

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Victory Hall, Dalston on Tuesday 26th March 1996 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mrs C M Oakley (Chairman, Parish Council) in the Chair, Mr K West (Carlisle City Council Bereavement Services Manager), Mr G Noonan (Water Services Manager, National Rivers Authority) and forty five members of the Public and Parish Councillors.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs D C Cowen, A R Auld and B H Telfer and Mrs L J Cowen.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th March 1995 were agreed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

- 1 A larger newspaper recycling bank was agreed to but with the introduction of doorstep collections the City Council decided not to proceed with the replacement container.
- 2 Resurfacing of St Michael's Church footpath is still not complete as the Council was unhappy with the patch repair carried out, since when the contractor and Mr Cowen have been unable to liaise regarding further repairs. Half the payment for the contract has been withheld.
- 3 The Council voted against granting access across land from the Kingsway to the proposed housing development on the former coalyard and adjacent land. The application has now been withdrawn.
- 4 The railway footpath was cleared during the summer for the cost of £562.82 and will be maintained in the future.
- 5 Grant aided projects completed were the tarmac surface on the riverside footpath in the Cemetery (£1000 grant), the hardstanding area opposite Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill (£2000 grant) and the landscaping work in Glave Hill car park. Dalston Agricultural Society had contributed £100 to the car park improvements together with £100 from Recycling funds and £250 from Carlisle City Council CPCA grant.
- 6 The National Rivers Authority had carried out repairs to the damaged river banks and their assistance with this was much appreciated.
- 7 The river was restocked with 100 trout but because of low water levels some gooseanders were provided with breakfast.
- 8 Vandalism to Parish and other property has continued to be a problem and the Police have again been asked to assist. Damage has occurred to seats and litter bins, smashed windows, fires in the public toilets, graffiti and continual litter in public places.
- 9 Ownership of the collapsed wall adjacent to the access lane to the Cemetery could not be proved so the Council compromised with replacing it with fencing, securing the ends and storing the stone.
- 10 The planning application to the rear of Low Moorlands was agreed for 59 dwellings, some of which are built and occupied. The Parish Council was consulted regarding numbers and style of houses and other planning details.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Continuing on from Matters Arising Mrs Oakley reported on new items.

- 1 The VE Day celebrations in May and the publication of 'A Parish Remembers' were community efforts both supported by the Parish Council in the form of loans which have since been repaid. The book will be a lasting record and a valuable resource for the future. As a permanent memorial the VE Day Committee is contributing £200 towards the purchase of a new flagpole which will be installed in the Churchyard in the same position as the previous one.
- 2 Following expenditure on a new drainage system last year, further work has been carried out to the external repair and redecoration of the Forge Green property. Consideration is being given to central heating installation as part of keeping up to date with property maintenance.
- 3 Correspondence took place with Mr Lawley, Cumbria Highways regarding the traffic calming scheme for the Square area after the 1995 Annual Parish Meeting. In October Messrs Clubbs and Terry attended a Parish Council meeting and as the result of discussions produced a revised draft plan for submission for funding from the environmental improvement budget. The £14,000 bid was unsuccessful but a further application has been made for funding under footway improvements criteria. The Parish Council have agreed to contribute 10% of the cost.
- 4 The Parish Council have been consulted about planning applications throughout the year. The application for a residential home by Community Integrated Care Ltd caused a considerable amount of anxiety, but it was ultimately withdrawn as another developer's application was accepted for the same site. The recent application from Crowther Homes for 32 dwellings on Nook Lane gave rise to consternation and objections from many residents. The Council appreciated the trouble taken by members of the public and their views were taken into consideration when the submission was compiled for the Planners.
- 5 Although not an ideal solution, the Parish Council were disappointed that the proposed Southern Bypass was dropped. Amongst other highway problems addressed were the corner at Buckabank, a possible weight restriction for the Bridge End/Durdar Road and the proposed closure of the Lingey Close Road junction with the A595 and the implications for the immediate residents.
- 6 Following damage to the Cemetery seats, four replacement metal ones were purchased. The insurance claim of £444, a CPCA grant of £620 went towards the £1552 cost plus a further £261 for installation together with a litter bin repair.
- 7 The ownership of Lakerigg Common was claimed by a man from Dumfries who commenced erecting a fence. The consultation process and checking of Registers is both time consuming and costly but the matter is being pursued by the Council.
- 8 After seeking advice from the Forestry Authority, Mr Kerr, East Cumbria Countryside Project Woodland Officer and Mr Nightingale, Carlisle City Countryside Officer some woodland management work was authorised in Forge Green wood and along the West bank of the river as part of a five year program grant aided by the Forestry Authority (£875). Overhanging willows causing river bank erosion were cut down for £370 and selective thinning work to favour the best stems cost £510. The BTCV heaped the resultant brash into habitat stacks. The Parish Council were aware of disquiet expressed by a number of Parishioners about this work, but they followed professional advice offered and endeavoured to reach a compromise. Opinions were equally divided regarding maintenance of roadside verges, hedges, dykes and the Cemetery.

- 9 Applications were made for grant assistance from Carlisle City Council through the CPCA for further grasscrete installation along the Green, an area of hardstanding by the post box at Cumdivock and for removal of some of the kerbing in the Cemetery to assist maintenance. £500 has been awarded towards the kerbing work and further applications after unsuccessful initial bids have been made for the other projects to Cumbria County Council Neighbourhood Services.
- 10 Negotiations are taking place with the Catholic Church regarding the future of Glave Hill car park. Interim repairs to the surface have been carried out.
- 11 Messrs Andrews, Buchanan and Sinclair were thanked for the preparation time spent as a Committee and appearance at the Public Inquiry on the Parish Council's behalf regarding the Carlisle District Local Plan. Increase in traffic through the Parish generated by the proposed large residential, retail and warehousing development in SW Morton was amongst the main concerns. Mrs Auld was awarded an honorarium for the extra work generated by the local inquiry.

Mrs Oakley thanked the Clerk for all her hard work and also expressed gratitude to the Parish Council members for their efforts throughout the year.

PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31/03/95

A precis of the accounts was presented to the meeting.

OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 1995/96

Mrs Oakley had covered some points in her report. The Burial Ground Grant received was £5337 and would be reduced to £4814 for 1996/97 based on less expenditure and burial requirements during the current year. Items of expenditure included Cemetery access wall repair £549, the Lamp seat repair £380, Glave Hill car park landscaping £1040, hardstanding area at Gaitsgill £4629, Forge Green outside repairs and painting £1955 and Cemetery path tarmac £2820. Local grants had been awarded to Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill, Dalston and Gaitsgill Playgroups, Dalston and Raughton Head PCCs, Dalston WI and Mr Thomson for small sized bowls for youth coaching.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR K WEST, CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES MANAGER

Mr West illustrated the services provided by Carlisle City Council Bereavement Services with the use of slides. He described the cremation procedure and outlined the three types of grave for burial; a lawn grave, a traditional grave and a woodland grave. Woodland burial is less expensive with the accumulating graves creating a wildlife conservation area by forming an oak forest and ultimately a red squirrel reserve. Islands of Scots Pine are being planted, 2 oak trees are planted per grave (1 removed after 10 years) and 200 bluebell bulbs together with primroses etc., a numbered aluminium plaque marks each grave, bio-degradable coffins or woollen shrouds are used, the body is not embalmed and the type of funeral is less formal. Cremated remains graves are also available as well as environmental options for cremation and re-cycled grave spaces.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR G NOONAN, WATER SERVICES MANAGER NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

Mr Noonan highlighted with slides, aspects of the National Rivers Authority work relating to flood defence, water environmental quality and pollution control, fisheries, recreation and conservation, control of water resources and planning matters. Help can be given with work on water courses to groups not individuals and consideration is given to economic and

aesthetic criteria for flood alleviation schemes. Flood warning schemes involve the use of gauging stations, rain gauges, weather radar and tidal gauges. Prosecution for pollution is measured in relation to employment effects. Chemical and biological river samples are taken to monitor pollution levels. Fisheries management is carried out, fish stock surveys are done and help with re-stocking is given. Planning consent is given after assessing the impact on water quality. River corridor conservation is undertaken. Water flows are measured and all abstractions require a license. 30 gallons of water is required by each person per day. From April 1st the National Rivers Authority, the County Waste Regulations Unit and HM Inspectorate of Pollution will be joined to form a new Environment Agency.

Both speakers were thanked by Mrs Oakley for their interesting talks.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1 Mrs Nichol asked if further action could be taken to deter vandalism and intimidation of the elderly by a group of youths who frequently roamed the village. She reported the fishing notice missing and some broken spars on the White Bridge.
- 2 Mr Dickson inquired whether there was any possibility of funding for replacement of the White Bridge through the millennium fund - considered unlikely.
- 3 Mr Turner raised the question of whether further woodland management would be required in Forge Green wood during the five year grant period and was assured that it would not be necessary.
- 4 Better control of parking was requested for the Square area.
- 5 A footway up Buckabank was suggested.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Victory Hall, Dalston on Tuesday 25th March 1997 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mr J Kelsey (Chairman, Parish Council) in the Chair, Mr S Fraser (Headmaster, St Michael's School), Mr B Telfer (District Councillor) and fifty members of the Public and Parish Councillors.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A R Auld and Mrs J Turnbull.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th March 1996 were agreed and signed.

Mr Kelsey introduced himself as Chairman and Mr Buchanan as Vice-Chairman of Dalston Parish Council, both having been elected in May 1996. Since taking office he had enjoyed the support of a hard working, willing and knowledgeable Council and expressed especial thanks to the Clerk. Mr Kelsey also thanked Mrs Cathy Oakley for eight years of able, conscientious and diplomatic chairmanship.

MATTERS ARISING

- 1 The recycling centre continued to be well used and facilities for paper collection were available in the absence of a doorstep service.
- 2 The cleared railway footpath was now frequently used and would be maintained under the groundworks contract.
- 3 The flagpole had been erected and the union flag flown during Dalston 800 celebrations and the Remembrance period.
- 4 A central heating system was installed into the Forge Green property during the summer. Rents had been raised to eventually cover the expenditure.
- 5 Grant assistance had been obtained from Cumbria Neighbourhood Services towards further grasscrete along the Green (£1500) and an area of hardstanding by Cumdivock post box (£600). A Carlisle Parish Councils Association £500 grant from Carlisle City Council had been put towards the removal of kerbstones from the Cemetery and further monies were being made available for a continuation of this work in the next financial year.
- 6 Interest in the Carlisle District Local Plan continued particularly regarding the impact of the South West Morton development on Dalston. The Parish Council was concerned about the effect of increases in heavy goods traffic on the village and surrounding roads associated with the projected superstore and retail warehousing and were therefore relieved that the development was to be restricted to housing and local facilities.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Continuing on from Matters Arising Mr Kelsey reported on new items.

- 1 Considerable time had been spent by the Council on the Nook Lane housing development with objections centred particularly on dwelling numbers and type with resultant problems of assimilation, shortage of education facilities and traffic impact. Extra consultation had taken place with representatives of Carlisle Planning Committee. Housing numbers remained in the Carlisle District Local Plan (Draft) at 50 (Barras Lane) and 20 (Nook Lane) but planning consent had been given for 59 and 31 respectively. Concerns were expressed regarding necessary road improvements which were not agreed prior to the development plans being passed. A strip of Nook Lane Foot common land had been relinquished to widen the highway in the interests of safety and a wayleave agreement was being negotiated for the gas pipe which had been laid under the common without consent being obtained. Steps had been taken to try and safeguard the roadside hedge but the request for a footway link to Madam Banks, as compensation for losing some common land, had been rejected by the developers.
- 2 Efforts had been made to improve the Square and Cemetery areas. The graffiti had been removed from the Lych Gate at a cost of £387.75. The seat to the rear of the Church had been re-sited and extra litter bins and a Eurobin installed in the Cemetery. Dialogue with Caldew School had been entered into regarding the litter problem and abuse of the Cemetery area and a voluntary litter picker was being very effective and her work much appreciated. A larger bin was being installed near the School and by the Lych Gate in the Square. On April 26th a litter picking day is being organised by Councillors as a National Spring Clean Week activity.
- 3 Mr Gary Harrison had been co-opted onto the Council following the sudden death of Mr David Andrews in October. Mr Andrews had served as a Councillor for twenty three years and was Chairman from 1978 to 1982. He was an elder statesman of the Council, a fount of knowledge both procedurally and professionally and was greatly missed by fellow members.
- 4 The Parish Council continue to press for traffic calming measures but financial restraints prevent any progress. A shopmobility scooter trial was carried out in Dalston but lack of dropped kerbs and a crossing in the Square rendered the village too dangerous for consideration. Proposed increases in heavy goods vehicle sizes instigated dialogue with local road using businesses and discussion had taken place regarding traffic congestion outside the schools and the possibilities for off highway parking of buses. Both Nestle and BP had indicated their willingness to financially assist any scheme to alleviate the problems and were aware of their responsibilities as major road users especially with regard to safety aspects.
- 5 Glave Hill car park was well used and negotiations were taking place with the Catholic Church regarding the tenure of the land. They were unwilling to sell the land at present but proposed leasing costs were not viable.
- 6 The Caldew channel and immediate banks have become part of a rivers SSSI site on the grounds of water quality, plant and bird life, otter population, native crayfish, lampreys etc.. The increasingly unsightly White Bridge deck will probably be replaced late in 1997, early 1998 financial years by Cumbria Highways. The Parish Council had been consulted and had agreed to the status of the highway over the bridge being changed to a bridleway.
- 7 Community spirit in the Parish was thriving with a successful year being rewarded by wins in the Cumbria in Bloom large village section, Spring Floral Display competition and a certificate of commendation for the Dalston 800 entry in the Cumbria Village of the Year award. Mr Kelsey expressed thanks to all those involved.

- 8 Discussion had taken place regarding an area of land near Ivegill known as Lintongill. The Parish Council would appear to have best claim to ownership but following legal consultation have resolved they are unable to sell the land to an interested resident at Lintongill without further confirmation of this.
- 9 Carlisle City Council have installed extra street signs but Cumbria Highways have not scheduled replacement or repairs to any road signs at present.
- 10 The safe cupboard had been opened after a number of years and some interesting documents and books had been found inside.

PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31/03/96

A precis of the accounts was presented to the meeting.

OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 1996/97

Mr Kelsey reported that the precept had remained at £15,000. Various projects were not yet completed and some receipts and expenditure were currently outstanding. Grant aid had been given to local organisations including the Victory Hall, Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill, Raughton Head PTA, Dalston and Cumdivock WIs, Dalston and Raughton Head PCCs and Barras House.

MILLENNIUM PROJECTS/CELEBRATIONS

Ideas were welcome from all parishioners of any millennium projects/celebrations for consideration by the Parish Council.

RAUGHTON HEAD SCHOOL REPORT

The Clerk read out the report sent by Mr Holliday. Raughton Head School currently had 2 full time teachers and 28 pupils. The school got an excellent report following the Government Ofsted Inspection in June and the praise reflected the time and hard work put in by teachers, staff and governors. An indoor toilet block and new car park had been completed during the year. The active PTA were raising funds for a new play area and wildlife garden.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR S FRASER, HEADMASTER ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

Mr Stephen Fraser, Headmaster of St Michael's School, Dalston spoke about the numbers of governors, staff and pupils in the school, management aspects and the curriculum. There were 12 governors, 7 full time teachers plus part time staff. The governors formed sub-committees covering finance, staffing, curriculum and buildings and managed a £300,000 annual budget. Containing class sizes to 30 infants and 32 junior pupils with 222 children in the school led to problems with admissions. Some children were not able to attend who lived in the village and 40% current pupils were from outside the village. He emphasised the importance of computers, the value of learning a foreign language, sporting competition and the development of community links. The school had done well in the league table results but Mr Fraser emphasised that this was only one indicator of the academic standards achieved. Various ways of enhancing a community school image were raised, nursery vouchers were applicable for reception children, a 1/25-27 teacher/pupil ratio was considered ideal and the admissions policy was to give priority to Parishioners if possible.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR B TELFER, DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr Bryan Telfer, District Councillor advised those present of the District Council review being undertaken by the Boundary Commission. He stressed the need for an additional Councillor for the Dalston ward and the possible transfer of Cummersdale electors from Burgh by Sands to make up the required numbers. At present he was the busiest Councillor in the District and the rural area was short of at least one Councillor. As part of his work as District Councillor over 11 years, Mr Telfer had served on various committees and frequently got involved in planning difficulties. He had the opportunity to make observations on planning matters and he enlarged on the current planning problems for Dalston. He emphasised that planning officers had no interest in general legal and financial aspects of an application, only in planning law and that alternative facilities in an area were immaterial when decisions were taken on applications. Mr Telfer felt that the Local District Plan was only a guideline and he wished to see Parish Councils having more powers regarding planning matters to help alleviate some of the frustrations currently experienced.

Both speakers were thanked from the Chair.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further matters were raised.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Victory Hall, Dalston on Tuesday 31st March 1998 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mr J Kelsey (Chairman, Parish Council) in the Chair, Mr A Abernethy (Headmaster, Caldew School), Mr M Gardner (Carlisle City Council Environment Officer), Mr J Collier (County Councillor), Mr B Telfer (District Councillor) and fifty three members of the Public and Parish Councillors.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr E Martlew MP, Mr A R Auld and Miss M Chance.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th March 1997 were agreed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

- 1 No further action was to be taken regarding complaints in connection with the planning decisions on the Nook Lane development.
- 2 The expected replacement of the White Bridge deck had been deferred due to lack of financial resources in the County Council 1997/98 budget.
- 3 Mr Telfer reported that following the Boundary Commission recommendations there would be an additional District Councillor to the current two responsible for the Durdar, Cummersdale and Dalston area.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Kelsey indicated that he intended to alter the agenda and include 7,8 & 9 in his report followed by 5 & 6. He began his annual report by thanking his fellow Councillors for their contributions to the team effort with him as leader, particularly the retired members and the Clerk for being extremely conscientious and ensuring matters proceeded satisfactorily and in the correct manner. Thanks were also expressed to the ladies from Dalston Womens Institute for providing and serving refreshments.

- 1 On attending the Cumbria Village of the Year Awards ceremony the Chairman realised how fortunate Dalston was to have so many organisations carrying out community functions and thanked them all on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 2 In the interests of road safety and due to lack of Cumbria County Council funds being available for previously outlined schemes, the Parish Council was pursuing the installation of a crossing facility in the Square (a central refuge with two illuminated bollards and associated road markings) for approximately £3000.
- 3 Twice daily during term time congestion from buses and cars in the Caldew School area created a hazardous situation for pedestrians crossing the road, particularly children and for normal traffic flows. The school had looked at plans for off highway bus parking, an expensive option, and the Parish Council was pressing for action by Cumbria Highways towards some solution, possibly in the form of a crossing point.
- 4 A HGV traffic study was being carried out in the County including the origins, destinations and volume of vehicles through Dalston but it had been deferred from the original scheduled dates.
- 5 Despite Dalston contributing considerably in Council Tax payments, the return by way of traffic control and road safety measures was extremely difficult to procure.

However, Mr Collier, the newly elected County Councillor was thanked for his support, particularly for organising a petition and associated publicity for a crossing facility and highlighting the requirements generally and for instigating a Neighbourhood Forum for the Dalston area together with the availability of funding for local projects.

- 6 It was agreed with the owners, the Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees nearly thirty years ago that the Parish Council could utilise the land at Glave Hill for a car park. Over the years the Parish Council had maintained the ground surface and improved the facility with fencing, landscaping and planting. An offer of £10,000 made to purchase the site was rejected and no agreement was reached on a new tenancy (£3,000 per annum requested by the landlord, £1,000 offered). The Parish Council applied to the County Court for a tenancy, but withdrew because of the binding nature of a court ruling on the level of rent even if in excess of the figure considered affordable from the precept. The car park had to be vacated and Carlisle City Council recycling centre re-sited with future consequences under consideration.
- 7 Vandalism continued to affect public areas and property. Dialogue with the Police and School had taken place and three meetings per annum are to be held for Parish Council/Caldew School representatives to discuss matters of importance affecting the community and environment. The Chairman stressed the responsibilities of parents in relation to their children's activities.
- 8 Further coppice work and cutting back was requested in Forge Green Wood after inspection under the Woodland Management Agreement with the Forestry Authority, but this would not be carried out until near the end of the five year period. Some repair work to steps, handrails and paths in the wood were under consideration in conjunction with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, with possible funding being available through the Carlisle and Eden Environment Trust but no firm decision had been made on this matter.
- 9 Additional removal of Cemetery kerbstones had been carried out, the work being grant aided (£500) by Carlisle City Council through the Carlisle Parish Councils Association.. A footway had been installed to the public conveniences, further grasscrete on the Green verge and an area of hardstanding by the post box at Cumdivock. Future capital projects agreed included the provision of a surfaced footway up Buckabank and from Deepdale to Bridge End Inn together with a crossing in the Square.
- 10 Dalston won the large village award in the Cumbria in Bloom competition and a certificate of merit for 6th place in the Tidy Village competition. Thanks were expressed to the voluntary litter picker. Support for the National Spring Clean effort organised by Caldew School during April was requested.
- 11 A meeting to discuss the co-ordination of Dalston Millennium celebrations and to form a committee had been convened on May 11th in the Victory Hall at 7.30pm to which all interested parties were invited.
- 12 Other items of interest were:-
 - a) The production of a village postcard by Mr Hodgson for sale locally.
 - b) New tenants for 2 Forge Green.
 - c) The removal of the C leylandii hedge in the Cemetery and work on trees in the Churchyard.
 - d) Pursuit with Railtrack for improvements to the railway access road surface.
 - e) The erection of a new notice board on Cardewlees Common.
 - f) The consideration of approximately 50 planing applications.
- 13 Parish Council elections would be held on May 7th 1998.

PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31/03/97

The Parish Council income and expenditure and balance sheet were presented to the meeting.

OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 1997/98

Local grants had been awarded to St Michael's School, Gaitsgill Play Group, Unthank pond restoration project, Dalston WI, Victory Hall, Recreation Association, Primrose Hall, St Michael's and Raughton Head PCCs, St John's Church, Cumdivock. The precept had remained at £15,000 for three years, being £15.31 for a D band dwelling. With more houses being built this would be reduced for 1998/99. There would be excess income over expenditure to carry forward because of the lack of anticipated expenditure on the car park. This would be spent on the agreed capital projects in the next financial year.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL REPORT

Mrs Cowen reported that the school was full. Because of parental appeals some classes were above the preferred numbers (30 Infants, 32 Juniors) but were being phased out. The Local Education Authority's admissions policy did not guarantee a place for a child moving into the area but, though unfortunate in some cases, it prevented problems with accommodation and resources. New play equipment had been provided on the school play ground paid for by grants including a contribution from the Parish Council towards the cost of insurance for community access. The school buildings and grounds were in good repair. Normally there was an excellent staff attendance record, but two members had recently been on long term sick leave. Replacement supply staff had been good and together with other staff members had gone through the Ofsted inspection in March. The report had yet to be published. Budget figures indicated that staffing levels could be maintained for the coming year.

RAUGHTON HEAD SCHOOL REPORT

The Clerk read out the report sent by Mr Holliday. The school currently had 35 pupils, two full time teachers, a part time non-teaching assistant to cover increasing numbers in the infants class and two part time staff for the After-School Club. A large play area had been constructed by a local joiner and parental support and had been funded largely from a Promise Auction organised by the PTA and donations. A National Road Safety Poster competition had been won by a pupil and the school had been awarded £3,000 as a result of this success to be spent on security. Raughton Head School was grateful for the help and support of parents and the local community.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR A ABERNETHY, HEADMASTER CALDEW SCHOOL

Mr Abernethy spoke about the school/community relationship and the possibilities of developing and utilising the fabric and human resource of the school in partnership with the community. He hoped that the school would bring prestige to the community leading to pride in it being in Dalston. The two main problem areas of litter/vandalism and traffic were being addressed. The Schools Curriculum Award organised by the Society of Education Officers celebrated schools with close community links. In order to endorse this bond with the wider community, Mr Abernethy felt that public access to school facilities was important and joint projects utilising the experience of the community, possibly of an environmental nature should be encouraged. Application was being made for funding towards improvements to the performance space and social side of the sports facilities in school. Questions were raised regarding sixth formers car parking arrangements, children being in the village during school hours, the need to constantly remind pupils regarding litter and language and the school opening and closing times in relation to proposed parking restrictions.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR M GARDNER, ENVIRONMENT OFFICER CARLISLE CC

Mr Gardner talked about the concept of a sustainable development plan as part of Local Agenda 21 to protect and promote a healthy environment in order to provide a good quality of life for future generations. Waste disposal was part of this concept and Carlisle City Council currently recycled 14-15% (25% target) which was above the national average. In the Dalston recycling centre 33 tonnes of glass(100,000 bottles), 3.5 tonnes of cans and 53 tonnes of newspapers were collected during the year. The textile bank contents were sold to charities or recycled for dusters or mattress stuffing. A kerbside newspaper collection was being re-started. It was not very environmentally advantageous or economically viable to recycle plastics. A third of domestic refuse was garden waste and a considerable percentage of this was being made into Carlisle CC Second Nature compost. Currently used landfill sites were controlled to avoid pollution. The main environmental problems were with manufacturing pollution. Incineration was environmentally friendly but not necessarily practical to carry out. The challenge was to broaden our horizons and incorporate environmental issues into the theme for the new Millennium.

Both speakers were thanked from the Chair.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The car park issue was raised as the most important current problem and that the possibility of further negotiation should be explored.

Further work on the Churchyard trees was requested

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Victory Hall, Dalston on Tuesday 30th March 1999 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mr J Kelsey (Chairman, Parish Council) in the Chair, Rev. N Ash (Priest in Charge), Mr R Howard (Cumbria County Council), Mr B Telfer (District Councillor) and forty one members of the Public and Parish Councillors.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Messrs E Martlew MP, J Chapman, A R Auld, Mesdames L-J Cowen, P Dalton, C Oakley, Mr and Mrs Marsden.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 31st March 1998 were agreed and signed.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

John Kelsey, Chairman thanked the Clerk, Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors and the committee members of local organisations for their work for the community and input into Parish life. The Clerk was remunerated according to the recommended scale, for ten hours per week on general Parish Council work and two hours work connected with the Burial Committee. Retiring Councillors were Messrs J Ebbatson, G Graham, I Turnbull and Mrs E Craig. New Councillors, following the elections in May were Mesdames P Dalton and J Rawstron and Messrs I Armstrong and G Denwood. Since the elections Mr R Diver had resigned from the Council and Mr P Walsh had been co-opted on. Mr Kelsey also thanked Dalston Women's Institute for providing the refreshments after the meeting.

The Parish Council had fulfilled its duties and undertaken various activities under the powers available to it. Income received by way of the precept, grants, fees, rents etc. had been spent on maintenance of open spaces, grants to local organisations, the Cemetery, Forge Green property and general improvements in the Parish in addition to administration. The Council had commented on forty nine planning applications to date and there had been eighteen interments in the Cemetery during the year. Liaison with other Parish Councils through Cumbria Association of Local Councils and Carlisle Parish Councils Association had occurred, together with consultation by City and County Committees. Various members had attended some training sessions.

The main achievements during the year to be highlighted were:

- 1 Cumbria County Council had eventually found funds for the crossing in the Square and thanks were due to all those involved in bringing the scheme to fruition, particularly Councillor J Collier.
- 2 A footway had been installed at Bridge End and up to Buckabank. A recent, well attended Neighbourhood Forum meeting had been advised of the HGV study report and findings. The Parish Council was supporting the possible introduction of permits for local businesses, traffic calming measures in the schools areas and the building of the Northern Relief road as means of reducing traffic volume and congestion in Dalston.
- 3 The footpath through Forge Green Wood had been repaired using Rural Action funding and carried out by British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Shrubs and trees had been pruned back and dead wood removed along the Kingsway.
- 4 Forge Green property had required remedial damp proof work with ensuing refurbishment work being undertaken. This work, together with outside pointing, was to be grant aided through Carlisle Parish Councils Association.
- 5 The C. leylandii hedge at the North end of the Cemetery had been removed and a service path installed. Kerbstones removed from between graves are to be reinstated along path edges, also grant aided by CPCA. An information leaflet had been produced about the Cemetery and burial matters.

- 6 Dalston were runners-up in the Cumbria in Bloom competition and received a certificate of merit in the Tidy Village awards. Thanks were expressed to the voluntary litter picker.

On the downside, the loss of the Police House in the village was considered to be detrimental, despite written reassurances that policing in the Parish would remain unchanged. Correspondence had been exchanged with the Home Secretary and Transport Minister regarding the ensuing problems.

WHITE GIRDER BRIDGE

The White Girder bridge deck is to be replaced with a bridleway bridge in 1999 by Cumbria County Council. A commemorative plaque will be provided by the Parish Council and incorporated in one of the sandstone approach walls.

CAR PARK

Dalston Victory Hall Trustees are purchasing the land at Glave Hill as a car park for hall users and the public and this is due to reopen in the near future. If the Parish Council had continued with its attempts to buy the site, a lengthy process would have been involved, so it is grateful to the Trustees for purchasing the land instead. The Parish Council proposes to fund the resurfacing of the site. Carlisle City Council through the CPCA has also given a grant of £865 towards the project.

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS/PROJECTS

A Parish Council Millennium Committee has been formed. Following the questionnaire response, projects being pursued include a fireworks display, commemorative mugs (including a design competition), a woodland planting scheme, a 'Lamp' emblem and emblems/items for Raughton Head, Stockdalewath and Gaitsgill, and a wildlife survey of Forge Green Wood and the River Caldew area in conjunction with the schools. Any practical help or suggestions would be appreciated. Projects will be paid for under Section 137 and other Parish Council powers, hopefully with additional funding from grants and sponsorship.

PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31/03/98

The Parish Council income and expenditure and balance sheet were presented to the meeting. The figures showed a net profit for the year of £8,869.13. Spending during the financial year 1997/98 was cautious, due to anticipated high expenditure on the car park and crossing. Cumbria County Council ultimately funded the crossing.

OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 1998/99

Although not finalised, the income for 1998/99 should be similar to the previous year. Expenditure however has increased due to the cost of Forge Green repairs and the Buckabank and Bridge End footway capital schemes. There was an anticipated deficit balance of approximately £3,000. The balance carried forward would remain quite high, so the precept was held at £15,000 for a further year. With additional houses in the village, this would mean a reduction in the rate charged per household. Grants for 1999/2000 have been allocated from Carlisle City Council through CPCA of £1,200, £865 and £300 towards the cost of re-pointing Forge Green, the Glave Hill car park and Cemetery kerbstone work respectively. With increased expenditure on the Cemetery kerbstone work, the re-surfacing of the car park and Millennium projects, the deficit for 1999/2000 is expected to be in the region of £10,000.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL REPORT

Mr S Fraser, Headmaster reported on an interesting year, with good literacy and numeracy results following the Ofsted inspection. There were two new initiatives, one involving European Unity money and the other, Government funding. The first scheme was community re-training in computer use, with staff involved in evening training and availability of hardware for children during the day. The second initiative was a national grid for learning connected to the internet. There were two new School Governors; Mrs Lister and Mrs Telfer. Miss Georgina Harland was the temporary teacher

while Mrs Craig was on maternity leave. The financial budget remained a juggling act. A few places were available, with only 20 pupils in the reception class.

RAUGHTON HEAD SCHOOL REPORT

The Clerk read out the report sent by Mr Chapman. It had been a busy and hardworking year for both pupils and staff, with continuing high standards following the successful Ofsted inspection. The literacy hour had been introduced with the financial backing of the PTA and Governors fund. The school currently had 37 pupils taught by two members of staff. The teaching staff was well supported by an active PTA, which raised £750 at a race night and sold 120 tickets for a hundred club raffle. Some of this money is to be used to assist in the introduction of the numeracy hour. It is hoped to remove the old toilet block to facilitate funding for building expansion with either a classroom extension or new hall.

GUEST SPEAKER: REV N ASH, PRIEST IN CHARGE, ST MICHAEL'S, DALSTON, ST JOHN'S, CUMDIVOCK, ALL SAINTS', RAUGHTON HEAD

Rev Ash spoke about the church and the community being interwoven and his experience of this over eleven years in Guildford, a fragmented community of 15,000 and Flookborough, a village of 1,500. His initial impression was that Dalston was the hub of a rural community and commuter residences. The community needed to work together for the common good through the church, a spiritual community in itself believing in the Christian faith and as the physical centre of the village. The Anglican Church was available to the community for certain rights such as baptism, marriage and funeral ceremonies. The community also used the building for activities, for example, the Male Voice and Ladies Choirs. In addition, the Parish Paper was an integral part of the community. The present pattern of clergy ministry was very different from the past, with church members having a larger role to play as the human face of the church and often being community workers. It was felt that the church and the community would continue to be inseparable and intended to work together with the planned Millennium celebrations in Dalston.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR R HOWARD, HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr Howard emphasised the need for joined up thinking, with linked initiatives covering training, tourism, inward support and investment and community based schemes. The economic strategy for the County was to improve the quality of life by reducing unemployment and creating a prosperous economy. The changing economy was based on partnerships between the County and City Councils working together and with other parties in the community. Joint ventures, such as in Raffles, attracted European and Government funding for regeneration. Mr Howard commented on the changing infrastructure of the County Council by moving to a cabinet government approach, with devolved decision making to area committees. Deliberative forums were being set up to listen to public opinion on potential policy strategy, for example, a forthcoming transport strategy forum. Because of these changes, Mr Howard's new title was Assistant Director of Partnership and Programs. Questions were asked about public transport, the Northern Development Route, the possibility of the Southern Bypass being revived and the development on Barras Lane in relation to additional traffic. Government funding was not available for new roads, therefore the Northern Relief Road was dependent on a private finance initiative. Mr Telfer felt that this development must be a top priority for both the County and City Councils, as the only hope of relieving traffic congestion in the area. Mr Howard assured those present that, apart from Barras Lane, Cumbria County Council would not be developing any more areas of Dalston for industrial use. Concern was expressed that industrial land was advertised as being available, but the poor infrastructure was not.

Both guest speakers were thanked from the Chair.

OPEN QUESTIONS

- 1 Mr Fontes requested that narrowing footpaths with soil encroachment should be attended to.
- 2 It was hoped that the re-opened car park would house the recycling centre again.
- 3 Mr Turnbull requested that cycling on pavements should be stopped.

- 4 Mrs Dickson felt that ponies being ridden on the Green were dangerous for walkers – to be discussed at next Parish Council meeting.
- 5 Parking irregularities continued to occur, particularly in the schools area and it was felt that policing could be better and more fixed penalty fines issued.
- 6 Reported that the Union Bridge was being used by HGVs despite being banned.
- 7 A faulty street light was reported on the Green,

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Victory Hall, Dalston on Tuesday 28th March 2000 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mr J Kelsey (Chairman, Parish Council) in the Chair, Inspector J Denwood (Cumbria Constabulary), Mr R Speirs, Mr M Gardner (Carlisle CC Environmental Services) and thirty seven members of the Public and Parish Councillors.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Rev. N Ash, Councillors J Robinson and L Crookdake, Messrs A R Auld, J Chapman, J Cheshire, E Martlew MP, Mesdames S Diver and M Marsden.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th March 1999 were agreed and signed.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Kelsey, Chairman thanked the Clerk for doing a marvellous job, fellow Parish Councillors and members of other organizations in the Parish for their input into making Dalston a very pleasant place to live. He also thanked the District (Messrs B Telfer, J Robinson and Mrs L Crookdake) and County (Mr J Collier) Councillors for their interest and assistance where possible and Dalston Women's Institute for providing refreshments following the meeting.

1999/2000 had been a better year than the previous one, although it had ended on a good note with the purchase and re-opening of Glave Hill car park by the Victory Hall Trustees. The Parish Council had financed the resurfacing of the car park (£10,947 cost) and it was now a well-used and excellent facility in the centre of the village. Grants were received from Carlisle City Council and Cumbria Neighbourhood Services. Parking in the Square was continually being monitored, but restrictions were currently not being considered.

The year could be summarized as good or bad news. **BAD NEWS.** On the downside, vandalism had continued unabated, the loss of the police house having had a significant effect. Particularly distressing had been the wanton damage to headstones in the Cemetery, costing the community £800 in repairs, as most of those damaged were old and the families responsible untraceable. Speeding vehicles and the quantity of heavy goods vehicles through the village was a continuing problem and the Parish Council was repeatedly asking for traffic calming measures, particularly in the schools and Station Road areas. An initial experimental 18-month period for a restriction scheme for vehicles in excess of 7.5 tonnes except for access had been agreed and should commence within 4 months time. Graffiti and litter remained problematical, despite the resident 'litter picker' doing a marvellous job on a daily basis. Some dog owners continued to be remiss about clearing up after their pets fouling in public places, but with more signs and enforcement promised by Carlisle City Council, the situation might improve.

GOOD NEWS. On the good news front, the replacement of the White Bridge at the end of November was the start of the ongoing Millennium celebrations. The County Council and contractors were thanked for completing on time, and the Mayor for officially opening the bridge in diabolical conditions. Dalston came 3rd in the Cumbria in Bloom competition and an Environmental Group had been set up, instigated and supported by the Parish Council, in order to access landfill tax revenues. The inaugural meeting of a Dalston Internet and Website Group is to take place before the end of April.

PROJECTS AND GRANTS. The Forge Green property had required damp proof treatment, pointing work, chimney and boundary wall repairs. Grants towards the costs from Cumbria Neighbourhood Services and through Carlisle Parish Councils Association had been gratefully received; to help offset the costs of £5264. Approximately 100 metres of additional kerbing had been completed in the Cemetery, again grant aided through CPCA. Capital projects being considered were the provision of a stone bus shelter at Bridge End and further grasscrete along the Green. Grant applications had been made for an induction loop system and the Millennium arch and lamp at Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill. Cumbria CC Neighbourhood Services financially supported all kinds of community-based projects.

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS, PROJECTS AND EVENTS

The Millennium Committee had been formed by the Parish Council and was working hard to ensure that it responded positively to previous questionnaires, provided something for everyone and spread the celebration throughout the whole Parish. The new Millennium was marked with the dedication by Rev. Ash of the Dalston cockerel emblem 'Lamp', a fireworks display and New Years Eve family dance organised by the Recreation Association. Millennium projects include tree planting and land reclamation by the White Bridge, the creation of a wild flower meadow at Forge Green, an environmental award winning wildlife survey and booklet production carried out by the schools, a specially designed commemorative beaker, an archway and lamp at Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill, a litterbin at Raughton Head and seating at Stockdalewath. The 'Lets Walk in the Parish of Dalston' booklet is to be updated and reprinted. A Parish celebration weekend of events is to be held on 8th and 9th July. Sponsorship for the Millennium projects had been gratefully received from BP Oils, Carlisle CC, County Contract Services, Caldew Veterinary Group, Dalston Medical Group, Dalston Service Station, John Peel Group and Nestle UK.

PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31/03/99

The Parish Council income and expenditure and balance sheet were presented to the meeting. The figures showed a net loss for the year of £3,777.71, but the balance carried forward remained high.

OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 01/04/99-31/03/00

The Parish precept was being raised for the year 2000-2001 to £16,000, the first increase for a few years. This was to cover expenditure on the special projects outlined and normal running expenses. The increase would mean an additional £1 approx per D band dwelling. During the current year expenditure had exceeded income reducing the end of year balance to an acceptable level. Grants had been given to Dalston organizations, namely the Methodist Church, St Michael's and Raughton Head PCCs, Playgroup, Mother and Toddler Group, Black Reds Football Club and Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL REPORT

The report from St Michael's School indicated another good year in a happy, hard working environment. There were 208 children on the school roll in seven classes. Some spaces were available in Reception Class. The main curriculum development had been the introduction of the National Numeracy Strategy. The Community Development Centre (CREDITS) was proving to be successful and popular with 12 adults completing an IT course and 47 applications for two courses commencing in May. A variety of extra curricular activities were available for the children and an 'After School Club' was being started in May. Both the soccer and tennis teams had enjoyed successful seasons.

RAUGHTON HEAD SCHOOL REPORT

Raughton Head School continued to provide a good service to the local community with 41 pupils on the roll. It had been a successful year building on the Ofsted inspection and with levels of attainment being reached and exceeded. The governing body was committed to updating the computer facilities in the school over the next two years. With the financial position being secure, the governors were looking at ways to provide an indoor area for sport and additional classroom accommodation to enable the provision of more spaces for pupils in the school.

GUEST SPEAKER: INSPECTOR J DENWOOD, CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY

Inspector Denwood advised the meeting that he was to be replaced at Brampton by Inspector Kirkbride, with four policemen continuing to cover the Caldew Group area. The area command had been moved to Carlisle so better support for nighttime crime prevention should be available. Police budgets for rural areas were under scrutiny, with a national survey being reported on to the government. The Crime and Disorder Strategy did not relate to rural areas very well. There were three tiers of policing centres – designated stations, deployment centres and access centres. The loss of the Dalston station had an initial effect and an access centre might be set up if there was a need for

it. Better relationships with local police and schools were to be made, especially in connection with drugs and alcohol related crime. Government led strategies were to be instigated to combat this whole community problem through television, school and parental education. Limited resources for traffic policing were available, so only occasional speed checks would be made on the Green following a reduction in the number of road accidents in the area. On a positive note, good crime detection rates were happening but an overall reduction in crime was required to meet the targets set. The Neighbourhood Watch volunteers provided very valuable information. High visibility policing was being replaced by intelligence led policing. The telephone was used more for details of crime and a new call handling and dispatch centre was being set up in Penrith starting in September.

Queries raised with Inspector Denwood were:

- 1 Mr Diver asked about regulations in respect to fireworks now available all year – not permitted within 50ft of highway and noise abatement conditions applied.
- 2 Mrs Cowen suggested that increased use of CCTV in Carlisle for crime prevention was causing greater potential for crime in the rural areas. Inspector Denwood felt that criminals were more mobile and agreed to monitor the figures regarding crime displacement.
- 3 Mr Kelsey asked for police input into the need for traffic calming measures in Dalston – agreed to support the desire for action.
- 4 Mr Sutherland thanked Inspector Denwood for his efforts but felt that the police attitude was generally poor regarding speed regulations for the Green. There was an argument for increasing the speed limit to 50mph. Approaches should be made to the City and County Councils to further the matter.
- 5 The use of digital cameras was raised as a possible tool.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR R SPEIRS, CARLISLE CC ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Local Agenda 21 was all about sustainable development and leaving something for people in the future to be able to enjoy a satisfactory lifestyle. The Parish Council was carrying out suitable actions, but it was up to individuals to respect other people's wishes in order to make a difference. Young people should be encouraged to participate and barriers should be broken down and groups formed to move forward. The earth's resources were disappearing. 40,000 tonnes of waste was buried in the Carlisle area annually. This could be reduced with improved recycling – the pilot garden waste scheme in Dalston was designed to increase the compost produced, currently in short supply because of demand. Carlisle Environment Forum was currently exploring twelve major target areas of sustainable development.

Mr Kelsey thanked both guest speakers.

OPEN QUESTIONS

- 1 Mr Turnent asked whether the proposed traffic calming measures could be followed up. In particular, he was concerned about the lack of a mini roundabout at the end of Station Road and there being no signs to mark the crossing in the Square with its unclassified refuge.
- 2 Mr Fontes expressed concern about the mud on the Nook Lane/Cumdivock Road and the encroaching grass verges onto the highway. This was also reported as a problem between High Bridge and Stockdalewath.
- 3 Mr Trimble requested the removal of ragwort be continued. He also suggested that the camber of the road at Bridge End was causing flooding and required correction.
- 4 Mr B Greenwood asked whether the Parish Council could control the number of BP tankers travelling to and from the Dalston depot as these had recently increased.
- 5 Following the Barras Lane closure the white lines had not been replaced at the junction by the greenhouses.
- 6 It was suggested that a delegation of young people from the school should attend the next APM.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Victory Hall, Dalston on Tuesday 9th October 2001 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mr J Kelsey (Vice-Chairman, Parish Council) in the Chair, Mrs K Braithwaite, Chairman of Carlisle and Eden Valley Local Strategic Partnership and fifty members of the Public and Parish Councillors.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Messrs J Collier, R Diver, G Harrison, Mr & Mrs A Rickerby, Mr & Mrs P Walsh,

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th March 2000 were agreed and signed

GUEST SPEAKER: MRS KATE BRAITHWAITE, CHAIRMAN OF CARLISLE AND EDEN VALLEY LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

At the outbreak of the foot and mouth disease in Cumbria, decision makers from various organisations came together to form a Cumbrian Task Force coordinated by Cumbria County Council. The Task Force was concerned about the human implications arising as a result of the disease and set up stress help lines, dealt with the Addington Fund and Hadfield Trust rest and recuperation applications, provided disinfectant mats, handled footpath closures, spoke to Ministers etc. Whilst looking for practical ways forward, with the size of the County and the different applications required in various areas, the Carlisle and Eden District Councils got together to form the Local Strategic Partnership. Mrs Braithwaite stated that within the two Districts, 73% of the farms lost livestock, this being 65% of Cumbrian cases and 26% nationally. Because of the Government scheme, involving communities in the affairs of local councils and driven by the availability of funding, it was agreed that the two District Councils should work together to rebuild the economy, as the annual gross product in the area was showing a 4.1% drop. Tourism and agriculture dependent industries were worst hit and since 11th September, manufacturing was in recession and the service industry shaken, therefore intervention was needed. Consideration should also be given to the future of the farming industry, especially with changes in subsidies; help was needed with environmental projects, tenancies and the incentives that were possibilities. Well-attended open meetings led to the priorities and aims of the Partnership. These were:

- 1 A thriving local economy with the correct image for the area.
- 2 A broad economic base with diverse employment opportunities.
- 3 Sustainable agriculture, not dependant upon subsidy, but with income levels maintained.
- 4 Value added to local produce with profits retained within the area.
- 5 Greater producer control/influence over the supply chain.
- 6 Regeneration delivered through a true Public Sector, Private Sector, Communities and Voluntary Sector Partnership.
- 7 Economic regeneration based upon the relationship between the environment, tourism and agriculture.

Mrs Braithwaite thought that there was an open door for Dalston to put forward ideas – in a perverse way, tragedy had led the way to opportunity. The Rural Action Zone was stressing the special case with the Government for funding for better marketing and adding value to Cumbrian products. Mr Kelsey thanked Mrs Braithwaite for her informative and interesting talk.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Dalston Women's Institute members were thanked for providing refreshments prior to the meeting. Mr Kelsey stated that he had been preparing his last report as Chairman, after 5 years in office in February, when foot and mouth struck, with its devastating effect on farmers in the Parish, now with or without livestock and the knock on effect to other areas of the community. The decision was therefore taken to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting. The Millennium year had been a good one

for Dalston with the formation of the special Millennium Committee and a real effort being made by all the community. The year commenced with the opening of the new White Bridge and the celebrations continued through to the special weekend of activities in July including a bicycle ride, exhibition, teas, children's Gala Day, open Tennis and Bowling Clubs, a gardens tour, a Victory Hall picnic accompanied by brass band music, a concert and a village photograph. Various projects were completed, with generous sponsorship, including the 'Lamp', seating and tree planted area by the White Bridge, Forge Green wild flower meadow, Primrose Hall arch and lamp, a seat at Stockdalewath and a litter bin at Raughton Head. A commemorative mug was given to all children living in the Parish of primary school age and under. A wildlife booklet was compiled following a survey of the Forge Green wood area with the schools and local residents fully involved and a new Dalston postcard was produced. Traffic matters, including speeding and parking on yellow lines, had been discussed and improved controls by the Police asked for on numerous occasions. The heavy goods vehicle restrictions had been imposed, with thanks due to Councillor Collier for pressing for the scheme, but more police action was required to ensure that the ban was adhered to. Yellow lines had been installed in the schools area, but again there were problems with people parking irresponsibly. Vandalism had continued with damage being done to the Victory Hall, St Michael's Church, Cemetery and the Green bus shelter seat. Motorcyclists persisting in using the cycle path from Cummersdale were causing problems. Dalston had been runners up in the Larger Village section of the Cumbria in Bloom competition and gained a merit in the Tidy Village award. Improvements carried out in the Cemetery included the surfacing of a path in the children's grave area and the removal of a spoil heap and installation of new gate. The capital scheme planned was for a new bus shelter at Bridge End, grant aided by Carlisle City and Cumbria County Councils. During the year Messrs P Walsh, I Armstrong and Mrs L-J Cowen had resigned from the Parish Council and Messrs A R Auld, A Jackson and T McDowall co-opted in their place. In order to reduce the length of meetings and improve management of Parish Council affairs, a Steering Committee and other committees had been set up. In view of the Rural White Paper and increased Parish Council input, a review of policy was required, discussion on the future role of the Council and how it could best be delivered. With Parish Council elections next year, residents with vision, time and energy were needed to come forward.

PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31/03/00

The Parish Council income and expenditure and balance sheet for 1999/00 were presented to the meeting. The figures showed a net loss for the year with a reduced balance, as planned, to carry forward.

OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 01/04/00-31/03/01

Mr Kelsey went through the accounts for the year. It was noted that the Bridge End bus shelter had been delayed pending grant funding.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL REPORT

St Michael's School had gained two awards during the year. One was the School Achievement Award, with Excellence in SATS results for levels 4 and 5. The second award was a distinction given by Education Extra for out of school activities for both children and adults. Mr Keydon remained Chairman of Governors, but Mr Cheshire had resigned as Parish Council representative and had yet to be replaced.

RAUGHTON HEAD SCHOOL REPORT

Raughton Head School had attained a School Achievement Award; an Excellence Award for achieving better results in 2000 than most schools in similar circumstances. Portacabin units had provided extra much needed space for teaching, a quiet area, drama, P.E. and Assembly. New IT equipment had been purchased. There were 42 pupils in the school. Mr J Coulthard had replaced Mr J Chapman as Parish Council representative on the governing body.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

A Village Design Statement was under consideration by the Parish Council – a document produced by the community identifying the history and character of the village or Parish and seeking to influence the course of future changes, particularly in planning terms, while preserving the essential character of the area. It supports and strengthens the role of the Parish Council in planning consultation and can be taken into consideration in the drawing up of a Local Plan. A ‘Design Team’ would be needed, which would include people from the community with specialist expertise and/or enthusiasm.

PARKING MATTERS

Suggestions were invited for improvements to parking. A letter from the Carlisle Road residents living opposite St Michael’s School was read out, in particular, highlighting irresponsible parking by visitors to and users of the school facilities. The group was also not in favour of the proposed bus shelter. Parking on pavements was raised, especially as a hazard for the blind. The possibility of limiting the access to the Kingsway with bollards was put forward for discussion.

YOUTH MATTERS INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF A YOUTH SHELTER

Ideas were requested for addressing youth matters, especially a suitable site for a youth shelter.

FORGE GREEN AND PARISH COUNCIL FACILITIES

The future of Forge Green in relation to Parish Council facilities was raised for comment. The preservation of Forge Green was requested as an old property of some historical interest.

PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Two proposals for capital projects were the installation of a bus shelter opposite St Michael’s School and the re-opening of Cardewlees pond. Concerns about the bus shelter being a traffic hazard might be alleviated by selection of a mainly transparent structure and careful choice of the site set back from the highway edge.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Ideas for the Golden Jubilee celebrations were sought, but none were forthcoming at the meeting.

OPEN QUESTIONS

- 1 The meeting was informed that the Green was due to be re-opened for public use on December 8th, with various footpaths in the Parish being opened up gradually.
- 2 Mr Wilson asked whether the Parish Council could surface the section of pathway at the end of the cycleway by St Michael’s School. The fact that there were no signs on the cycleway banning motorcyclists was raised – the Clerk indicated that these had been requested and promised.
- 3 The line markings on the Cardewlees road had been erased outside the restricted zone – Highways to be informed.
- 4 Mr Trimble asked whether the Parish Council had considered applying for a village warden, possibly funded by the Government.
- 5 It was pointed out that the weiring was being undermined on the stretch of river downstream from Hawksdale Bridge.

Agenda items including open questions identified a number of problems, which it was agreed that the Parish Council would seek to address at future meetings.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Victory Hall, Dalston on Tuesday 26th March 2002 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mrs Pauline Dalton (Chairman, Parish Council) in the Chair, Mr Brian Hill, Cumbria in Bloom, Mr Alan Eales, Carlisle City Council Local Plans Officer, and fifty members of the Public and Parish Councillors.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Messrs D W Hand and O Roberts, Mrs L Crookdake.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th October 2001 were agreed and signed

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Pauline Dalton, Chairman of the Parish Council began her report with thanks – to retired Councillors Lindsay Cowen, Malcolm Baxter and Greg Denwood, to John Kelsey for his work as Chairman for five years, to the City and County Councillors for their support, to the Clerk for her efficiency and personal assistance and to all Parish Council members for giving of their time and energy. David Hand, Tom McDowall and Bryan Craig were welcomed as co-opted members of the Council, as was Julie Coates as the Parish Council representative Governor of St Michael's School. In terms of the Parish Council working for the community and providing value for money to Parishioners, efforts had been concentrated on the environment in which we live by an oak tree planting scheme along the Kingsway, at the bottom of Mitchell Brow and in Raughton Head. Parishioners and Cumbria County Council supported the scheme financially. The new bus shelter at Bridge End was finally completed. Grant assistance had been received through the Carlisle Parish Councils Association, Dalston & Cummersdale Neighbourhood Forum and Cumbria County Council Rural Transport Plan. The condition of the 'Lamp' had deteriorated and it was being removed for re-coating at no cost to the Parish. Dalston residents had won £1,000 prize by purchasing a record amount of insulation in Carlisle City's energy saving campaign. This is being spent on a new seat and hanging baskets. Special thanks were given to the Adopt a Station group, to all gardeners and to our village litter-picker (742 bags collected in 2001, a disgraceful increase from 483 in 1997) who had all helped Dalston win the Cumbria in Bloom competition larger villages section. Vandalism, especially in the Cemetery continued to cost money, but hopefully the introduction of a community policeman and the periodic use by the constabulary of Church House will help to act as a deterrent. A joint meeting with the Parochial Church Council to try and address vandalism problems had been considered a very positive step. The meeting arose as the result of discussion on the provision of a youth shelter – research suggested that the ideal one already existed in the form of the Lych Gate, so efforts were directed towards protecting its fabric and the provision of better lighting in that area. Parishioners were thanked for an approximately 40% response to the Village Halls questionnaire, the analysis of which is still awaited. Mr & Mrs Wannop won the prize draw. Close links continue with the Carlisle Parish Councils Association and Dalston keeps up to date with any important developments. Members of Dalston Women's Institute were thanked for providing refreshments.

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor John Collier reported that the HGV ban through Dalston, 18-month trial period, ended in July. Efforts were being made to make this a permanent restriction. Reports of continued use of the route by HGVs would be monitored and passed on for enforcement action. Funding was available through Neighbourhood Services for projects. Cumbria County Council was holding an inquiry into the Foot & Mouth crisis.

CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY REPORT

PC Paul Shorrocks spoke about the policing area changes with the split of community and patrol responsibilities. As community officer for the Dalston area he was anxious to re-establish the police presence in the village and help tackle criminal damage and social problems. The call centre number (01768 891999) and his mobile number were to be advertised in the Parish magazines and dates/times when the Police were available in Church House would be displayed in the window.

PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31/03/01

The Parish Council income and expenditure and balance sheet for 2000/01 were presented to the meeting. The figures showed a surplus of £2,689.11 to carry forward.

OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 01/04/01-31/03/02

Mrs Dalton made observations on the financial position for the year ended 31st March 2002. The precept had been raised by £1,000 but would remain at the same level for a further year. The predictions showed a small surplus at the end of the year. The main expenditure was on administration with an increasing workload for the Clerk, maintenance of open spaces, the churchyard and cemetery and Forge Green property. Grants had been received from Carlisle City and Cumbria County Councils towards the costs of two street lights, the Square and Lych Gate lighting scheme, Primrose Hall wall heater, chairs, crockery, concurrent services and the Bridge End bus shelter. Grants had been awarded to Primrose Hall, Raughton Head and Dalston with Cumdivock PCCs, Senior and Junior Black-Red Football Clubs, Recreation Association, St Michael's CDC, the Adopt a Station Group and the Internet Group.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL REPORT

Mr S Fraser, Headmaster reported that Mrs J Coates had been appointed as the Parish Council representative Governor, there being 17 board members with Mr Keydon in the Chair. The year had been a successful one for the school and during the summer a new music room had been created. Extra curriculum activities included 24 children attending After School Club, CREDITS IT and other courses, advisory forum, community yoga/aerobics, monthly coffee mornings, Parish magazine photocopying, quiz entry (Carlisle winners, 3rd in Cumbria), healthy school and tree planting projects, Carlisle short tennis finalists, choir and links with Black/Reds FC.

RAUGHTON HEAD SCHOOL REPORT

Mr J Coulthard reported that under a dynamic and committed Head, Raughton Head School continued to thrive, with a good report following the Ofsted inspection. There were 47 pupils (49 max.) recording good attendance. Raughton Head was one of seven small schools in an IT Group. The outside play area facilities had been improved following the demolition of the toilet block. A visit had been made to Tullie House, cycling proficiency courses undertaken and involvement in the Parish Council tree planting.

GUEST SPEAKER – BRIAN HILL, CUMBRIA IN BLOOM

Mr Hill provided some tips for a successful entry in Cumbria in Bloom and an insight into the organisation especially the way forward in the control of the Royal Horticultural Society. The original aims of the Britain in Bloom competition, nearly 40 years ago were to improve the appearance of villages and towns with the introduction of more colours by the planting of seasonal flowers. The emphasis over the years has changed to more environmental and sustainable features. Cumbria is one of the 18 regions involved, supported by volunteers and local authorities. Entry in the competition provides the opportunity for looking at the area from a different viewpoint and encourages community participation. It can lead to other ventures, increased tourism and house prices together with a decrease in vandalism.

GUEST SPEAKER – ALAN EALES, CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL LOCAL PLANS OFFICER

Mr Eales spoke about planning policy and proposed changes indicated in the Green Paper, as well as how planning applications are currently handled and might be in the future. The review of Planning Policy Guidance by the Government might lead to greater clarity of spatial strategy and statutory planning matters, but the changes may be delayed until Regional Assemblies are in being. Development Plans could be simplified under a Local Development Framework, with core policies being reviewed annually. The handling of planning applications might be improved and there is recognition that resources need to be increased. A new District Plan is produced every 5 years (next one from 2006-2011). A village/parish plan, addressing socio-economic issues, would be incorporated into the Local Plan. The SW Morton development was subject to a public inquiry and environmental impact assessments prior to a decision being taken by the Secretary of State. Mrs Dalton thanked both speakers.

VILLAGE PLAN

The Parish Council was looking at the Countryside Agency Vital Villages Scheme for grant assistance. Guidance was hopefully forthcoming and the undertaking of a Village/Parish Plan would involve other members of the community.

PARKING MATTERS

The Parish Council was continually looking at parking matters, particularly in the Square area. Reports of damage to the Kingsway verges leading to the White Bridge were noted.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

A committee was being set up to organise a weekend of activities to celebrate the Golden Jubilee. This was to include a junior disco, village service, children's Gala Day, family football, village walk, cycle ride, Parish picnic, exhibition and teas, dance etc.

PARISH FOOTPATH, BRIDLEWAY AND CYCLEWAY MAP PACK

The Parish map pack, including suggested walks had been completed and was on sale in various locations for £2.50 each. Thanks were expressed to Messrs Brookes and Barron for undertaking the project.

PARISH COUNCIL NEW CODE OF CONDUCT AND ELECTIONS

A new Code of Conduct for Parish Councils had been introduced for implementation from the end of April. Parish Council elections would be held in Dalston in May and residents were encouraged to consider standing.

OPEN QUESTIONS

The location of the Roll of Honour from the Church porch was queried – currently being repaired by Geo Graham & Son following vandalism.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Victory Hall, Dalston on Tuesday 25th March 2003 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mrs Pauline Dalton (Chairman, Parish Council) in the Chair, Mr Brian Dodd and Mrs Lucy Crookdake (Carlisle City Councillors), PC Paul Shorrocks (Cumbria Constabulary) and fifty three Parishioners and Parish Councillors.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs J Collier (County Councillor), J Robinson (City Councillor), D Hand, M Smillie, I Kirby (Parish Councillors), Mesdames J Turnbull and E Walsh.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th March 2002 were agreed and signed.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

What do Parish Councils do? Mrs Pauline Dalton, Chairman of the Parish Council reported that **consultation** and **partnership** were in the front line of Parish Council work. Consultation responses had been made to an Environmental Assessment for the proposed SW Morton development, with particular concerns being expressed regarding the effect of additional transport on Dalston. Whether there should be a referendum in this area about regional government, the possible formation of unitary authorities and the role of the Local Strategic Partnership in terms of health, policing, housing, education etc. were all issues considered in relation to the voice of rural parishes. Partnerships with Carlisle City and Cumbria County Councils continued, with thanks being expressed to the Clerk for her expertise and determination in dealing with these agencies and others, together with thanks to the representative City and County Councillors for providing the essential links. Appreciation was expressed to Carlisle City Council for grant funding towards additional lighting, resurfacing the link footpath to the cycleway and the access road by the public toilets and to Cumbria County Council Neighbourhood Forum for its financial input to the additional lighting standard in the Square. The HGV restrictions became permanent during the year and had led to some improvement. The Parish Council had worked closely with Carlisle City Council Planners and planning observations were being taken into account. Parish Council support was being given to the residents of Cumdivock in contesting the unauthorised development by the Kingswood Group at Greensyke. A consultation response was made to the Local Plan Interim Statement regarding rural housing development and the situation was being monitored carefully, particularly in relation to Dalston village. To regain the urban/rural balance, planning permission for housing development had been limited in areas like Raughton Head, Cumdivock, Stockdalewath, Gaitsgill and Cardewlees. The partnership with the Police had been enhanced through the commitment of PC Paul Shorrocks as community officer for the area and for which he was thanked. Residents in partnership with the Police were currently investigating the formation of a Rural Safety Initiative Group. People working together for the good of the community were thanked – the resident litter picker, the gardeners, the Adopt a Station Group the Village in Bloom organisers and everyone for having a pride in their gardens and property. Tributes were paid to all the organisations in the community contributing to village life and Parish Council grants had been awarded to Dalston and Raughton Head PCCs, Rainbow Guides, St Michael's CDC, Primrose Hall, Dalston Methodist Church, Dalston and Gaitsgill Playgroups and for St John's Churchyard maintenance. Dalston WI was also thanked for providing refreshments at the meeting. The Parish Council had met monthly plus an extraordinary planning meeting and meetings of the two extra committees. Four members of the Council had attended training during the year. The Council was returned unopposed in 2002, which was not so democratic, but members had adopted the new model Code of Conduct and Register of Interests without demur. Mr R J Buchanan had retired and was thanked for his hard work. Mr I Kirby had joined the Council; Mr T C McDowall had recently resigned and was being replaced by Mr M Smillie as a co-opted member, with a special interest in working with the youth. Ongoing Parish Council activities included inspections of Parish assets and improvements arising, the search for better Parish Office facilities, the future of Forge Green, the Station approach and facilities and the Square regeneration project, for which feasibility and options plans had been commissioned, as a preliminary

to consultation with Parishioners. Residents were urged to communicate with the Parish Council members and through the Dalston web site (www.dalston.org.uk) Parish Council members and the Clerk were all thanked for their hard work, with special thanks to Mr R Auld for his organisation of the web site. Far from Parish Council's having disappeared – Dalston Parish Council had more to do and strove to deliver and operate more effectively.

PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31/03/02

The Audit Commission had introduced a 'lighter touch' audit regime designed to simplify the audit for Councils with budgets up to £50,000. Regular reviews of the books are required and Dalston Parish Council was indebted to Mr David Couling who had carried out this role of Internal Auditor on a voluntary basis. Burial income and expenditure were under budget due to fewer deaths in the Parish during the year. Vacancies in Forge Green had caused reduced rent income, but more grants had been obtained than anticipated. Additional expenditure had been incurred at Forge Green with internal and external renovation being required. Administration costs had increased leaving a total deficit at the end of the year of £951.82.

OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 01/4/02-31/03/03

The precept for 2002/03 had remained at £17,000, but would be increased for 2003/04. Burial fees and Cemetery expenditure were again under budget. Grant income of £15,094 had been received for the Signpost Project – to be carried forward for the next financial year. Funding from Carlisle City Council through Carlisle Parish Councils Association was used for the resurfacing of the access to the public conveniences, rather than for a bus shelter on Carlisle Road, which was not permitted. Capital scheme expenditure was down as were grant applications from local organisations. Additional administration had caused an increase in weekly hours and overtime payments for the Clerk. The expenditure on a new seat and litterbins was covered by an award and grant income. The surplus at the end of the year was anticipated as being over £3,500.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL REPORT – MRS JULIE COATES, PARISH COUNCIL GOVERNOR

Mrs Julie Coates, Parish Council representative Governor, reported on a highly successful year for St Michael's School, with excellent S.A.T.'s results securing the school a place in the top 100 performing schools in the country. A highly complimentary Ofsted Report was received, showing strong leadership, effective teamwork and a positive learning atmosphere, together with recognition as a National Healthy School. The children had raised £800 for Skipping Aid and achieved a National School Achievement Award. Pupil numbers were 193, with applications welcomed for Reception and Years 2 & 3. There were 7 full time members of staff plus regular visitors. Community links remained strong with extra curricular activities extending, including becoming a Learn Direct Centre.

RAUGHTON HEAD SCHOOL REPORT – MR JONATHAN COULTHARD, P C GOVERNOR

Mr Jonathan Coulthard, Parish Council representative Governor, stated that Raughton Head School was thriving, with pupil numbers almost at capacity. Working space was an issue being addressed with the arrival of an extra portacabin to be used as an Infants classroom. Tributes were paid to the excellent Head, team, community and parental help, especially Rev. Jane Natrass, who following her departure will be greatly missed, and the financial support of the active PTA.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR DAVID W TRIMBLE

Mr David Trimble gave a fascinating account of his year in office as High Sheriff of Cumbria. He spoke about the significance of the 18th century court dress and that the position was the oldest secular order apart from the Crown, with interesting relevant anecdotes as illustration. Whilst in office he had to look after the visiting judges. It had been a particularly special year, being the Jubilee, with extra visits from Royalty. He highlighted the excellent work of the Police. Mr Trimble presented Mrs Stephanie Diver with a High Sheriff's Certificate for her contribution to the community.

PARISH PLAN

The Chairman spoke about the concept of undertaking a Parish Plan in Dalston and input was requested by those interested in any of the various aspects of the whole. An initial questionnaire was distributed for completion.

LAUNCH OF SIGNPOST PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY

An exhibition was staged to launch the restoration of the cast iron signposts project in Dalston Parish. Various individuals were compiling a photographic record, researching the history of place names and the manufacture of the signposts. Further volunteers were required for some repainting work. Grant funding had been gratefully received from First Aid for Cumbria, Cumbria CC Neighbourhood Forum and the Countryside Agency Local Heritage Initiative.

OPEN QUESTIONS

- 1 Mrs Watson asked about the future of Forge Green, if a more central parish office was built.
- 2 Councillor Dodd reported that finance had been secured for an inter-active speed sign for the Green.
- 3 Mr Wilson raised questions about a garden refuse collection. The Green Box Scheme was operating in parts of the Local Strategic Partnership area but attempts were to obtain Government funding to widen the scheme had been unsuccessful. Targets had been set and ways forward were being looked at. A Parish composting scheme was suggested. Recycling of plastics was not cost effective at present.
- 4 The Roll of Honour, which originally hung in St Michael's Church Porch had been restored and was in store. It was reported that the intention was to relocate it to a position inside the Church.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.