

DALTON PIERCY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7:00pm Thursday 11th September 2025 at Elwick WI Hall

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

In Attendance: Five residents and the Clerk (M Davies).

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Timothy and Ward Cllr Martin-Wells
2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Noble and Patrick, Item 11.
3. **Hartlepool Community Trust:** Juli Simmons from The Hartlepool Community Trust and Scott Campbell from Hartlepool Borough Council attended and talked to councillors present about the current survey being conducted by The Hartlepool Community Trust on behalf of the Hartlepool Board. "The Plan for Neighbourhoods survey" is an opportunity for residents who live in Hartlepool to talk about the area where they live, and what is important to them, in order to help prioritise the spending of £20 million Government funding over the next 10 years, it is hoped this survey will establish where the money is needed the most. When completing the survey residents will be asked to confirm their postcode in order to identify the ward they live in and understand on a more local level what is important to them. For residents who would like to complete the survey online they can visit www.hartlepoolcommunitytrust.org.uk. There is also the opportunity for residents to arrange a one to one conversation if they would like to learn more about the Plan for Neighbourhoods engagement. Residents can contact the team by telephone by calling: (01429) 806 252 or email: communityengagement@hartlepoolcommunitytrust.org.uk Juli advised she would forward the Clerk a copy of the QR Code so it could be published on the village Facebook page. Cllr Ireland reminded Councillors and residents present whilst £20 million may seem a great deal of money over the 10-year period this equates to £2 million per year over 12 wards in the Borough.
Juli Simmons and Scott Campbell left the meeting at 7:29pm
4. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 10th July 2025:** Cllr Middleton asked for an amendment to Item 14, as it was a resident that had raised concern over the lack of road markings etc. The amended Minutes were then unanimously accepted as an accurate record and the Chairman signed the Minutes.
5. **Matters Arising:** (i) **Asset Register:** The Clerk asked all Councillors present to review the asset register as of 1st April 2025 as the printer purchased in 2023 was not listed. Cllr Noble supplied The Clerk with a copy of a bank statement detailing the amount and it was asked for the Clerk to add this to the register. Cllr Ireland also asked the Clerk to remove the HP laptop and scanner purchased in 2018 as these had been disposed of. All Councillors present agreed the amended assets register was up to date as of 11th September 2025. (ii) **Planning Enforcement:** Cllr Noble advised the previous Clerk had contacted HBC for an update on DPPC's 2024 report of a planning breach; however, the Enforcement officer was confused as to what he was investigating. Councillors asked the Clerk to email him to establish if a visit had been made to the site and if an update could be provided. Cllrs Patrick, Noble and Middleton noted there is a house on the Dalton Backroads currently having what appears to be a single storey extension built. Councillors agreed the Parish Council need to establish if the property is in the Dalton Piercy Parish and, if so, whether planning permission was obtained (iii) **Parking and vehicle access surrounding the village:** Cllr Grylls advised he has been reviewing the policies of various councils, but majority relate to allocated parking charges, etc., with nothing relevant to Dalton Piercy's issue. Cllr Noble advised a note had been put in the recent issue of the Village Life asking residents to respect and park responsibly. It was unanimously agreed by all Councillors present Cllr Grylls is to draft a policy and once guidelines have been established, the Parish Council can then send a letter to residents outlining this.
6. **Ward Councillors Report:** No report received.
7. **Chairman's Report:** (i) Cllr Middleton advised recently there has been a lot of activity with vehicles parking on The Green along with the siting of a skip; the skip had since been removed. Cllr Patrick and Cllr Middleton had spoken to those parking on The Green and this should be avoided going forward. (ii) Cllr Middleton has emailed Anglian Water regarding trees located in the Howls with Ash dieback, he is awaiting a response. (iii) Cllr Ireland advised she recently attended the Finance and Corporate Affairs Meeting at HBC, it was noted that Cllr Young was not in attendance. Cllr Ireland reported the main issue discussed during the meeting was the high cost of child and adult social care. (iv) Cllr Ireland reminded Councillors the next Parish Liaison meeting is Monday 13th October 2025. (v) Cllr Noble advised the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place Wednesday 15th October. Unfortunately, due to staff sickness the local safety report for Dalton Piercy was not submitted in time and therefore this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
8. **Personnel Report:** Cllr Ireland announced following the last Parish Council meeting Charlotte Porritt had taken the decision to resign. Following her resignation, the post was readvertised and the Parish Council had appointed Marrieanne Davies to fulfil the

role as of the 1st September 2025. Cllr Ireland further advised Councillors the accountants who managed the payroll for the Parish Council (Edward Eggleston) ceased business in August due to retirement. The Clerk advised she had spoken to Mr Tom Atkinson of Fortune and Sons who advised the fee for 6 months' service is £126. Councillors present unanimously agreed the Clerk was to instruct Mr Atkinson accordingly to administer payroll going forward.

9. **Village Maintenance:** (i) Cllr Noble advised the following works had been completed: the dangerous tree on the pond had been dealt with, the replacement fence in front of The Terrace had been erected and the Lime tree at the entrance to Abbots Lea had been pruned back. (ii) Cllr Noble advised 1kg of seed had been purchased, ready to be sown in October in The Batts by Mr Caygell, also along with the planting of the winter flower tubs within the village. Mr Caygell, has also confirmed he is aware of the pots that need replacing and these will be replaced during the replanting process. (iii) Cllr Noble also noted the pond is currently very overgrown with weeds etc.,-this is to be monitored and if the budget allows this is to be tended to appropriately. (iv) The Clerk advised Councillors, a resident has reported a cherry tree located in North View which is showing signs of fungal growths around the base and one above head height in a crevice of the trunk, the tree appears to be in distress. Councillors asked the Clerk to raise the issue with HBC's tree officer as it is under their ownership and seek advice from Northern Power Grid due to proximity of the overhead network.
10. **The Batts Maintenance:** Cllr Noble advised the wild flower seed had been purchased and this is due to be sown in October. Cllr Middleton confirmed the path is scheduled to be cut 10 times a year. Cllr Patrick advised residents have enquired to the possibility of a bench by the meadows within The Batts; Councillors asked the Clerk to look into vandal-proof benches.
11. **Dalton Piercy Village Hall Trustees Report:** Cllr Patrick confirmed the existing village hall has now been demolished. Groundworks and the foundations are now complete and it is hoped by week commencing the 14th September the damp-proof course will be completed. Once this is completed it will be ready for the building inspector to inspect. On completion of the inspection the hall will then be ready for the beams and floor to be fitted. There has been an issue with the original plan regarding the two soakaways as the surface water won't drain away, so they have had to revert back to a combined sewer system.
12. **Finance:** (i) For clarity the Clerk advised she had circulated to Parish Councillors a complete year to date financial transaction report. This was accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors present. (ii) The Clerk advised an actual against budget report had been circulated to all Parish Councillors, Cllr Noble noted a typographical error in the dates and the Clerk advised she would amend this prior to uploading it onto the Parish Council website. (iii) The Clerk brought to the attention of the Parish Councillors an email received from Mazars following a conversation she had had with them regarding the 2024/2025 AGAR submission. Mazars have advised a material error has been made in the accounting statements and the Parish Council had two options (a) Accept a qualification point of the review or (b) Mazars can send the AGAR back for amendment, this would incur a £40 admin charge. With this option, as the figures would be corrected, the qualification point would be moved down to the less severe "other matter" point. Parish Councillors present discussed the matter and asked the Clerk to request the AGAR was returned for amendment and accept the £40 admin charge.
13. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** (i) Cllr Middleton brought to the attention of colleagues a resident's concerns over signage into Highgate Meadows. The resident has asked if a sign could be erected to indicate the road is a 'No Through Road' as currently drivers are driving into the area getting lost and vehicles are also speeding. Councillors discussed the matter and unanimously agreed that once the road had been adopted by HBC, the Parish Council would request the signage is addressed accordingly. (ii) It was advised a resident has enquired as to if roadside mirrors could be erected on the bend in the vicinity of Mayfield House. After discussion amongst the Councillors, the majority agreed in principle that once HBC have updated the white line markings on the road and installed the chevron signs, if it was reviewed and the need for mirrors was required the Parish Council would look into the matter further. (iii) Cllr Noble raised concern the historic map of Dalton Piercy was starting to fade due to the exposure of sunlight. After discussion amongst Councillors it was agreed Cllr Middleton is to look into a potential supplier to redesign the map and obtain a quote. (iv) Cllr Middleton advised he would look into potential design ideas for Dalton Piercy Parish Council's logo instead of the current photo which is used and circulate to all Councillors for consideration. (v) Cllr Middleton advised there has been an increase in dog waste around the village; owners are not collecting the waste and disposing of it appropriately. A resident has kindly placed some clean dog waste bags in the telephone kiosk for dog walkers who may have forgotten or run out of waste bags.
14. **Correspondence:** (i) The Clerk reminded Councillors of an email that had been circulated regarding the Hartlepool Stakeholder Workshop for HBC Tree and Woodland Strategy (date to be confirmed), depending on the date Cllr Grylls advised he would like to attend and Cllr Ireland confirmed she would go if Cllr Grylls was not available.
15. **Public Forum:** (i) A resident asked if the Parish Council could provide more detail on the intended use of the Village Hall once it is completed and how the hall will be promoted? Cllr Middleton advised the resident the Village Hall has its own charity and is a separate entity to Dalton Parish Council. Cllr Patrick advised in the near future there will be a committee formed for the Village Hall and residents will be invited to participate in this committee. Going forward the resident asked if the Dalton Piercy Village Hall Association could communicate and be transparent, especially with neighbouring residents. (ii) A resident raised concern regarding

the overgrown shrubs and overhanging branches to the area on the left within Abbots Lea. Cllr Middleton advised he would visit the area and report back to the Parish Council at the next Parish Council meeting. **(iii)** A resident asked councillors to consider looking into the road safety on the area between Hart on the Hill and the Children's home, Councillors advised whilst HBC have confirmed they intend to install chevron signs and apply road marking to the road around Mayfield House, it is the Parish Council's understanding that HBC are reviewing the whole road. **(iv)** A resident complimented the Parish Council on the work and maintenance carried out in The Batts. **(v)** A resident expressed concern that on the DPPC accounts it appeared the income was overstated by £30,000 and may look like the DPPC are running with a surplus this year. Councillors explained to the resident that the current account shows an income of £30,000 after it was transferred from the DPPC saving account, it was then paid out of the current account as a donation which is all documented. **(vi)** A resident enquired if the precept rates would be fixed for the 2026/2027 financial year after the recent announcement that HBC were freezing Council Tax. Councillors advised to date the budget has not been discussed and therefore the precept for 2026/2027 had not been considered, but when the Parish Council do review the budget, they do have to take into consideration inflation, price increases, clerk's salary etc. Until the budget is reviewed the Parish Council cannot comment if there will be a rise or not in the precept. **(vii)** A resident asked to save costs could more residents be asked to volunteer, Cllr Middleton advised this is a matter still being looked into, as it stands, further guidelines are required and DPPC currently do not have insurance to cover volunteer activities.

16. **Planning applications:** **(i) H/2020/0387** –Outline application with all matters reserved, except for access, for residential development comprising up to 475 dwellings, and including a local centre comprising retail (400sqm) and associated infrastructure, on land at Quarry Farm, TS26 0LH . Councillors confirmed this item had been discussed internally and a response had been submitted to HBC on behalf of DPPC by Cllr Middleton.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC: The Parish Council may at any point pass a resolution that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) the public and the press shall be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item of business if publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted e.g. Employment matters, terms of commercial tenders and negotiations for contracts for legal proceedings, preparation or advice.

All residents left the meeting at 9:18pm

16. **Confidential Matters** - Confidential matters only, recorded separately.

17. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 9th October 2025, 7pm at Elwick W.I Hall.

Meeting concluded at 9:35pm