

DALTON PIERCY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7:00 pm at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

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

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Patrick.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Middleton, Noble and Patrick declared an interest in any business that may arise relating to the Dalton Village Hall Association (DVPHA).
3. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th May 2026:** Cllr Noble asked the Clerk to amend “hex path” in item 14 to “hexapath”. The Clerk advised that the amendments had been made in accordance with Cllr Noble’s suggestions. The minutes were then unanimously accepted as an accurate record, and the Chair signed them.
4. **Ward Councillors’ Report:** No report received.
5. **Matters Arising:** **(i) Hexapath in North View:** The Clerk advised that she was awaiting a quotation. **(ii) Abbots Lea:** Cllr Middleton advised that he had been liaising with two residents in Abbots Lea following a report that a wall had been damaged in a garden. The residents advised that the builders had completed the fence and, with the Parish Council’s permission, would continue to tidy the shrubs and land in the area gradually due to the nesting season. Residents advised no nesting birds were visible in the area. Cllr Middleton advised that he would visit the area to monitor for nesting birds and meet with the residents to discuss their next steps. The residents advised that they did not currently require a skip. **(iii) Vegetation on the roadside near Abbots Lea:** The Clerk advised that she had reported this to HBC. **(iv) Fence at Dene Garth:** Cllr Robson advised that the broken section of fencing had now been removed. **(v) Damaged chevron sign near the bridge:** The Clerk advised that this had been reported to HBC. **(vi) EV Charging:** Cllr Grylls advised that he was still researching the matter and had liaised with residents. He will look to seek further advice from HBC.
6. **Chairman’s Report:** **(i)** Cllr Noble advised that a long-standing resident had passed away within the village. Councillors agreed that Cllr Noble would arrange flowers and a card for the resident’s family. **(ii)** Cllr Noble advised that the Village Life publication would return to door-to-door delivery. **(iii)** Cllr Noble advised that, on 30th June, she attended the Neighbourhood Services meeting, which had two items on the agenda. Neither related to Dalton Piercy: one concerned the increase in the cost of school meals in Hartlepool, and the other concerned fly-tipping on an area of common land within Hartlepool.
7. **Personnel Report:** Nothing to report.
8. **Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2026/2027 and agreement of remuneration:** The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Mr Atkinson of Fortune and Sons, based in Hartlepool, who had confirmed that he would be happy to carry out the 2026/2027 internal audit. He advised that the cost would be approximately £110–£120. Councillors unanimously agreed to appoint Mr Atkinson as the internal auditor for the 2026/2027 financial year.
9. **Councillor Vacancy:** The Clerk advised that the vacancy had been advertised on Facebook and on the website. No expressions of interest had been received from residents prior to the meeting. A resident advised that he was interested and was invited by Councillors to speak with them after the meeting had closed to discuss the vacancy in more detail.
10. **Village Maintenance:** **(i)** Cllr Middleton advised that Meadowfield had expressed its thanks to residents for looking after and watering the flowerpots. **(ii)** Cllr Middleton advised that a drain at the bottom of the road leading out of Dalton Heights appeared to be blocked with debris. The Clerk advised that she had reported this to HBC. **(iii)** Cllr Middleton advised that the footpath from Highgate Meadows/Dalton Heights was in poor

condition. The Clerk advised that HBC had confirmed this would be included in the works once the road is adopted.

11. **The Batts Maintenance:** Cllr Middleton advised that Meadowfield had been working in the orchard, the paths had been cut back, and the bee banks had been strimmed.
12. **Finance: (i)** The Clerk advised that she had circulated the Financial Transactions Report and the Actual Against Budget Report for June 2026 to Parish Councillors. These were accepted as accurate records by all Councillors present.

1st June 2026 – 30th June 2026

Receipts	£
Nil	0.00
Total	0.00

Payments	£
M Davies Clerk – April Salary	285.20
M Davies – Internet / Phone	20.00
CE & CM Walker – April Grass Cut	576.00
Wave Water	35.49
HMRC Employee TAX / NI	26.00
Total	942.69

13. **Matters of Concern to Councillors: (i)** Cllr Middleton advised that there was a tree outside The Priory and another near Abbots Lea which appeared to be growing abnormally. Cllr Davies advised that he would inspect them. **(ii)** Cllr Robson advised that the HBC concurrent payment made to DPPC did not appear to have been reviewed for a number of years, despite DPPC taking on additional work within the village, including Abbots Lea. The Clerk advised that she would look into the matter and establish the appropriate contact at HBC. **(iii)** Cllr Robson asked whether DPPC could consider emergency planning. The Clerk advised that, last year, she had been made aware of a fund for emergency planning. Unfortunately, DPPC did not receive the notification in time; however, it was noted that the fund was expected to reopen in 2026, around August/September. **(iv)** Cllr Robson advised that he had been unable to attend the Adult Services and Public Health Committee meeting held on 17th June, but he had received a copy of the minutes. The only item affecting Dalton was the Pride in Place funding. It has now been confirmed that Parish Councils are eligible, although priority will be given to vacant shops and areas of deprivation within the town. **(v)** Cllr Middleton advised that he had expressed DPPC's thanks to Kieran Bostock at HBC for the work undertaken to improve the road markings at Mayfield House.
14. **Correspondence: (i)** The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Charter Annual Get Together was scheduled for Monday 13th July, providing Parish Council representatives with an opportunity to network with HBC Councillors and Officers. **(ii)** The Clerk advised that she had contacted Scott Campbell, HBC Service Manager, to invite him to the Parish Council meeting to discuss potential funding opportunities. Scott confirmed that he was able to attend the DPPC meeting scheduled for Thursday 10th September. The Clerk advised that she would add this to the agenda. **(iii)** The Clerk advised that, following a discussion with one of the rural police officers, she had been made aware that a vehicle had been stolen from Elwick Village. It was believed that the offenders had broken into the property and stolen the keys. The residents were woken as the car was driven away and alerted the police, resulting in a police pursuit. The vehicle was written off and the offenders were arrested. The Police are asking residents to remain vigilant and to ensure that doors and windows are secure and vehicles are locked.
15. **Public Forum: (i)** A resident advised that there was a potential risk of flooding around the Abbots Lea area. The Clerk asked whether residents might be able to record any evidence that could be passed to HBC for investigation. **(ii)** A resident raised concern regarding the condition of the footpath from Three Gates to Sambuca. The Clerk advised that she would raise this with HBC. **(iii)** A resident advised that the litter-picking equipment they had borrowed had been returned. **(iv)** A resident advised that they had surplus native foxgloves and asked whether DPPC would consider planting them near the beck, around the seating area. Councillors

thanked the resident and advised that they would consider the matter and respond in due course. (v) A resident queried the current budget and advised that, if the Parish Council worked to budget, only £5,000 would remain at the end of the financial year. Without funding, the only opportunity to raise additional funds would be through residents rates etc. The Clerk advised that Scott Campbell had confirmed his attendance at the next Parish Council meeting to discuss potential funding opportunities that may be available to the Parish Council. (vi) A resident asked whether the Parish Council knew when the Village Hall would be in use. The Parish Council advised that this was a DVPHA matter. On behalf of DVPHA, Councillor Noble advised that the National Lottery was awaiting the builder's inspection certificate and architect's report. (vii) A resident enquired whether permission would be required to build a traditional oak canopy at the front of their property. Councillors advised the resident to consider contacting the HBC One Stop Shop, as they would be able to provide the required information.

16. **Planning Applications: H/2026/134** Notification of a Planning Application. Proposal: Section 73 application to vary conditions 3 (Masterplan), 8 (Elwick Bypass) and 10 (Roundabout Junction) of planning permission H/2014/0428 (Outline application with all matters reserved for residential development comprising up to 1,200 dwellings of up to two and a half storeys in height, including a new distributor road, local centre, primary school, amenity open space and structure planting). Location: Land South of Elwick Road, High Tunstall, Hartlepool, TS26 0LQ. **H/2025/0346** Notification of a Planning Application. Proposal: Approval of all reserved matters for the erection of 116 dwellings, together with associated access, landscaping and infrastructure, pursuant to Outline Planning Permission H/2014/0428 and associated with application H/2026/0134 seeking to vary Conditions 3, 6, 8, 10 and 19 of permission H/2014/0428. Location: Land South of Elwick Road, High Tunstall, Hartlepool, TS26 0LQ. Councillor Noble advised that both planning applications H/2026/134 and H/2025/0346 were also being reviewed by the Rural Plan Group. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should submit an objection based on the potential issues that could arise due to the volume of traffic.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC: The Parish Council may, at any point, pass a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from the meeting during consideration of any item of business where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, including employment matters, commercial tenders, contract negotiations, legal proceedings, preparation or advice.

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

17. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7:00 pm at Dalton Piercy Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 8:52 pm.