

DALTON PIERCY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of meeting held at 7pm 11th June 2026 at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Noble (Chair), Davies, Grylls, Middleton, Patrick and Robson.

In Attendance: Six residents, Ward Cllr Hughes and the Clerk (M Davies)

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Middleton, Noble and Patrick advised any business that may arise relating to the Dalton Village Hall Association.
3. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 19th May 2026:** (i) Cllr Noble asked the Clerk if she could amend a sentence in point 12 to read *"Cllr Middleton asked for it to be noted that a vehicle has created a rut in the verge along The Terrace track, which has been filled in with stone."* (ii) Cllr Noble asked in point, item I, if the Clerk could add "MP" after Mr Jonathan Brash's name and also amend a sentence to read *"He ensured the resident who raised concerns will be made aware of the information provided by DPPC"*. The Clerk advised the amendments had been made as per Cllr Nobles suggestions and the minutes were then unanimously accepted as an accurate record-and the Chair signed the Minutes.
4. **Minutes of Parish Council AGM meeting held 19th May 2026:** Cllr Noble asked if the Clerk could amend a sentence in point 3 to read *"...Councillors are to complete these documents and return them to the Clerk along with their signed "Nil Return" election documents to be submitted to HBC."* The Clerk advised the amendment had been made as per Cllr Nobles suggestion and the minutes were then unanimously accepted as an accurate record-and the Chair signed the Minutes.
5. **Ward Councillors Report:** The Clerk welcomed Ward Cllr Hughes, who introduced himself and forwarded Ward Cllr Young's apologies for the meeting. Ward Cllr Hughes advised, between himself and Ward Cllr Young, they will be attending future Parish Council Meetings. Cllr Noble asked if going forward Ward Cllrs could keep the Parish Council informed of strategic issues and Ward Cllr Hughes advised going forward they will be liaising with the Parish Councils.
6. **Matters Arising:** (i) **Memorial Tree:** The Clerk advised she has been in touch with the nursery regarding the memorial tree for Keith Johnson and they now have two options in stock, a single stem, 6ft tree at £120 plus vat plus tree guard or a 12ft multi stem specimen tree at £700 plus VAT and tree guard. Councillors unanimously agreed and asked the Clerk to place an order for the single stem tree @ £120+VAT. (ii) **Village Green:** The Clerk advised she had forwarded Councillors an email from HBC legal department with their advice regarding the recent track which has been tarmacked. Councillors discussed HBC's response and the issue and noted this is an exceptional circumstance, as to date the tarmac surface does appear to have resolved the flooding in the area and enhanced the Village Green and is not disturbing the Village Green. Cllr Grylls reminded Councillors, whilst this is an exceptional circumstance, anyone who wishes to resurface areas in the future will need to contact DPPC and DPPC will have to consider each case individually. Councillors agreed going forward the area is to be monitored before contacting HBC to act on the matter. (iii) **Footpath to the centre of the Village:** Cllr Robson advised he had met with HBC Traffic and Highways manager who confirmed that HBC is responsible for the footpath. It is currently in the schedule of works for the footpath to be sprayed etc, but HBC do not have a definite date for when this will be. (iv) **Road beside the pond:** Cllr Robson advised this was looked at during his meeting with HBC's Traffic and Highway Manager and this is to be monitored and if any photographs or videos of the issue could be forwarded to HBC for them to access. Councillors agreed this is to be monitored. (v) **Speed Cushions:** Cllr Robson advised during his meeting with HBC's Traffic and Highway manager, it was confirmed maintenance of the speed cushions is responsibility of HBC. During the visit, the caps and screws were inspected and it was confirmed the caps are glued and the screws do not appear to be working loose. (vi) **Potholes in the road throughout the Village:** Cllr Robson advised during his meeting with HBC's Traffic and Highway manager it was confirmed the potholes are on the schedule of works for 2027,

however after inspection on the 11th June it was advised if they continue to deteriorate HBC may look at bringing this work forward. Cllr Robson also advised during the meeting he enquired about the large ruts at the side of the road verges. HBC's Traffic and Highways manager advised HBC's stance is that the verges should not be driven on, however they are not averse to a local farmer filling the verges in, if required. Cllr Robson advised he would speak to a local farmer to see if they can assist. **(vii) Broken fence at Dene Garth:** The Clerk advised she has been informed by the HBC Estates Team, this work is on the schedule of works, but they do not have a definite date for the work to be carried out. Cllr Robson asked the Clerk if she could contact the Estate team to ask if we can cut the fence down at the base. **(vii) Stones for the Village Green:** The Clerk advised she has had confirmation OJM Tree and Landscape Services will supply the stones to the village free of charge, they will arrange with the Clerk as to when they can drop them off.

7. **Chairman's Report:** Nothing to report.
8. **Personnel Report:** Nothing to report.
9. **Councillor Vacancy:** It was agreed by all the Clerk is to advertise the vacancy on the DPPC website and Cllr Patrick advised he would advertise the vacancy on Facebook.
10. **Village Maintenance:** i) Cllr Middleton advised the Dalton Heights road needs resurfacing. Cllr Robson advised during his meeting with HBC's Traffic and Highways Manager it was confirmed that once the development is completed and HBC have adopted the road, it will then be added to the schedule of works. ii) Cllr Middleton advised the flowerpots have now been prepared for planting; the contractor is currently having delays with his supplier, but they will be planted as soon as possible.
11. **The Batts Maintenance:** Cllr Middleton advised work has now started in The Batts and the contractor has been asked to cut a path in between the two Hawthorne hedges.
12. **Finance: (i)** The Clerk advised she had circulated to Parish Councillors both a Financial Transactions and Actual against Budget Reports for May 2026. These were accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors present.

1st May 2026 – 31st May 2026

Receipts	£
HMRC VAT Reclaim 2025/2026	2809.48
Total	2809.48
+	
Payments	£
M Davies Clerk – April Salary	285.40
M Davies – Internet / Phone	20.00
CE & CM Walker – April Grass Cut	576.00
CDALC – Councillor Data Protection Training	35.00
HMRC Employee TAX / NI	25.50
CDALC – Councillor Finance Training	20.00
OJM Tree and Landscape Services - Works in Abbots Lea	2400.00
SLCC – 50% Contribution to Clerks FILCA Training	84.00
SLCC – 50% Contribution to Clerks Membership 26/27	79.00
Total	3524.90

13. **Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Year ending 31 March 2026:**
 - a) **To agree the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 of the Annual Return (Section1).** The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/2026 and completed all parts. This was then signed by both the Clerk and the Chair.
 - b) **To accept and approve the Receipts & Payments Account 2025-2026 and Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2026:** The Clerk read out the receipts and payments for 2025/2026. This was agreed by all and then signed by both the Clerk and the Chair.
 - c) **To accept the Internal Auditor's Report, note any recommendations and identify any actions required:**

The Clerk read out the Internal Auditors report and advised councillors of the actions taken.

d) To agree the Accounting Statements of the Annual Return (Section 2): The Clerk read out the Accounting Statements of the Annual Return for 2025/2026. This was then signed by both the Clerk and the Chair.

14. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** (i) Cllr Middleton advised the chevron by the bridge had been damaged and requires repair. Cllr Middleton to forward the Clerk a photograph to report to HBC. (ii) Cllr Middleton advised he had looked at the hex path in North View, whereby a resident had forwarded their concerns to the Parish Council via email due to the water pooling outside a property and creating ice in the winter. Cllr Noble confirmed in the past, substrate was laid to level the area off and the hex path was laid on top. All Councillors agreed the area requires substrate to level the area back off and the hex path to be re-laid over the top. The clerk is to obtain quotes. (iii) Cllr Middleton advised he had noticed on Facebook, residents posting the footpath between Dalton Piercy and Elwick is now impassable. Cllr Robson advised he was speaking to the HBC Traffic and Highway manager about the footpath, and it is currently on the schedule of works. (iv) Cllr Middleton asked if the Clerk could update the website accordingly with the new Parish Councillors details and positions etc. (v) Cllr Middleton reminded councillors they must be using their .gov email addresses for all parish council business and asked the Clerk if she could contact the IT company to see if they could supply a guidance sheet for Councillors to enable them to set their accounts up. (vi) Cllr Grylls advised Anglian Water have confirmed the tree survey has been completed for the trees in the Howls and behind the Highgate Meadows development. Anglian Water is currently in the process of raising a purchase order for the required work to be carried out. Anglian Water has also confirmed the trees will be resurveyed in 2028 and are now on a schedule going forward. (vii) Cllr Grylls advised Anglian Water are also in the process of arranging suitable dates for those who expressed an interest in visiting the site within the village. (viii) Cllr Noble advised Councillors an email update had been received by the resident enquiring about EV Charging ports in the village, who has advised HBC officers are now looking into the matter. Cllr Grylls advised he has also been looking into EV Charging options since the resident made contact with DPPC, and he has sourced a company who specialise in providing villages. Councillors all agreed Cllr Grylls is to continue looking into different options that may be suitable for Dalton Piercy. (ix) Cllr Robson asked Councillors if they are OK with him looking into options for getting the ruts filled in along the verges into the village and all Councillors agreed.
15. **Correspondence:** (i) The Clerk advised she had received an email from a resident regarding damage to a wall of their property in Abbots Lea. The Clerk advised she is still waiting for photographs from the resident so this matter can be looked into.
16. **Public Forum:** (i) A resident advised the vegetation at the side of the road is now blocking the view of motorists when pulling out of the junction near Three Gates Farm. The Clerk advised she would forward this to HBC. (ii) A resident asked if there was any progress on the condition etc. of Mayfield House. The Clerk advised as per the previous Parish Council meeting, HBC Public Protection Team are in contact with the owner of the property to try and resolve the ongoing issue. HBC have advised DPPC, "as wood and building materials are not classed as a statutory nuisance, an Environmental Protection Act notice cannot be served, therefore HBC will continue to attempt to resolve the issue informally with the owner". (iii) A resident asked the Parish Council the new stones, which have been donated to the village for the Village Green, if the Council have a location for them. Cllr Middleton advised the stones were initially planned for the area around the Terrace, however the Parish Council will assess the areas before siting the stones. (iv) A resident advised last year there was a lot of annuals in the three mini meadows in the Batts. Will there be a plan in place going forward for these as there are hundreds of orchids, especially in one of the smaller meadows. Cllr Middleton advised he would speak with the contractor. (v) A resident asked if the Parish Council were happy with their current insurance cover, as would the Parish Council be covered for the infill of verges etc, does the insurance cover the Village Hall, Councillors and volunteers. Cllr Patrick advised the DPVHA will be reviewing their policy accordingly, as and when they start planning events etc. Cllr Robson advised he would confirm with HBC the liability etc. relating to the infill of the verges etc (viii) A resident asked if DPPC would consider reaching out to Scott Campbell at HBC and

invite him to a future meeting to discuss any potential funding that may be available. Cllrs all agreed the Clerk is to contact Scott Campbell to invite him to a future meeting. Cllr Grylls also advised he would look into potential funding that maybe open to DPPC **(ix)** A resident asked at the last meeting DPPC advised they had paid for the recent works in Abbots Lea and if DPPC are going to fund the maintenance of works in Abbots Lea in the future and would the concurrent payment be reviewed with HBC. Cllr Noble advised DPPC have in the past been trying to establish who is responsible for the maintenance of the shrubs etc in Abbots Lea and in 2025 HBC advised they had adopted the land but the ground works is the responsibility of DPPC. Going forward, DPPC will be trying to engage with HBC to have the concurrent payment reviewed if possible. **(x)** A resident asked if DVPHA will be announcing future meetings for residents to attend. Cllr Patrick and Noble confirmed this will be the case and residents will be notified where possible, currently not all residents are receiving a copy of the Village Life but the DVPHA will do their best to notify residents of any meetings. Cllr Patrick advised at the moment the architect and builder have both been on holiday and this has put a hold on development slightly. **(xi)** A resident asked if money will be moved back over into the savings account. The Clerk advised in due course this is something the Parish Council will be working towards, as DPPC will need to ring fence reserves of £10,000 as per HBC requirements. **(xii)** A resident advised during the recent sudden heavy downpours, the rainwater was running into the Abbots Lea estate, it did drain away as the heavy rain stopped, but asked DPPC if they could note it in case it happens in the future. The Councillors asked the resident if we have a heavy influx of rain again, and the water does not drain away, could they take a video so the issue can be raised with HBC to investigate.

- 17. Planning applications: H/2026/0144** – Erection of detached summer house within rear garden (retrospective) - 26 Highgate Meadows, Dalton Piercy. Hartlepool. TS27 3BZ. Cllr Noble advised the HRPG have reviewed this application and are submitting their response. Councillors discussed their concern over the height of the summer house and its distance from the fence as this could be a potential hazard. Cllr Middleton advised he would look into the planning regulations and circulate any information to other Councillors. Councillors are to confirm their response to the application and the Clerk is to draft a response to the application, to be approved by Councillors via email prior to submitting to HBC.

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.

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

- 17. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 9th July 2026, 7pm at Dalton Piercy Village Hall.

Meeting concluded at 8:54pm