

DALTON PIERCY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7.00 pm Dalton Piercy Village Hall

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

In attendance: Six residents; Scott Campbell, Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC); and M Davies, Clerk.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Davies and Middleton.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Noble and Patrick declared interests in any business relating to the Dalton Village Hall Association (DPVHA).
3. **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 9 July 2026:** The minutes were unanimously approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.
4. **Presentation by Scott Campbell, HBC Service Manager:** Mr Campbell reported that Hartlepool had secured up to £20 million through the Government's Pride in Place Programme. Priorities identified by Rural West Ward residents included safety and security, health and wellbeing, high-street regeneration, and community. The first round of funding priorities would be improvements to parks and open spaces and to neighbourhood buildings. Applications were expected to open on 5 October and close in mid-November; all areas of Hartlepool were eligible. Priorities would continue to develop throughout the ten-year programme. Mr Campbell confirmed that significant safety concerns, including highways and footpaths, could potentially be reviewed with the relevant HBC teams. He would continue to share information with the Parish Council and through Parish Liaison meetings. Cllr Holden raised concerns about increased fly-tipping in rural communities following implementation of the booking system at Hartlepool Household Waste Recycling Centre. Mr Campbell asked residents to report hotspots to the Parish Council, including what3words locations where possible. HBC had purchased three ANPR cameras and, following deployment, approximately 15 successful prosecutions had been secured.

Scott Campbell left the meeting at 7.38 pm.

5. **Ward Councillors' Report:** No report was received.
6. **Matters Arising:** (i) **Hex path, North View:** The Clerk reported receipt of a quotation for £720 to lift the existing path, level the area with substrate and relay the existing Hex path. Councillors asked the Clerk to place the quotation on the next agenda for decision. (ii) **Abbots Lea:** The Clerk reported that the claim concerning damage to a resident's wall had been passed to the Parish Council's insurer, which was liaising with the property owner. (iii) **Stones for the Village Green:** OJM Tree and Landscaping Services had donated and delivered large stones. Once locations were agreed, the Clerk would arrange transport to the village green. (iv) **Trees outside The Priory and Abbots Lea:** Cllr Davies had advised that the trees might benefit from crown reshaping. Councillors asked the Clerk to obtain quotations. (v) **Damaged chevron sign near the bridge:** Cllr Robson confirmed that the sign remained unrepaired. The Clerk advised she would pursue the matter with HBC. (vi) **EV charging:** Cllr Grylls advised he is awaiting further feedback from HBC.
7. **Chair's Report:** (i) Cllr Noble was scheduled to attend the Neighbourhood Services meeting on 15 September. (ii) In response to Cllr Noble's request for an update, the Clerk reported that delivery of the memorial tree for the late Keith Johnson was expected around 20 September 2026. (iii) Cllr Noble reported that she had approached a landowner regarding the possible purchase of the paved parking area

in front of Abbots Lea for use as a village EV charging point. The landowner advised they would consult family members.

8. **Personnel Report:** The Clerk advised she had registered for internal audit and budget training. Cllrs Davies and Holden had registered for new councillor training.
9. **Village Maintenance:** (i) **Play-area swings:** Cllr Noble reported that the Grantscape-funded swings had been installed, comprising of a flat seat for older children and a toddler seat. A resident considered the flat seat too high. The Clerk is to contact the supplier. (ii) **Play-area signage:** A resident asked whether signage was present within the playpark. Cllr Robson advised he would inspect the signage and arrange cleaning if required. (iii) **Odour near the pond:** Cllr Noble reported that Northumbrian Water believed the odour originated from the drain near the pond and was investigating. No update had been received, although the odour was not currently evident. (iv) **Tree on the bend:** The Clerk reminded members of concerns about the large tree with a cavity overhanging the road. The revised total cost for OJM Tree and Landscape Service to fell the tree, including traffic management and road closure, was £1,950. Councillors unanimously agreed In view of the health and safety risk, the work should proceed as soon as possible. (v) **Flower tubs:** Cllr Robson proposed consulting residents about maintaining the flower tubs, as undertaken in neighbouring villages, to reduce costs. (vi) **Village pond:** Cllr Noble asked the Clerk to include the pond on the next agenda for Councillors to discuss and potentially consult with residents on its future.
10. **The Batts Maintenance:** (i) Cllr Noble reported that the rights-of-way paths and brambles had been cut. The meadows, orchard and scrubland were due to be cut, and the orchard had produced a good apple crop. (ii) Cllr Noble noted that it remained to be established whether wildflowers would be sown this year and asked if DPPC would need to obtain the seed for the contractor. (iii) Cllr Noble reported that the double hedge, agreed at a height of 3–4 ft, was 4–6 ft in places. Cllr Patrick to obtain a quotation and consult Cllr Middleton.
11. **Finance** (i) The Clerk had circulated the Financial Transactions Report and Actual Against Budget Report for July and August 2026. Both reports were approved as accurate records by all councillors present. (ii) The Clerk reported that the annual AGAR was with Forvis Mazars' final management team, which was working towards a completion report by 30 September.

1st July 2026 – 31st August 2026

Receipts	£
Nil	0.00
Total	0.00

Payments	£
M Davies Clerk – June Salary	285.40
M Davies – Internet / Phone	20.00
HMRC Employee TAX / NI	25.80
CE & CM Walker – May Grass Cut	576.00
L Noble – reimburse APM refreshments	17.85
Leanne Blakemore – Internal Audit	120.00
L Noble – reimburse Thank you gifts for Abbots lea	14.16
Marks & Spencer's – Sympathy card & flowers	16.50
M Davies Clerk – July Salary	388.80
M Davies – Internet / Phone	20.00
CE & CM Walker – May Grass Cut	576.00
M Davies Clerk – August Salary	311.80
Total	2372.31

12. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** None.

13. **Correspondence: (i) Local Resilience Fund:** The Clerk referred to the email circulated in September regarding funding for community emergency planning. HBC's Emergency Planning Team had presented the use of emergency grab bags to support communities. Councillors unanimously agreed the Clerk should apply for funding for grab bags, first-aid kits and flasks. **(ii) Cherry tree, Dene Garth:** HBC's arboricultural officer had confirmed that the tree had deteriorated and required remedial work to remain safe.
14. **Public Forum: (i) Footpath at Three Gates Cottage:** A resident reported water, algae and possible effluent on the footpath at the end of the driveway, creating a slip hazard. The Clerk advised she would report the matter to HBC for investigation. **(ii) Website contact form:** A resident reported receiving no reply to messages submitted through the website. The Clerk confirmed that no messages had been received and she would raise the issue with the IT provider. **(iii) Horse riders in Highgate Meadows:** A resident raised concerns about horse riders using the road and the potential for manure. Cllr Noble asked the Clerk to ask HBC whether signage stating "Not suitable for horses" could be installed. **(iv) Vegetation near the bridge:** A resident reported high weeds. Councillors asked the Clerk to report the matter to HBC. **(v) Low branches at The Batts:** A resident reported low-hanging branches over the footpaths and suggested lifting them by approximately 2 ft. Councillors asked the Clerk to report the matter to HBC. **(vi) Village Hall:** A resident asked when the hall would formally open for business. Cllr Noble advised that this was a matter for DPVHA. Cllr Robson suggested that DPVHA arrange a residents' meeting. **(vii) Overtaking:** A resident raised concerns about vehicles overtaking through the village and on the back road from the A689. Councillors asked the Clerk to consult HBC on whether no-overtaking signage could be installed, particularly within the village. **(viii) VAT Reclaim:** A resident enquired as to why the Parish Council claimed the VAT back on an annual basis and not on a quarterly basis. Cllr Noble explained the Parish Council has always claimed the VAT annually but the council will look into this. **(ix) Savings:** A resident asked if DPPC had any plans to transfer any funds back into the DPPC Savings account, Cllr Noble advised this will be looked into and available funds will be transferred if necessary.

Three residents left the meeting at 9.09 pm.

15. **Planning Applications: H/2026/134 — Land south of Elwick Road, High Tunstall, Hartlepool, TS26 0LQ** 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 and including a new distributor road, local centre, primary school, amenity open space and structure planting). Cllr Noble explained that the application concerned variation of the number of homes that could be occupied before the bypass was constructed. The Parish Councillors strongly objected because of the potential impact on rural villages and because the proposed variations did not adequately take the community into account.

Three residents left the meeting at 9.14 pm.

Exclusion of the Public

The Parish Council may, at any point, resolve under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press while considering business where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of its confidential nature, including employment matters, commercial tenders, contract negotiations, legal proceedings, preparation or advice.

16. **Confidential Matters:** Confidential matters were recorded separately.

17. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 8 October 2026 at 7.00 pm at Dalton Piercy Village Hall.

Meeting closed: 9.16 pm.