Applications:**

1. H/2025/0062 – No objection to variation
2. H/2025/0159 – No objection

**18. Date of Next Meeting:**

**Thursday 10th July 2025: 7:00pm; Elwick WI Hall, TS27 3EF**