

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Victory Hall on Tuesday 7th May 2019 at 7pm.

PRESENT

Ann Byers (Parish Council Chairman in the Chair), Cllr Allison (Cumbria County Council & Carlisle City Council), Cllr Collier (Carlisle City Council) & Cllr Mckerrell (Carlisle City Council). 25 parishioners including Parish Council members, the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer were also present.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Utting. Helen Banks.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1st May 2018 were approved and signed by Cllr Byers as a true record.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting.

Some of the changes this year include welcoming Paul Robson a new Councillor, whilst losing a City Councillor Nigel Christian but gaining Councillor John Collier last Thursday.

The police visits have changed to only a few a year. These have been in a caravan on the Glave Hill car park. It is still a private place to meet whilst being more prominent than in Church House.

This year the Parish Council provided a new notice board in Dalston and replaced the one at Buckabank. In the cemetery we have replaced an area of the path which was cracked and causing problems for the vicar and funeral directors at burials. A bollard in the Kingsway car park was knocked down and has been replaced and the damaged surface on the car park has been renewed. The meeting room at Forge Green has been decorated, and more seating has been provided. Future works to the roof and the windows have been budgeted for.

However some things have not changed like the road condition outside the church. Parishioners, both in and outside of the parish have rightly complained about this. The clerk has written to the council many times with everyone's concerns. We have eventually been promised for the road to be repaired this month.

Litter is a continual problem and we thank our litter pickers who do a great job to try and keep the parish clean and tidy.

As you might have noticed the wood on the kissing gate at Bridge End has been sawn through by youngsters who want to get through on their bicycles!

The cemetery was digitalised for us by Atlantic Geomatics in 2015. Margaret has been getting the digitalised version up to date and sorting out quite a few glitches. A meeting was held with Atlantic Geomatics about our concerns and we are waiting for them all to be fixed.

Storm Desmond in December 2015 caused a significant subsidence and landslip adjacent to the road between Gaitsgill and Stockdalewath. The road was closed causing a major inconvenience for residents in the area. It was reopened on Monday 15th April following the completion of substantial engineering works by Cumbria County Council costing more than £320,000. Thanks to Story Construction for the great work on the new road.

Storm Ali in September 2018 brought problems to Dalston. The damage was widespread, and caused damage to the iconic chestnut tree in the centre of the village. The Chestnut trees foliage had not been so prolific in the last two years and unfortunately after inspection had to be felled due to disease.

The day after the storm was spent clearing roads and paths. The heavy rain caused floods on the Green. There was a flood meeting in March with a Councilor, a City Councilor, Peter Allan Flood Development Manager and Helen Renyard Drainage Manager, both from the Cumbria County Council along with two of The Green landowners. The current drainage system is unable to cope when there is heavy rainfall. Cumbria County Council agreed to carry out a full drainage assessment on the area. A possible solution to the problem could be to concentrate on collecting the runoff water at the new access to the horse trial field. Cumbria County Council could then put a culvert across the main road to the river Caldew. This would free up the capacity on the existing 9" road drain. We are waiting for the Council report.

The Victory Hall is busy with their refurbishments. As part of the renovation, they offered the Glave Hill car park to the Parish Council for £50,000 to be kept as a public free car park in perpetuity. There were three objections to the proposal but many more parishioners were in favour. Plans are now in process to complete the transaction. There will be an improved kitchen, toilet and storage facilities in the hall which will benefit the community.

Parking has caused pot holes and muddy areas along The Green. After a few meetings the highways department very kindly agreed to lay grasscrete along a large stretch of The Green. This will enable better parking for both The Victory Hall and the Methodist Church when they have a lot of people attending events.

We have had many meetings with Riverside about Barras House since its closure. They have eventually started altering the building into 2 flats and 7 houses. It is hoped to be finished by November with the first residents in October. The first choice of residents will be those who were rehoused. The July/August Dalston Parish paper will have an article informing local people of how to apply to live in Barras House. They are aware of the parking issues in the area and hope to alleviate this as much as possible.

Dalston won many trophies in another highly successful year at the Cumbria in Bloom Award Ceremony in Ulverston last year. 2018 was the third year that Dalston had been entered by Cumbria in Bloom in the RHS Britain in Bloom national awards. The Award Ceremony was in Belfast where we were delighted to receive a gold medal for the second year running. This award is a reward for all the hard work carried out by Dalston volunteers throughout the 2018 season as well as the wonderful planting by Mike Capstick and his team.

Dalston in Bloom has been strongly supported by the Parish Council, many friends, sponsors and businesses and our grateful thanks are due to them all. The judges were particularly complimentary about our Dalston Bowling Club, Forge Green Gardens, The Forge Mill area, new Co-op border, public toilets, the Dalston Medical Centre, Orchard Way on the Grange and the church flower beds. Well done and thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to Dalston's success. I would like to add a big thank you to Ronnie for his enthusiasm hard work for these events.

The festival committee have been busy throughout the year organising events for everyone to enjoy. These include festival week, events for Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas market which have all been really successful. The 11th of November 2018 was a particularly poignant day and was marked with great respect. There will be a festival again this year with some different events. The festival week last year was one of its most successful yet with the village seeing countless locals and visitors out and about every day. Thank you for all your hard worthwhile work.

We are in the process of setting up a new website dedicated to Dalston Parish Council and hope to have it up and running in a few months but we will keep you posted with any new details.

The precept has risen again this year. The increase equates to 11p per week for a Band D property in this Parish. There is an increasing amount of work asked of the Parish Council with less help in the form of grants and also increasing prices. We want to keep Dalston in the way we are used to seeing it as well as making improvements where we can. To enable us to achieve this it was necessary to put up the precept.

Once again the Dalston Parish Council is pleased to have allocated grants of financial support to local voluntary groups and organisations. These were administered by the Dalston Parish Charitable Trust, so my thanks go to the trust for organising the grants.

Thanks were given to the many volunteers in the parish who do a great job in many different aspects of the running of the parish. There are too many to mention individually but we are truly grateful for all their work. Also Ronnie was thanked as vice chairman as he is frequently contacted for help and advice and not forgetting our two very capable hardworking clerks; and yourselves, the parishioners.

3. QUESTIONS ON THE CHAIRMANS REPORT

There were no questions.

4. STATEMENT OF THE PARISH COUNCILS ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2019

When the budget was originally set back in November 2017 for the year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 it showed a small surplus of £356. However we are pleased to report the overall result for the year was an excess of income over expenditure of £6,383.

A summary of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019 which are broken down into the different areas for which the Parish Council are responsible was available to see.

The General Parish Fund shows an excess of expenditure over income of £1,659. Unfortunately grants to help with the cost of General Parish work are very difficult to obtain. We have replaced the Parish noticeboard in the Square with a larger one and renewed grass grids on the Kingsway Car Park. Steps are underway to create a new Parish Council Website and traffic surveys were undertaken to monitor the volume of traffic in the Parish. Work will soon begin to renew the tarmac around the Building Society.

The Cemetery showed the biggest change from the budget generating an excess of income over expenditure of £3,311. Cemetery expenditure has usually been greater than the income in recent years. 5 burials and 4 cremated remains interments together with 4 grave spaces and 3 cremated remains plots being reserved generated more income than anticipated. A path was repaired in the cemetery and a further path is due to be repaired this month.

Following the refurbishment of 2 Forge Green during 2017 both properties at Forge Green were available to let all year. There were no major expenses incurred on the property which resulted in a welcome excess of income over expenditure of £4,731. The roof however does need replaced and this is planned for Spring 2020.

As a result of generous donations from businesses and parishioners Dalston and Britain in Bloom generated an excess of income of £777. This is added to the funds carried forward to help with plants and new and ongoing projects in 2019.

The Parish Council continue to monitor expenditure to maintain and improve the Parish for those who live, work and visit here.

5. DALSTON CHARITABLE TRUST UPDATE – Cllr KYLE

The accounts for the year to the 31st March 2019 were discussed and available for parishioners to see. They show that the Charitable trust have a Building Society balance of £14,006.

The awards to organisations this year were given to Dalston Festival Committee, Dalston Tennis Club, St Michaels Pre-School Nursery and Dalston Recreation Committee. The total number of awards granted was £5,500.

The Trust looks forward to continuing to receive applications for financial assistance from organisations and individuals in the Parish. The Trust will also be pleased to receive donations, legacies and proceeds of collections however big or small.

Thanks were given to the volunteers who write the weekly Dalston column in the Cumberland News as they donate all of the proceeds to the Trust.

6. DALSTON FESTIVAL 2019 UPDATE – Cllr DINNING

This year the festival is to take place between the 3rd August – 12th August and will follow a slightly different format to previous years. To open the festival a barbeque, bar, stalls and entertainment will be on the Kingsway. Various activities including Gala Day, Cricket / Darts, Taekwondo, Open Gardens, Champagne and Strawberries and much, much more will take place during the week finishing with the prize giving presentation in The Square on Friday 9th August.

7. DALSTON IN BLOOM REPORT – Cllr AULD

2018 saw Dalston receive their second Gold award an exceptional achievement which could only be accomplished by the hard work and dedication of a number of volunteers within the Parish. Cllr Auld informed those present at the meeting that both he and his wife are taking a step back this year and Cllr Byers will now be organising the meetings and work schedules for the competition.

It was noted that the Parish Council are pushing to get new village entrance signs acknowledging our Britain In Bloom achievements.

Dalston In Bloom would greatly appreciate any donations both from friends of Dalston In Bloom and local businesses. It was noted that Nestle had not made any contribution last year.

A parishioner requested that Glebe Close and Nook Lane are included in the judging route.

The judging will take place sometime in the first two weeks in July.

8. OPEN QUESTIONS

A parishioner requested two bus shelters to be placed in the Square and one at Glebe Close. This is to be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on the 14th May.

Thanks were given to the parishioners for attending the meeting and to Dalston WI for providing the refreshments.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm