

Dalton Piercy Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

10th July 2025

Present: Cllrs Middleton (Chair), Ireland (Vice Chair), Grylls, Noble, Timothy, Patrick (from 8.00pm)

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Patrick is delayed but will join the meeting later. Ward Cllr Martin-Wells.
2. **Declaration of Interests:** Cllrs Noble and Patrick, Item 11. Cllr Timothy, Item 17.
3. **Minutes of 12th June 2025:** Item 8.3 should read “£1100” not “£2000”. **Accepted** with amendment.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - (a) **Asset Register:** Cllr Noble had found a copy of the invoice related to purchase of printer in March 2023 and this had been included in the 2022-2023 audited accounts and properly recorded in the Cash Book for that year. Net total is £90.83. **Action:** Clerk to update Assets register.
 - (b) **Planning Enforcement:** Clerk has contacted HBC for an update on DPPC’s 2024 report of a planning breach. Response from HBC still pending.
 - (c) **Training:** Cllr Middleton undertook Parish Council Chairmanship training this month. Other Cllrs would like to receive information on future training courses. **Action:** Clerk to forward any future training correspondence to Cllrs without delay.
5. **Ward Councillor’s Report** – None received.
6. **Chair’s Report:**
 - **Councillor Email Addresses:** He had learned that parish Cllrs must have their .gov email addresses in place by 2026 by law. To date only Cllrs Middleton and Grylls have managed to adopt the change, other Councillors have met with technical difficulties.
Agreed: Cllr Timothy to help other Cllrs once he has set up his own account.
 - **HBC Finance Committee Meeting:** Attended by Cllr Ireland. It was a short meeting with nothing relevant to rural parishes this month.
 - **HBC Neighbourhood Services Meeting:** Attended by Cllr Noble; she informed residents that the Agenda is set well in advance for these meetings. Persons wishing to submit item to Agenda ought do so early, or attend the meeting and raise issues during “further questions”
 - **Parish Liaison Meeting:** Cllr Ireland to attend next meeting as Vice-Chair on 28th July. Attendees have been asked to submit “strategic issues” for discussion. Cllr Ireland suggested she request roads and speeding, this was **agreed**.
7. **Personnel Report** – Nothing to report
8. **Village Maintenance:**

Fencing: Cllr Middleton has assessed the damaged fence previously reported by a resident; he believed the fence to be in a poor state and currently representing a H&S risk. The approved contractor had been requested to provide a quote for its repair but this had not yet been received. **Agreed:** As the parish council will not meet again until Sept-and the repair cannot wait, it was **unanimously agreed** that the Chairman approve and progress the repair in the meantime subject to a limit of £1000.

9. The Batts Maintenance:

a) Annual Schedule: £3500 quote received for annual work schedule in line with recommendations in Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (TVWT) Management Plan. Contractor's quote provides for ten cuts of paths around the meadows, as well as the other work required; this quote is £1300 more than a previously received quote. Cllrs believe ten cuts may be excessive and recommended six, monthly cuts April to October. It was **agreed** that Cllr Middleton should request a new quote reflecting this, no decision to be taken until new quote received. The Chairman would like quote to be costed against DPPC's remaining budget for viability.

b) Wildflower Seeds: TVWT Plan recommends DPPC buy wildflower seeds to sow annually. After some discussion as to quantity of seed required it was **unanimously agreed** that only a kilo should be purchased in the first instance. **Action:** Cllr Noble to purchase 1kg of Wildflower Seeds for contractor to spread.

10. Parking and vehicle access surrounding Village Green: White lines marking spaces have now been painted. A resident requested they be numbered to reflect resident house numbers but was advised that they are public spaces available to all, visitors and residents alike. Cllr Timothy proposed DPPC should develop guidelines and a fair use policy due to some residents using more than one space; after some discussion it was agreed that more information on how parking spaces were dealt with by other parish councils was needed, before a decision could be made.

Action: Cllr Grylls to research parking policies in place with other Parish Councils.

11. Dalton Piercy Village Hall Trustees Report: Cllr Patrick reported that demolition began 26.06.25, is now completed and the site has been cleared. Cllr Patrick is hopeful the new Hall will be completed by Christmas 2025.

12. Finance Report: Transactions 06.06.25 – 25.06.25

| Receipts | £ |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| N/A | 0.00 |
| TOTAL: | 0.00 |
| | |
| Payments | £ |
| Donation to Village Hall | 30,000.00 |
| Clerk Salary | 301.60 |
| Media Allowance | 20.00 |
| Internal Auditor Fee | 120.00 |
| Egglesstone's Payroll Services | 129.00 |
| Village Pots | 935.00 |
| TOTAL: | 31,505.60 |

Cllrs have requested that all financial reports from June 2025 onwards will follow the dates on the most recently received bank statements. Also presented were Actual Against Budgets for May and June. All reports **accepted**. **Action:** Clerk to upload financial reports to website.

13. Budget Forecast: Covered under item 9.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Road Markings: Cllr Middleton concerned about lack of road markings and overgrown hedges over the 90 degree bend in Dalton Piercy Road near Mayfield House; he would like to ask HBC to paint white lines in middle of the road. It is understood the overhanging hedges are the responsibility of the adjoining landowner. **Action:** Cllr Middleton to contact Keiron Bostock at HBC requesting this.

Lime Tree: A resident has reported a village tree has become too wide and obstructing view of the road when manoeuvring their vehicle. **Action:** Cllr Middleton to visit site and investigate further.

Parish Council Vacancy: Clerk reported Cllr Savage's resignation to HBC who have now given DPPC authority to begin the co-option process.

15. Correspondence:

(i) Allotments: Letter received from resident suggesting a change in categorisation of allotment spending separate from “Village Maintenance” in financial reporting. The resident being present at the meeting, the Chairman explained the rationale for the current reporting system and why no change to this would be made.

(ii) Parking Spaces: Resident has requested ability to park across two spaces in newly marked bays. (See Item 10).

Action: Clerk to send resident a response drafted by Cllr Middleton.

(iii) Hartlepool Community Trust: Email received seeking community engagement with survey on the Plan for Neighbourhoods, which is about the £25M to be given to HBC by government for neighbourhood improvements. Sender suggested meeting with Dalton Piercy Residents for feedback. **Action:** Clerk to reply inviting sender to attend September’s DPPC meeting. If accepted, special item to be included at start of September’s Agenda.

16. Public Forum:

(a) The Batts: Resident believes that the current contractor is doing a “cracking job” and believes more cuts to create wider paths will reduce fire risks and ability for fires to spread.

(b) Speeding and Roads: Resident raised possibility of widening local roads due to increasing number of houses in and around Dalton Piercy – advised HBC are unlikely to widen the roads, nor will they fill ditches at edges of roads as they are not HBC land.

17. Planning Application: H/2025/0204 – Tree Works at Bogglebeck. Cllr Timothy, noted the deadline to respond to application, which was to pollard three Ash trees confirmed by Arborist as suffering from Ash Die Back, has now passed. All agreed that DPPC have no objection.

18. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11th September: 7:00pm; Elwick WI Hall, TS27 3EF

Meeting concluded at 8:22pm