

Draft Minutes of meeting held at 7:00pm Thursday 13th November 2025 at Elwick WI Hall

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

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

1. **Apologies:** Ward Cllr Martin-Wells
2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Noble and Patrick, Item 11.
3. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 11th September 2025:** Cllr Middleton advised point 10 (The Batts), the following statement “...the pots are also scheduled to be replanted and the two damaged tubs replaced”, should have been reported under point 9 (Village Maintenance). The minutes, once amended, were then unanimously accepted as an accurate record-and the Chair signed the Minutes.
4. **Matters Arising:** **(i) Breach of planning query:** The Clerk advised following the last Parish Council Meeting she had contacted the Enforcement Officer at HBC for an update on DPPC’s query regarding the breach of planning and was advised, as of 7th November 2025, there was no further information to report. The Clerk advised a neighbouring property owner had raised concerns to The Clerk, that the owner of the property of concern had cut her fence and was illegally parking vehicles on her land; it was suggested she report this to the police as criminal damage. **(ii) Area of overgrown vegetation in Abbots Lea:** The Clerk advised she had managed to make contact with the Senior Land Manager at Miller Homes, who has now confirmed the land in question had been adopted by HBC. Councillors asked the Clerk to contact HBC and ask how they would like to progress with the matter. The Clerk is to enquire if HBC would like DPPC to maintain this area going forward in return for a modest increase in the concurrent payment. **(iii) Roadside verge conditions:** Cllr Robson advised he had been in touch with the Highways Infrastructure Manager at HBC regarding the roadside verge conditions; Cllr Noble advised the Council have already informed us, when work commences near Mayfield House, the road into the village is also to be reviewed. A resident present raised concern that due to the roadside conditions, vehicles in some instances are forced off the road resulting in damage to vehicles etc. **(iii) Mayfield House:** Cllr Grylls advised, following the last meeting he did have a look at the site and it appeared to be clear, however Councillors have noticed an increase in waste building up at the property again.
5. **Ward Councillors Report:** No report received.
6. **Chairman’s Report:** Cllr Middleton advised the tubs within the village have now been replanted. **(ii)** Cllr Middleton and Grylls, have been investigating who has responsibility for some trees with Ash Die Back located in the Howls behind Highgate Meadows; Anglian Water have advised Tees Wildlife Trust have been licensed to maintain the area and they will arrange for someone to come out to investigate the matter. **(iii)** Cllr Middleton advised there is a damaged tree located in the playground, Anglian Water have acknowledged they are responsible for the tree and DPPC are waiting for an update. **(iv)** Cllr Ireland advised the next HBC Finance meeting is coming up later this month. **(v)** Cllr Ireland advised she had again represented DPPC at the Civic Remembrance Service held in Memorial Square; she noted that yet again Parish Councils were not mentioned in the programme nor given the opportunity to lay a wreath; whilst accepting that both the Headland and Greatham Parishes had War Memorials and their own services, three rural parishes who had lost men in the two World Wars did not and should therefore be recognised by the Borough, She had raised this as a matter of concern with several Borough Councillors and our local MP and is waiting to see if we get a response. **(vi)** Cllr Noble advised last month HBC held an emergency, Neighbourhood Services meeting, however this had no business relating to DPPC. She further advised she attended the scheduled HBC Neighbourhood Services meeting at which the speed calming for Dalton was passed, and advised this will be now added to the programme of works. Cllr Grylls asked if there was any confirmation on the materials that would be used for the works, Cllr Noble advised she has been informed it will be three speed cushions, costing approximately £10,500 in total and HBC will be carrying out the ongoing maintenance. Cllr Noble noted during the Neighbourhood Services meeting, £50,000 has been allocated for works on the A689, along Brierton Lane near the ESSO garage and a further £90,000, has been earmarked for works to be carried out on Worset Lane. It was also announced that there will be an update in December regarding the Elwick bypass.
7. **Personnel Report:** Cllr Ireland asked for it to be noted the Clerk has now completed and passed three of the five modules for her ILCA qualification.
8. **Village Maintenance:** **(i)** The Clerk advised the damaged fence in Dene Garth has been reported to HBC. Councillors **agreed** the Clerk is to Contact HBC to see if the fence can be removed to prevent damage in the future, as the fence was originally only put in place

when the area was a bus stop and it would also help larger vehicles park easier. **(ii)** Cllr Noble advised the cart coming into the village has now been repainted though the telephone box is still to do. Cllr Patrick is to look into someone painting it in the spring. **(iii)** It was **agreed** by Councillors; the Clerk is to obtain grass cutting quotes for 2026. Cllr Timothy will forward the spec to the Clerk and the tenders submitted will be discussed, confidentially in the January 2026 meeting.

9. **The Batts Maintenance:** **(i)** Cllr Middleton advised the meadows and scrubs have now all been cut including the paths and the orchard and Mr Caygell is going to arrange for it to be reseeded. **(ii)** Cllr Noble asked if Cllr Middleton could obtain a maintenance schedule, as it may help with the 2026 / 2027 budget. Cllr Middleton advised he will check with Mr Caygell, and ensure that the Meadows will be rotovated annually. **(iii)** A resident commented that the daffodils were cut back too early in 2025, Cllr Middleton advised he would speak to Mr Caygell, with the suggestion that the path is narrowed down to preserve the daffodils as long as possible.
10. **Dalton Piercy Village Hall Trustees Report:** **(i)** Cllr Patrick advised the bad weather has hindered the builders, so they have had to amend the schedule to accommodate this. Weather dependent, it is hoped the roof trusses will be up by the end of week commencing 17th November, with the roof being completed by the end of November. Once the roof is completed, work will then commence on the interior. The aim is now to have the build completed by the end of February, but this also depends on the weather. **(ii)** Cllr Patrick advised that as it does not look like the 'Carols around the Tree' refreshments will be able to be held at the hall, he will look into sourcing an alternative venue; Cllr Noble advised, weather dependent they may be able to put some lights up at the front of the hall.
11. **Finance:** **(i)** The Clerk advised she had circulated to Parish Councillors a financial transaction report as listed below for October 2025. This was accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors present.

1st October 2025 – 31st October 2025

Receipts	£
Clerk – Repayment - Overpayment on September pay	62.20
Total	62.20
Payments	£
Clerk – September Salary	311.20
Clerk – Internet / Phone (September 2025)	20.00
ICO – Direct Debit	47.00
CE & CM Walker Ltd (September Grass cut)	540.00
Total	918.20

(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.

12. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** None
13. **Correspondence:** **(i)** The Clerk advised she had received notification regarding the 'Trees for Cities' Stakeholder Launch, which will be held on Wednesday 26th November 2025. Cllr Grylls advised he will be attending this event on behalf of DPPC. **(ii)** The Clerk advised the Tees Rural Crime Forum will be held on Wednesday 10th December. Cllr Ireland advised she will be attending this event on behalf of DPPC. **(iii)** The Clerk reminded Councillors of an email previously circulated from HBC Land use Policy Team, regarding Hartlepool consultations which included three surveys to be carried out. Councillors asked the Clerk to recirculate the email.
14. **Public Forum:** **(i)** A resident enquired if the village hall was going to have outdoor lighting. Cllr Patrick advised it will, this will be done with consultation with HBC, but it will take into consideration neighbouring residents. **(ii)** A resident raised concern over a planning application located on a lamppost for Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMO), The Clerk advised to date no planning applications had been received regarding this, but it may be the details of the three surveys in relation to the consultations being carried out the HBC Land Use Policy Team. The resident advised he would look at it again and check. **(iii)** A resident asked if DPPC could look into the pond being scraped. Cllr Noble advised, DPPC do have a potential contractor for this work, but we are awaiting a quote. Cllr Middleton advised he would speak to Mr Caygell to obtain a quote for pond scraping and the disposal of the spoils. A resident enquired if there was any wildlife in the pond and Cllrs confirmed in the past there have been frogs, dragonflies and other species.

15. **Planning applications:** The Clerk advised a planning application not listed on the agenda was received on the 13th November 2025, ref H/2025/0363 (variations to Split Junction on A19 for Elwick By-Pass). Councillors advised the Clerk, they had no comment at the moment regarding this planning application.

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 8:02pm

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

17. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 11th December 2025, 7pm at Elwick W.I Hall.

Meeting concluded at 8:28pm

Draft Document