

Dalton Piercy Parish Council

Meeting Minutes 13th February 2025

Present: Cllrs Ireland (Chair), Grylls, Noble, Patrick, Savage, Timothy

In attendance: C Porritt (Clerk); four members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr Jeremy Middleton; Ward Cllr Andrew Martin-Wells

2. Declaration of Interests: Cllrs Noble and Patrick – Item 11.

3. Minutes of 16th January 2025: Unanimously accepted.

4. Matters Arising: Cllr Grylls has written to Peter Frost re safety issues on Hart Back Lane. Ongoing.

5. Ward Councillor's Report: None received.

Clerk has twice emailed invites to all three ward councillors with details of upcoming meetings so they can meet with residents, or share details of any planned upcoming ward surgeries. Response still pending. Ward Cllr has advised to share their email addresses for residents to contact them. **Action:** Cllr Noble to add Ward Cllr details to Parish notice board.

6. Chair's Report: Attended Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) Finance Committee meeting this month. She raised concerns that the rural communities were underrepresented with no mention of the Borough's rural communities in their report – only the town.

7. Personnel Report – Nothing to report

8. Village Maintenance:

- 1. Trees:** Meryl Gardens undertaking work in the village. Expected to be completed 14.02.25.
- 2. Playground Access:** Meryl Gardens approved to do work on the access path.
- 3. Allotment Fencing:** Work has been completed satisfactorily.
- 4. Allotment Water:** One allotment is not receiving water. Clerk, Cllrs Noble and Patrick liaised to have Water Board inspect supply, but found responsibility lies with DPPC. The tenant of the allotment is arranging a plumber to quote for the repair. **Action:** Plumber to be authorised as soon as reasonable quote received.
- 5. Allotment Waiting List:** Application received for an allotment, but no current vacancies. **Action:** If applicant fits the criteria Clerk will add them to the waiting list.
- 6. Pond:** Cllr Noble has added first lot of dye for the year. **Action:** to be topped up monthly.
- 7. Salt Bins:** Clerk has emailed HBC with a request for replacement bins. Mr Frost is looking into the matter. Ongoing.

9. Insurance Claim Progress: Cllr Noble has purchased replacement pump for £478.00 inc. VAT, which can be reclaimed. Meryl Gardens quoted £750.00 to install new pump and trough, including removal of old. Quote accepted. **Action:** Trough to be sourced. Clerk to send invoices to insurance provider.

10. Traffic Calming Measures: Clerk received plan for proposed traffic calming scheme from Peter Frost at HBC. Plan consists of four sets of two speed cushions spread along the village centre road, which was thought to be the best option for Dalton Piercy. To be installed by HBC with an estimated cost to DPPC of £11,647. Councillors felt they haven't received enough information about the scheme to make a full informed decision. **Action:** Clerk to invite Mr Frost to the March meeting, or email councillors questions if unable to attend.

11. EV Charging Scheme: Draft proposal submitted by Cllr Middleton. Councillors approved the draft as a starting point, but felt it raises further questions that need to be addressed, in particular how many houses in Dalton Piercy are in need of the scheme, if unable to charge vehicles on their own property. Cllr Noble also discussed with Keiron Bostock from HBC, the possibility of incorporating EV charging points into the plans for the new Village Hall. **Action:** Further investigation to be done, to include map and details of the number of properties which could benefit from public EV charging. Cllr Noble to suggest adding EV Charging to the agenda for next Village Hall Trustees meeting.

12. Parking and Vehicle Access surrounding the Village Green: The plans have been drawn up, but to progress when quotes received. **Action:** Cllr Timothy to obtain quotes for the work.

13. Dalton Piercy Village Hall Trustees Report: Funding meeting held with National Lottery assessor on 12.02.2025; expected to be put before the N.L. Board by March at the latest. No demolition permission yet from HBC– but Ecology licence has been extended until September 2025. Trustees are working with HBC and the architect, with tenders received, however cannot start the build until all funding has been secured and all planning conditions are discharged by HBC. Ongoing.

14. Red Gap Application: Application for funding has been successful for Play area access. Cllr Noble has completed contract forms; work approved to start on week commencing 17.02.2025.

15. Parish Banking: Cllr Ireland has now been added as an authorised signatory for online banking. Debit Cards have been received. All DPPC purchases can now be done via card, once approved.

16. Finance Report: Transactions for 14.01.2025 – 10.02.2025

Receipts	£
Bank Interest	113.51
TOTAL:	113.51
Payments	
	£
Owed Clerk Payroll (SV – October)	245.62
Clerk Salary (CP; Jan)	301.60
Clerk’s Broadband Allowance (Jan)	20.00
Stationery and Batteries	14.83
Pump Replacement	478.80
Flower Tubs Maintenance	1,105.00
TOTAL:	2,165.85

Also presented was Actual against budget for January 2025, including bank reconciliation. Both reports were **accepted**. **Action:** Clerk to post to DPPC website.

17. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

- 1. S106 Money allocation:** suggestions needed for allocation of any future s106 monies from developers to the village, otherwise HBC will reallocate funding to the town. Currently only the suggestion of super-fast broadband put forward. **Action:** Cllr Noble to send Clerk details of types of scheme which might fit criteria for funding. Public suggestions will be requested via website and village Facebook.
- 2. Public Forum:** A vote was held regarding Public Forum being moved from the start of the agenda to the end. Outcome was 5-1 in favour of Public Forum towards the end of the agenda, as it was felt this would reduce subject repetition. **Decision:** Public Forum to be towards the end of the agenda.

3. **Enforcement:** A letter was sent to HBC in respect of a potentially illegally built property, but no follow up recorded. Current Clerk unaware of situation. **Action:** Cllr Patrick to provide full information to Clerk so she can follow up.

18. Public Forum:

1. **Public Forum Placement:** All residents present at this point of the meeting agreed with the decision to keep public forum at the end of the meetings.
2. **Village Maintenance:** Confirmed that all trees on Parish land were being checked and given crown lifting where needed.
3. **Gate to The Batts:** Ongoing, as requested details of suitable replacements not provided. **Action:** Cllr Timothy to search for suitable options to present at a future meeting.
4. **Chippings Distribution:** It is not possible for contractors to move chippings due to accessibility issues. Previous discussions agreed not to allow volunteers to move them due to liability and insurance concerns.
5. **Traffic Calming:** Concerns that DPPC approach to HBC plans is not positive enough and that action should take place at greater speed. Decision in item 10 upheld.
6. **Environmental Concerns:** Concerns that rubbish is possibly being illegally burned on a village property as a commercial business. **Action:** Clerk to contact HBC and report for investigation.
7. **Sign Cleaning:** Appreciated ongoing work by Cllr Middleton to clean village street signs.
8. **Telephone Box:** Concerns that too many books have been haphazardly dumped. **Action:** Tidy up and remove excess books that won't fit on the shelves.
9. **Litter picking:** Residents have been litter picking to tidy up the village, and would like to continue, doing more. Cllr Savage has concerns that allowing this may open DPPC to complaints from other residents. **Decision:** Litter picking can continue as long as it sticks to litter *only*, not weeds or other detritus.
10. **Fly-tipping:** reports have been received by clerk.
11. **Website:** Email notification issue is now resolved, but only for News articles, not when other documents (e.g. minutes, agenda) are posted. **Action:** Clerk to issue a news article whenever minutes or agenda are posted in future so notifications are received.

19. Correspondence:

1. **Re-establishing The 'Batts Voluntary Group':** Request to re-establish this group received. It was decided at previous meetings that only DPPC approved contractors are allowed to undertake work in The Batts due to public liability and insurance concerns. Previous decision upheld. Volunteers are not allowed to undertake any work in The Batts.
2. **Testimonial Request:** Received from DPPC website provider. Unanimously agreed. **Action:** Cllr Ireland will write and send testimonial.
3. **Bunting:** Received advert to purchase VE Day 80 bunting and flags. **Decision:** Unanimously rejected. **Action:** Cllrs to decide whether to hold commemorative event in May.

20. Planning Applications:

H/2024/0359 (Erection of pitched roof, The Old Mill, Hartlepool) – No Comment

H/2024/0180 (Solar Farm at High Barns, Elwick); – No Comment.

H/2024/0210 Land between Leamount and Manor Farm, Dalton Piercy 'Approved' at Planning C'mttee.

21. Date of Next Meeting:

7:00pm, Thursday 13th March 2025, Elwick WI Hall, TS27 3EF