DALTON PIERCY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 8th October 2026 at 7.00 pm
Dalton Piercy Village Hall

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

In attendance: Eight residents and M Davies, Clerk.

1. **Apologies**: Apologies were received from Cllr Holden.

2. **Declarations of Interest**: Cllrs Middleton, Noble and Patrick declared interests in any business relating to the Dalton Village Hall Association (DPVHA).

3. **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 12th September 2026**: The minutes were unanimously approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. **Ward Councillors' Report**: No report was received.

5. **Matters Arising**: **(i) Hex path, North View:** The Clerk reminded Councillors that she had received a quotation for £720 to lift the existing path, level the area with substrate and relay the existing hex path. A majority of Councillors agreed that the hex path was a priority due to the potential slip and trip risks as winter approached. The Clerk was asked to instruct OJM Landscape to carry out the work as soon as possible. **(iii) Pride in Place:** The Clerk reported that she had circulated the email from HBC announcing the next round of Pride in Place applications. The Clerk also read out an email received from a resident suggesting two ideas: the pond and the area around the beck. Cllr Noble also suggested the road verges. Cllr Noble advised that she would create a submission form for those attending the upcoming coffee morning on 24th October in the Village Hall to encourage residents to put forward ideas. Cllr Middleton advised that he would also create a Facebook post to encourage residents to share their ideas for potential applications. **(iii) Stones for the Village Green:** The Clerk reported that she still had all the stones for the Village Green but required confirmation from Councillors as to where they were to be sited. **(iv) Trees outside The Priory and Abbots Lea:** The Clerk reported that she had received three verbal quotations to reshape the trees outside The Priory and Abbots Lea and remove the waste. The cheapest quotation was from OJM Tree and Landscape Services at £180 per tree. Councillors asked the Clerk to add this to the agenda after the new year for consideration. **(v) Damaged chevron sign near the bridge:** The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Traffic and Road Safety Team Leader at HBC. The work was now on the schedule, and he hoped it would be carried out in the next couple of weeks; if necessary, it would be done when the road was closed. **(vi) EV charging:** Cllr Grylls reported that he was waiting for a response from Kieran Bostock, who was awaiting feedback regarding Combined Authority proposals for the way forward on EV charging provision. **(vii) Swings in the play area:** The Clerk reported that she had been speaking to the area representative, who was going to inspect the swings to check the height of the flat-seat swing following a resident's concern that the seat appeared a little high. **(viii) Village Pond:** Councillors agreed that residents in the village should be asked whether they would like the pond to be dredged or filled in. Once residents' feedback had been received, the options could be investigated further, including environmental impacts and cost implications. Cllr Noble advised that she would add this to the feedback slips for the coffee morning, and Cllr Middleton advised that he would create a Facebook post. Cllr Davies advised that he would seek advice from an environmental consultant. **(ix) Tree on bend:** The Clerk reported that she had been liaising with HBC, OJM Tree and Landscape Services and Total Traffic Management, and that the road closure had been arranged for Friday 30th October from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. **(x) Footpaths:** The Clerk reported that HBC had confirmed

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that the overhanging trees on the footpaths in the Batts had been dealt with. HBC had also confirmed they had sprayed the footpath from Three Gates to Sambucas. Regarding the wastewater coming onto the road in that area, HBC was working with the landowners.

6. **Chair's Report**: **(i)** Cllr Noble reported that she had attended the Neighbourhood Services meeting on 15th September 2026. The focus of the meeting was preparation for the new local plan, which has to be submitted by 2030. **(ii)** Cllr Noble reported that she had spoken to Kieran Bostock of HBC regarding the lack of facilities in the village for disposing of dog waste. Kieran had enquired where a dog waste bin was required, and a response was awaited on whether a new bin would be installed. **(iii)** Cllr Noble reported that a public consultation had been carried out regarding Public Service Protection Orders. This covered issues affecting farming communities, including anti-social behaviour involving quad bikes, and dog control, including fouling. There was currently insufficient enforcement regarding dog fouling and dogs not being on leads. The policy was to be reviewed and renewed. **(iv)** Cllr Grylls reported that he had attended the Housing Growth and Communities meeting on 30th September 2026. It was reported that, due to the shortfall in HBC's finances, projects were being re-evaluated. The meeting also focused on the Tides of Change Waterfall Marina Development, the economic growth programme and out-of-area placements. Ben Houchen was working towards a government initiative as the Government was reviewing connectivity, including transport. A bid had been submitted for 24 million.

7. **Personnel Report**: The Clerk advised that Elwick Parish Council was hosting an emergency first aid at work course on Friday 27th November 2026. Places were available at £75 per person. The qualification was valid for three years, with an online refresher available on the first and second anniversaries of the course. Councillors or residents wishing to reserve a place were asked to contact the Clerk as soon as possible.

8. **Village Maintenance**: **(i)** Cllr Noble reported that HBC had filled in the potholes again and that the village was on the schedule for resurfacing works in 2027. No specific date had yet been provided. **(ii)** Cllr Noble reported that Meadowfield Landscapes had emptied all the pots in preparation for winter planting. Cllr Robson asked for this item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting to discuss funding for the planting and whether DPPC could seek alternative quotations for the following year.

9. **The Batts Maintenance**: **(i)** Cllr Patrick reported that he had been unable to obtain a quotation from the contractor who had viewed the hedge earlier in the year. The Clerk reported that she had received a quotation for £300 from OJM Tree and Landscape Services to reduce the height of the hedge. Councillors unanimously agreed that the Clerk instruct OJM to carry out the work as soon as possible. **(ii)** Cllr Middleton reported that he would ask Meadowfield about reseeding the wild meadow and establish whether DPPC was to supply the seeds for them to sow.

10. **Finance**: **(i)** The Clerk had circulated the Financial Transactions Report and Actual Against Budget Report for September 2026. Both reports were approved as accurate records by all Councillors present.

1st September 2026 – 30th September 2026

Receipts	£
Nil	0.00
Total	0.00

Payments	£
Wave Water	50.34
ICO	47.00
M Davies – September Salary	311.80
M Davies – August & September Internet / Phone	40.00
Total	449.14

(ii) The Clerk reported that the completion report and certificate had been provided by Forvis Mazars

following the 2025/2026 external audit, and both had been uploaded to the DPPC website. **(iii)** The Clerk reported that she had attended Jonathan Brash's drop-in session at Elwick W.I. Hall and discussed the concurrent payment received by DPPC. He advised that he would seek to arrange a meeting with HBC's Finance Director. **(iv)** Cllr Noble reported that, following the last meeting, a resident had enquired why DPPC did not reclaim VAT quarterly. She explained that, as DPPC was a smaller Parish Council, this was carried out annually in conjunction with the year-end for practical and administrative reasons. Councillors unanimously agreed that VAT would continue to be reclaimed annually.

11. **Recycling in Hartlepool**: The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a resident regarding recycling in Hartlepool and invited the resident to speak about it. HBC was trialling a borough-wide pilot scheme to recover recyclable materials. Volunteer litter pickers in the village were being asked to place these materials in a separate bag and contact HBC to arrange collection, providing details of where the bags had been left. The scheme focused on items that could be placed in grey bins. Residents seeking further information were directed to the DPPC website, where the Engagement Officer's email address could be found.

12. **Matters of Concern to Councillors**: **(i)** Cllr Grylls reported that he had contacted the HBC safeguarding team to ask whether they could assist people sleeping rough at the Elwick/Dalton crossroads. The team confirmed that they had visited the site and spoken to the individuals. **(ii)** Cllr Middleton asked whether there had been any update from the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust regarding the trees in the Howls. Cllr Grylls reported that he had not received any recent updates but would contact the Trust for an update on the programme of works. **(iii)** Cllr Grylls enquired if Councillors wished to discuss a concern regarding village tracks/easements. Majority of Councillors agreed this matter was to be referred to confidential matters on the agenda due to the subject matter.

13. **Correspondence**: **(i)** The Clerk reported that she had made contact with HBC following a resident's complaint about horse riders entering Highgate Meadows. The officer advised that signs instructing riders not to enter Highgate Meadows could not be displayed. However, if required, a sign could potentially be displayed warning motorists that horses and riders might be in the area. **(ii)** The Clerk reported that she had contacted HBC regarding overtaking within the village and on the Dalton back roads and had asked whether signs could be erected instructing drivers not to overtake. HBC advised that it might re-evaluate the need for signage if residents submitted complaints or evidence of incidents.

14. **Public Forum**: **(i)** A resident advised that, following the Neighbourhood Services meeting, the regulations regarding dog fouling had been approved and fines could be imposed. Dogs could be off leads only in designated areas, and signage was required. Individuals were to be in charge of no more than four dogs. Cllr Noble reported that she would print the regulations and display them on the Parish Council noticeboard. **(ii)** A resident asked who from DPPC would take the lead on the project following the Pride in Place announcement, with up to £20 million being made available. Cllr Noble reported that three potential projects had been identified to date, but DPPC needed to decide which project to pursue and finalise the idea. **(iii)** A resident advised that they would like to carry out a roadside litter pick during the planned road closure in the village on 30th October and acknowledged that this would be done at their own risk. **(iv)** A resident advised that some kerbstones on the Dalton back roads had become dislodged. The Clerk asked the resident to identify the location using What 3 Words so that she could report the issue to HBC. Residents could also report the issue directly through the HBC portal, providing the location. **(v)** A resident advised that the smell from the drains in the village was starting to worsen again. Another resident suggested that a contributing factor might be the blocked drain by the beck near the Batts entrance.

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15. **Planning Applications**: None.

Residents left *the meeting* at *8:38 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 10 December 2026 at 7.00 pm at Dalton Piercy Village Hall.

Meeting closed: 9.14 pm.

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