

Draft Minutes of meeting held at 7:00pm Thursday 12th February 2026 at Elwick WI Hall

Present: Cllrs Ireland (Chair), Noble, Grylls.

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

1. **Apologies:** Ward Cllr Martin-Wells, Cllrs Middleton, Timothy, Robson.

2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Noble Item 11.

3. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 8th January 2026:** (i) Cllr Grylls asked for wording in point 8 (i) be amended to: (i) *Cllr Middleton and Cllr Grylls advised Tees Valley Wildlife Trust have instructed their arborist to inspect the Ash tree with Ash dieback in the Howls, behind Highgate Meadows.* (ii) Cllr Noble asked for the wording in point 9 (i) be amended to: *Cllr Noble advised nothing to report on this occasion. Councillors commented on how good The Batts is currently looking. A resident asked Councillors if they could advise what is happening with the meadows area, Cllr Middleton advised the area around the meadows will be left as scrub land.* (iii) Cllr Noble asked for point 10 (i) be amended to: *Cllr Patrick advised despite the bad weather the building is now watertight, with approximately 25% of the tiles left to go on, along with the ridge tiles. The Velux roof windows are now fitted and interior work is about to start. Trustees have agreed to install underfloor heating. If weather does not delay them further, once the gutters and downpipes have been installed, the scaffolding will come down and work will start on the ramps and patio.* (iv) Cllr Noble asked for point 12 (iv) be amended to: *Cllr Timothy raised concerns regarding drivers/residents driving over the Village Green to access their properties and also drivers/residents having to drive on track to the Terrace entrance.. It was **unanimously agreed**, the Parish Council write to residents to remind them, there should be no blocking of access to the dwellings on the terrace and the Clerk was asked to try and source some large rocks which could be located in the areas to prevent drivers driving on the green and causing further damage etc.* Cllr Noble asked for point 12 (x) be amended to: *Cllr Noble raised concern regarding the double Hawthorn hedge located in The Batts; following advice from TV Wildlife Trust, who suggested the hedge is removed to avoid costly maintenance in the future. Following a suggestion from Cllr Noble, it was **agreed that** Cllrs Robson, Patrick, Noble and Middleton should inspect the current state of the hedge on the following Saturday morning and then make a recommendation to full Council as to what action should be taken, if any. The Clerk was asked to invite OJM to attend the meeting.* The Clerk confirmed the amendments had been made and the minutes were 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, as requested she contacted Ward Cllrs Martin-Wells and Young to ask if they could assist in obtaining an update on this matter. Ward Cllr Young replied to advise he has spoken to the Head of Planning at HBC, who has advised, the matter is currently under investigation and therefore cannot be discussed at this present moment. Ward Cllr Young has asked HBC to keep him informed with any progress/outcomes. (ii) **Area of overgrown vegetation in Abbots Lea:** The Clerk advised she had circulated to Councillors a potential draft letter, for all the residents in Abbots Lea, outlining the proposed works to tend to the areas of overgrown vegetation which residents have raised concern over. It was agreed by the majority the Clerk is to circulate the letter and report any feedback she receives back from residents. (iii) **Ash tree located on the embankment near the allotments:** The Clerk advised following the last Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council were made aware of a road closure taking place in the Village to install the speed cushions. The Clerk contacted HBC and they confirmed they were willing to allow DPPC to carry works as required to remove the tree, whilst the road closure was in place. OJM Landscape services kindly arranged a team to carry out the required works in less than 24 hour's notice, however on the day of the road closure, the traffic management team working on behalf of HBC, refused to accommodate the team of tree surgeons. Despite HBC's and DPPC efforts to reiterate to the traffic management team the works had been agreed as part of the road closure, the planned works to remove the tree had to be cancelled. The Clerk advised HBC have advised they will be making an official complaint to their traffic management team. It was agreed by all the Clerk is to also make a complaint on behalf of DPPC, advising the traffic management company that any costs occurred, will be passed onto them accordingly. The Clerk advised HBC have informed her they are currently looking at their schedule of works, should there be any road closures in the future, where possible, they will be happy to try and assist DPPC so works can be carried out to remove the tree.

5. **Ward Councillors Report:** No report received.

6. **Chairman's Report:** (i) The Clerk advised no report had been received from Cllr Middleton. (ii) Cllr Ireland, reminded Councillors of the email circulated by The Clerk regarding future training provided by CDALC on various subjects. It was agreed by all Cllr Ireland would attend the Data Protection training for Parish and town councilors on Tuesday 3rd March and Cllr Grylls would attend the Finance for Councillors on Tuesday 28th April. The Clerk was asked to circulate the email again to all Parish Councillors and ask them let her know if there were any courses they would like to attend and for the Clerk to book them accordingly. (iii) Cllr Noble advised she attended the Neighbourhood Services meeting on the 26th January, the focus of the meeting was on a public space protection and two new public orders both relating to Hartlepool Town Centre. (iii) Cllr Ireland advised she attended the Finance Committee meeting on the 10th February, there was lots of discussion based on the rising cost of adult and child social care, a cost HBC cannot control. HBC have advised they are trying to introduce children homes to cut back on costs. The next meeting is scheduled for the 16th February where they may potentially discuss the 2026/2027 council tax, Cllr Ireland advised she will not be available to attend this meeting.

7. **Personnel Report:** Cllr Ireland reminded Councillors the Clerk has now passed her ILCA qualification. The next step in her training is the FILCA qualification. It was agreed by all the Clerk is to register for this qualification.

8. **Village Maintenance: (i)** Cllr Grylls advised the speed cushions have now been installed, however the road surface on either side of the cushions have been damaged. He advised whilst the potholes have had a temporary repair, but within a couple of days the materials used had dissipated. Cllr Ireland advised she has spoken to Kieran Bostock at HBC regarding the issue, the Clerk was asked to contact HBC to get an update on the issue. **(ii)** Cllr Noble advised the track by the pond has recently been tarmaced. It was advised this is an historic track and has always been the responsibility of the farmer; since the easement, this track is now the responsibility of the land owner. **(iv)** Cllr Noble advised prior to the meeting she had circulated the updated Village Green Policy. All Councillors present accepted the updated policy and the Clerk was asked to update the website with the new policy.
9. **The Batts Maintenance: (i)** Cllr Noble advised following the last Parish Council Meeting a group of Councillors visited The Batts and found a number of illegally planted saplings, which have now been removed. Cllr Ireland suggested a policy for The Batts is produced as DPPC already have one in place for the Village Green, it was agreed by all Cllr Ireland is to draft a policy for the next meeting in line with the 5 year plan. **(ii)** Cllr Noble requested the double hedge located in The Batts is discussed at the next meeting Parish Council Meeting.
10. **Dalton Piercy Village Hall Trustees Report: (i)** Cllr Noble advised work on the interior has now started and the 1st fix electrics are now completed. Work is now ready to begin on the underfloor heating and work on the outdoor ramp and patio has already started. It is estimated they are currently about 2 to 3 weeks behind, due to weather conditions. The Clerk asked if the Hall is still scheduled to be open in time for the elections so she can update HBC, Cllr Noble advised the Hall will be open in time for the elections as planned.
11. **Finance: (i)** The Clerk advised she had circulated to Parish Councillors a financial transaction report as listed below for January 2026. This was accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors present.

1st January 2026 – 31st January 2026

Receipts	£
Nil	0.00
Total	0.00
+	
Payments	£
Clerk – December Salary	311.20
Clerk – Internet / Phone (December 2026)	20.00
Resident flowers / card	16.50
NALC subscription 2025/2026	97.93
Clerk – January Salary	311.20
Clerk – Internet / Phone (January 2026)	20.00
Total	776.83

- (ii)** The Clerk advised an Actual against Budget report to date had been circulated to all Parish Councillors, this was accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors.
12. **Matters of Concern to Councillors: (i)** Cllr Noble advised the tenants agreements for the allotments are due in April and the agreements need to be revised. It was agreed the current allotment agreements need to reviewed prior to the next Parish Council meeting, as allotment holders are to be made responsible for water consumption in the year in which it was used, as previously agreed in the December meeting. **(ii)** Cllr Ireland reminded Councillors of DPPC's commitment to plant a tree within the village after a dangerous tree was removed from the pond. Cllr Ireland suggested that the new tree is a memorial tree planted in memory of the late Keith Johnson, who served as a Parish Councillor for many years. It was agreed by all Councillors are to think of suggestions of tree species and a location for the next Parish Council Meeting. **(iii)** The Clerk advised at the last meeting she was asked to try and source some large stones, she has located some large stones currently at York Auction, Cllrs present asked the Clerk to use her discretion and bid on them if they remain at a reasonable price.
13. **Correspondence: (i)** The Clerk advised following the December DPPC meeting, a resident had emailed her to confirm they had carried out some litter picking around the beck and scraped back the surface of dead vegetation. Councillors present expressed their thanks to the resident. **(ii)** The Clerk advised HBC had replied to her query regarding the installation of a grit bin on the bank coming into the Village. HBC advised as the road is already on a gritting route they wouldn't be able to install a bin as well. It was also deemed potentially unsafe for pedestrians to be in the area, manually spreading grit/salt on the road with there being no footpaths. **(iii)** The Clerk advised that a resident had contacted her raising concern that as part of the Elwick A19 bypass plans, surface water will be diverted into Char Beck and then in to Dalton Beck. The resident was also inquiring as to whether the planners were satisfied that the increase in water would not create land slippage around the Dalton Piercy area – specifically Highgate Meadows. The Clerk advised following the resident's email, she contacted Kieran Bostock. The Clerk advised she received an email back from HBC to advice for reassurance, although the discharge will be into local watercourses, the surface water will be held within attenuation basins and released at a controlled discharge rate that matched the existing discharge rate, therefore no water will enter the watercourse at a rate faster than it currently does. **(iv)** Cllr Grylls advised he had received an email from Anglian water informing DPPC they are looking to plan a date shortly to survey the trees at the new housing development and they will keep Cllr Grylls informed regarding the results of this. Anglian also wanted to give anyone in the community the opportunity to visit the treatment works to see how the process works. If anyone would like to attend this visit, they are to inform Cllr Grylls and a visit will be arranged accordingly.
14. **Public Forum: (i)** A resident asked if the Parish Council were aware of a damaged planter on the Green (the bands have snapped), the Clerk advised Cllr Robson had advised prior to the Parish Council meeting he will look at the planter in question and will attempt to repair the bands as soon as he can. **(ii)** A resident acknowledged there has been a lot of progress on the Village Hall, but residents are not being kept up to date regarding its opening, who will be managing the hall, will residents be invited to join the committee and what

activities are planned to take place in the hall etc. The resident noted the financial contribution equated to £96,000 (£30,000 from DPPC from and £66,000 from a developer's section 106 community funding requirement). As a resident he would like more frequent updates. Cllr Noble advised on behalf of the DPVA trustees; a flyer will be circulated shortly regarding ideas for activities, an open day and an invite to join a committee. (iii) A resident advised he had noted DPPC limited funds, restricting the Parish Council in carrying out tasks within the Village, he asked if DPPC may consider asking volunteers to come forward in an effort to reduce costs. Cllr Ireland advised once the Village Hall is established this is something DPPC may review as it will be easier to get people together.

15. **Planning applications: H/2025/0314** Notification of Planning Application. Proposal: Part two storey, part single storey extension to the rear (including installation of 2no. dormer windows to the side elevations and 5no. roof lanterns to the rear elevations), creation of raised patio, installation of replacement boundary wall and gate. Location: Woodside, Dalton Back Lane, Hartlepool. TS27 3HP. The Clerk advised this planning application was not on the agenda, as it was received the same day as the meeting. Councillors present discussed the application and all agreed they had no comment.

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.

Cllr Grylls left the meeting at 20:36

Residents left the meeting at 20:38

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

17. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 12th March 2026, 7pm at Elwick W.I. Hall.

Meeting concluded at 20:45