

## DALTON PIERCY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held at 7:00pm Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Elwick WI Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Ireland (Vice Chair), Grylls, Noble, Patrick, Timothy and Robson.

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Middleton and Ward Cllr Martin-Wells
2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Noble and Patrick, Item 11.
3. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025:** The minutes were unanimously accepted as an accurate record and the Vice Chair signed the Minutes.
4. **Matters Arising: (i) Breach of planning query:** The Clerk advised following the last Parish Council Meeting she contacted, the Enforcement Officer at HBC for an update on DPPC query regarding the breach of planning and was advised, as of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025, there was no further information to report. **(ii)** Cllr Grylls brought to the attention of Councillors the draft guidance document relating to parking at Dene Garth that he had circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Robson asked in cases whereby residents have commercial vehicles, would the Parish Council allow these residents to park such vehicles in the area, councillors agreed residents should contact the Clerk to request permission, so it could be discussed with the Parish Council. Councillors **unanimously agreed** the draft guidance document is to be adopted as a policy, rather than guidance, dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and added to the list of policies on the website.
5. **Allotments (potential setting up an Allotments Association Group):** It has previously been suggested by a resident that the Parish Council consider setting up "An Allotments Association Group". On behalf of Cllr Middleton, Cllr Ireland advised he had spoken to two of the three allotment holders who were against this suggestion, therefore by default this matter is not to be pursued further.
6. **Ward Councillors Report:** No report received.
7. **Chairman's Report:** In Cllr Middleton's absence, Cllr Ireland read out the Chair's report that was received prior to the meeting **(i)** HBC have confirmed that they are reviewing the whole of the road from the crossroads, into Dalton Piercy (Dalton Lane). The first step is to install the chevron signs. **(ii)** The Clerk has forwarded all councillors an email from a resident regarding the conditions of the roadside verges, especially with potholes etc. Cllr Robson advised he would contact HBC, to enquire if the potholes along the verges can be filled in, as the Borough Council has responsibility and a duty of care for up to one metre from the edge of the road. Councillors also politely reminded residents, if drivers are over the white line, then they are responsible for accidents. **(iii)** Cllr Noble advised the Neighbourhood services have scheduled an additional meeting, to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 between 10am – 12pm, it is hoped DPPC traffic report will be on the agenda when it is published, as due to staff sickness the local road safety report for Dalton was not submitted to the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. **(iv)** Cllr Ireland reminded Councillors the next Parish Liaison meeting is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.
8. **Personnel Report:** Cllr Ireland advised following the last Parish Council meeting a resident had enquired about the Clerk's monthly broadband and telephone contribution made by DPPC. Cllr Ireland advised this is part of the Clerk's terms and conditions. The Parish Council do not pay the Clerk any pension contributions.
9. **Village Maintenance: (i)** Cllr Noble advised both HBC and NPG have been contacted regarding the two Cherry trees in Dene Garth. HBC are due to review the tree with the fungus on it, around December time. NPG have advised both Cherry Trees have been put on their programme of works for review as soon as possible. **(ii)** Cllr Noble also advised following a resident's concern about the overgrown vegetation etc in Abbots Lea, a quote has been provided by Meryl Gardens to remove all vegetation, re-level the ground and sow with grass seed for £2090. To remove the eucalyptus tree, it is an additional £400. Councillors all agreed, the priority is to establish who owns the land. **(iii)** It was noted, a post has snapped on the fencing at Dene Garth. The Clerk advised she would notify HBC.
10. **The Batts Maintenance: (i)** Cllr Noble advised the wildflower seed is due to be sown shortly, the pots are also scheduled to be replanted and the two damaged pots replaced. **(ii)** The Clerk advised she had circulated two quotes for anti-vandal benches; to save money, Councillors **agreed** Cllr Patrick is to ask the contractor carrying out the work at the Village Hall, if he could reposition the large stones located at the entrance of The Batts to be repurposed as resting points, the Parish Council will then review in the near future if wood is required to make them into benches.

11. **Dalton Piercy Village Hall Trustees Report:** Cllr Patrick confirmed the new build is up to the damp proof course and the floor beams have been installed. The drains are currently in discussion with Northumbrian Water. It is hoped the ramps and steps will be completed by the end of the current week. The car park has now been tidied up and completely gravelled.

12. **Finance: (i)** The Clerk advised she had circulated to Parish Councillors a financial transaction report as listed below for September 2025. This was accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors present.

**1st September – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Receipts	£
Nil	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Payments	£
Wave Water Bill	47.14
Grass Cutting – Ref inv 25605	540.00
Meryl Gardens – Tree Work	780.00
The Community Heartbeat – Defib spare Equipment etc	171.54
Amazon – Stationary (2 Boxes of Paper)	31.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>1570.66</b>

**(ii)** The Clerk advised an actual against budget report had been circulated to all Parish Councillors, this was accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors. **(iii)** The Clerk brought to the attention of the Parish Councillors an email received from Mazars regarding a delay in the completion of the audit of 2024/2025 accounts, therefore we are currently unable to publish the audited AGAR and completion notice in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, because we are awaiting the audit report from the external auditor. We will publish, as soon as these documents are available. An update has also been added to the website.

13. **Matters of Concern to Councillors: (i)** Cllr Grylls brought to the attention of colleagues concerns over the environmental issue at Mayfield House, since their previous visit.

14. **Correspondence: (i)** The Clerk advised she had received notification regarding a property carrying out building works, the property in question does not sit within the Parish boundary of Dalton Piercy. **(ii)** The Clerk advised notification has been received regarding Parish Council representation on the Hartlepool Regeneration Board, the Parish Council's representative will be Cllr Gaiety (Chair of Headland Parish Council) and substitute representative will be Cllr Middleton (Chair of Dalton Piercy Parish Council).

15. **Public Forum: (i)** A resident noted she had previously raised concern regarding the overgrown shrubs and overhanging branches to the area on the left within Abbots Lea. The resident advised they had spoken to Cllr Middleton about the possibility of the vegetation being pruned back, but had not asked this be removed completely as previously discussed in the meeting. Cllr Timothy advised the first priority will be for the Clerk to establish who owns the land and find out how they would like to proceed with remedial works, as the land does not fall under the responsibility of DPPC. Another resident advised they could assist in keeping the area tidy but Councillors all agreed and reiterated DPPC could not comment as DPPC are not the land owners and hold no responsibility for the area of land. Councillors asked if residents could keep up the communication and if they have any information regarding the landowners if they could inform DPPC. The Clerk was requested to do a land search via the Land Registry; once the owner is established, to contact them and ask how they would like to progress with the matter. **(ii)** A resident expressed concern regarding the cars parked at Dene Garth, some cars overhang the parking area and encroach onto the road. The Councillors advised DPPC are not trying to stop cars parking diagonally, they just encourage residents to park responsibly. **(iii)** A resident advised Councillors, it appears the environmental issue at Mayfield house may have improved. Cllr Grylls advised he would have a look, if there is still concern, the Clerk is to look into the matter.

16. **Planning applications:** None

**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 8:10pm*

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

17. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 7pm at Elwick W.I Hall.

Meeting concluded at 8:20pm