

## DALTON PIERCY PARISH COUNCIL

### Draft Minutes of meeting held at 7:00pm Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at Elwick WI Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Middleton (Chair), Grylls, Ireland, Noble, and Timothy.

**In Attendance:** Three residents, Sara Hamouda, the Clerk (M Davies)

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Robson, Patrick and Ward Cllr Martin-Wells.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Middleton, and Noble Item 13.
3. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Cllr Noble asked that the date referring to the election was amended to the 7<sup>th</sup> May. The minutes 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 she has chased this matter up with Ward Cllr Young, however no update has been provided.
  - (ii) Area of overgrown vegetation in Abbots Lea:** The Clerk advised following the letter drop in Abbots Lea, of the nine houses, the Parish Council had received three responses (one supporting the work and two raising concerns) which had been previously circulated to all Councillors. A resident present having expressed concern as to the proposed height (knee high) of the shrubs, it was agreed by all Councillors and the resident present that the shrubs are to be trimmed back behind the kerb and to a height of 6ft and the eucalyptus tree is to be removed along with any self-set saplings in the vicinity. Councillors confirmed The Clerk is to contact OJM Tree and Landscaping Services to review the tender (previously quoted £2000 plus VAT), with work to commence as soon as possible.
  - (iii) Allotment Tenancy Agreements:** The Clerk confirmed she had prepared the three allotment tenancy agreements, which require a Councillor to witness her signing them. The Clerk also confirmed the agreements included the water rates from the 2025-2026 financial year divided between them (50% for the larger allotment and 25% for the two smaller allotments), along with the 10% increase in rent. Cllr Noble advised she would deliver the agreements and documents to each allotment holder.
  - (iv) Memorial Tree:** Cllr Ireland advised after speaking to the family of the late Keith Johnson, they have confirmed they would like the memorial tree planting near the pond with a plaque stating "Planted by Dalton Piercy Parish Council in memory of Keith Johnson 1938-2025. A devoted farmer and Parish Councillor for many years". Councillors unanimously agreed the Clerk is to source an Amelanchier Lamarckii (Snowy Mespil), and arrange the memorial plaque as per the family's wishes.
  - (v) Mayfield House:** The Clerk advised she now has a contact within the Public Protection Team at HBC, who has confirmed they have contacted the residents of Mayfield House regarding the waste on site and advised them, that fires should not be used for burning waste etc. A resident advised whilst a slight improvement has been made, progress is slowing down again. The Clerk asked if Councillors or residents had any concerns if they could email her and she would forward any issues onto the Public Protection Team.
  - (vi) Village Green:** The Clerk advised she had forwarded all Councillors a draft copy of a letter to potentially send to the resident regarding the newly tarmaced road on the Village Green. Cllr Noble suggested some amendments to the draft letter and the Clerk advised she would forward the revised copy to all Councillors for approval before delivering it.
  - (vii) Footpath from Three Gates to the centre of the village:** The Clerk advised following the last Parish Council Meeting she had received an email from the Highways Officer stating he would respond in due course.
  - (viii) Parking on the Village Green:** The Clerk advised she has reached out to a local business who may be able to supply some large stones free of charge and she is just waiting to hear back from them.
  - (ix) Road beside the pond:** The Clerk advised following the last Parish Council Meeting she had contacted the Highways Officer and received an email stating he would respond in due course.
5. **Ward Councillors Report:** No report received.
6. **Section 106 Monies Potential Idea:** The Clerk advised following the last Parish Council Meeting a flyer was produced for residents (a copy was also placed in the notice board), a notice was made in the Village Life Magazine and on the Website, inviting residents to share their wishes for potential Section 106 Monies. The Clerk advised a couple of emails had been received from residents and these were all forwarded to Councillors to review prior to the meeting. Following Councillors' discussion, it was unanimously agreed the Section 106 Priorities list to be submitted to HBC is: 1) Superfast broadband to all homes in the parish 2) Playground equipment 3) Revamp of the Village pond 4) Historical interpretation boards 5) Green infrastructure -

maintenance (not tree planting) 6) Period street lights 7) EV Parking facility 8) Collapsible bollards 9) Reduction in street furniture along the Village Green e.g. traffic signs, poles

7. **Grantscape Red Gap Community Fund Potential Ideas:** The Clerk advised following the last Parish Council Meeting a flyer was produced for residents (a copy was also placed in the notice board), a notice was made in the Village Life Magazine and on the Website, inviting residents to share their ideas for potential Red Gap funding. The Clerk advised a couple of emails had been received from residents and these were all forwarded to Councillors to review prior to the meeting. The Clerk advised following the last Parish Council Meeting, she met with a contractor who visited the play area and advised if we relocated the picnic seating closer to the centre, there would be ample space for a 2-swing set, comprising of a toddler seat and a flat seat for older children. The swing set recommended was from the Stimba range which has the benefits of steel structure (visible steel would be painted in green) carrying a 25 year guarantee but it has timber cladding which is in keeping with the equipment already on site, Total price to supply, install the swing set with appropriate matting etc and to relocate the picnic seating area is £4694 plus VAT. Councillors all agreed the Clerk is to submit a funding bid, based on the quote provided. After discussion, Councillors also agreed the Clerk is to obtain prices for a Christmas tree to be planted with solar lights at the entrance to The Batts and she is to also submit a funding bid for this.
8. **Annual Parish Council Meeting:** It was agreed by all the DPPC AGM is to be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May.
9. **Annual Parish Meeting:** It was agreed by all the DPPC APM is to be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May.
10. **Chairman's Report: (i)** Cllr Middleton advised after several months of communication with HBC and following the recent road traffic incidents on the bend located near Mayfield House, HBC have confirmed they have plans to mark out a centre line, slow markings, and keep left arrows at the junction. They also plan on replacing the existing bend warning sign with a more visible sign and introduce a new bend sign coming from Dalton. HBC has also advised it is not recommended to use the advisory speed limit sign on a rural road to warn of a sharp bend. These signs are usually used when coming off a high-speed road where significant slowing is required before negotiating a sharp bend. It is recommended that the Reduce Speed Now plate is used as an alternative underneath the bend warning sign in these circumstances, therefore, HBC will add this to the bend warning signs.
11. **Personnel Report:** No report
12. **Village Maintenance: (i)** Cllr Noble advised the Village Greens have now received their first cut of the year.
13. **The Batts Maintenance: (i)** Cllr Middleton advised Meadowfield Gardens Landscaping Ltd have commenced works within The Batts. The paths have been cut into and around the reserve and the daffodils have been left whilst they are still in bloom. Recent comments from residents have been very positive and how beneficial the improved access is.
14. **Dalton Piercy Village Hall Trustees Report: (i)** Cllr Noble advised the car park is about to be completed. The electric meter is in and the water is connected; the heat pump is installed but just still needs connecting. The kitchen is scheduled to be installed on the 20<sup>th</sup> April and broadband is due to be installed on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. To date they don't have an opening date but they will be ready for the election on the 7<sup>th</sup> May to host the Polling station. The trustees are in the process of planning an official open day and opening event.
15. **Finance: (i)** The Clerk advised she had circulated to Parish Councillors both a Financial Transactions and Actual against Budget Reports for March 2026. These were accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors present.

**1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 – 31st March 2026**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
Transferred from DPPC savings account	13000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>13000.00</b>

<b>Payments</b>	<b>£</b>
Clerk Salary Feb 2026	311.20
Clerk Internet / Phone Feb 2026	20.00
HBC – Speed Cushions	10447.00
Clerk Salary March 2026	311.20
Clerk Internet / Phone March 2026	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>11109.40</b>

(ii) The Clerk advised Councillors to date the completion report for the 2024-2025 financial year had still not been finalised by Mazars. The Clerk advised she has been liaising with Mazars to investigate and confirm any queries they had and they are hoping they will be in a position now for the file to be passed to the partners to be signed off.

16. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** (i) The Clerk advised Councillors she had uploaded the IT and Email Policy to the DPPC website, as instructed. Councillors ratified the policy. (ii) Cllr Noble asked Councillors if they had reviewed the amendments made to the Village Green Policy. All Councillors confirmed they accepted the revised policy and asked the Clerk to update the website accordingly with the revised document.
17. **Correspondence:** (i) The Clerk advised she had received an email from a resident informing they had reached out to businesses in the town to enquire if they had any surplus stock of flower bulbs etc and if they would consider donating them to the village. If successful the resident would approach the Parish Council for permission in due course. (ii) The Clerk advised she had received a letter from a resident regarding the development of the new Village Hall. Councillors present asked for trustees of the DPVHA to liaise with the resident to resolve any issues. (iii) Cllr Grylls advised he has been liaising with Anglian Water, the visit to the treatment plant is going to be scheduled for after the election. Anglian Water have advised they can supply Hi-Viz vests; however, visitors will have to wear boots or sturdy shoes. (iv) The Clerk advised Councillors of an email which she had been copied into from a resident seeking advice from HBC's Service Manager with regards to what can HBC do for Dalton Piercy residents i.e. funding etc. On behalf of DPPC, Cllr Middleton advised all Councillors are aware of recent correspondence regarding the DPPC precept increase, expenditure and the management of The Batts, including suggestions around funding, use of volunteers and changes to the maintenance arrangements. The points raised are noted. However, it is recognised by DPPC that this correspondence forms part of an ongoing series of emails covering the same topics and is considered repetitive. Councillors also believe the content of the correspondence goes beyond general enquiry and moves into suggestion and direction of the Council policy and operation. DPPC is a corporate body and decisions are made collectively by Councillors at properly convened meetings. No individual can direct the Council's actions or specific matters to be progressed. Matters for example relating to precept setting, contractor use, maintenance strategy and the future of The Batts etc. remain decisions for the Council to determine. Where appropriate, matters that have already been considered or will be considered by Councillors in the normal course of Council meetings. Matters are not to be determined through ongoing correspondence outside of formal meetings. The Council will proceed to consider its own agenda items in line with its agreed governance and decision-making processes.
18. **Public Forum:** (i) A resident enquired as to where the funding for maintenance for the new village hall would come from. Councillors advised the Dalton Piercy Village Hall Association was a separate entity to the Parish Council and they would need to speak to the DPVHA for this advice.
19. **Planning applications:** H/2026/0056 Notification of a Planning Application: Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and insertion of new window in the side elevation. Location: 23 Highgate Meadows, Dalton Piercy. Hartlepool. TS27 3BZ. Councillors all agreed "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.

*Residents, Sara Hamouda left the meeting at 20:47*

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

17. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 7pm at Dalton Piercy Village Hall.

Meeting concluded at 20:52