

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary monthly meeting held at Forge Green on Tuesday 13th February 2007.

PRESENT	Mr A R Auld (Chairman)	Mr J F G Kelsey
	Mr D C Cowen	Mr I Newton
	Mr D B Craig	Mr R J Potter
	Mrs P Dalton	Mrs J L Rawstron
	Mr D W Hand	Mr O Rickerby

120 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs A G Jackson, G Harrison (work), O Roberts, M Smillie and S A Sinclair

121 MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings held on 9th and 16th January 2007 were agreed and signed as true records.

122 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr A R Auld declared and recorded a prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 – planning application 07/0018 Bannerdale, Unthank and an interest in 07/0031 Midtown Barn, Unthank.

Mr O Rickerby declared and recorded an interest in agenda item 5 – planning decisions 06/1438/1445 and in agenda item 9 – library update.

Mr D C Cowen declared and recorded an interest in agenda item 6b) – Forge Green/Station entrance.

123 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Tweedie, B Dodd and J Collier. Councillor T Allison was present. The Clerk reported on an increase in the number of crimes and road traffic incidents since the last meeting. It was agreed that the information supplied by the Police should be included in the Parish magazines and a warning given about opportunist criminals in the area.

124 PLANNING DECISIONS

06/1331 The Farm House, Moss End Farm – demolition of redundant barn and erection of a two storey extension to provide a kitchen/dining room on the ground floor with an en-suite bedroom above, together with the demolition of the existing garage and erection of a replacement garage – approved 3 conditions.

06/1407 Oaklea, Townhead Road – erection of conservatory – approved 1 condition.

06/1373 Dalston Hall Holiday Park – change of use from agricultural field to childrens recreational play area – approved 4 conditions.

06/1357 Recreation Field, The Green – 9no. 6.7m lighting columns to courts 3 & 4 – deferred for further consideration of proposed lux levels and report.

06/1387 Smithy, Shawkfoot, Cumdivock – erection of detached garage adjacent to Smithy – approved 4 conditions.

06/1339 School House, Raughton Head – removal of condition 2 of approval 04/1497 to change the use of an annex to a separate unit of accommodation – refused 2 reasons.

06/1438 Bluebell House, Green Lane – retrospective application for demolition of garden wall and construction of new wall along edge of property boundary (LBC) – approved 1 condition

07/0001 Beaver Cottage, Townhead Road – erection of conservatory to rear elevation – approved 2 conditions.

06/1445 Bluebell House, Green Lane – internal and external alterations to cottage (LBC) – approved 3 conditions.

125 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

06/1312 18 The Square – display of non-illuminated fascia sign and installation of shop canopy – no observations.

07/0018 Bannerdale, Unthank – alterations to provide new chimney, enlarge boiler store and new window to false window – no observations.

07/0031 Midtown Barn, Unthank – single storey extension to garage – no observations.

Carlisle CC acknowledgement of comments on the draft Statement of Community Involvement.

Messrs Craig, Newton, Rickerby and the Clerk had met Sid Miles and Huw Williams on site at Nestle UK on 13th February 2007. A proposal to make Dalston a European Centre of Excellence for coffee mixes was outlined. The current dry mix buildings were at capacity, so a planning application was being submitted to demolish an 8m high building and erect an additional 28m tower, build the 26m tower approved in 2003/04 and relocate a concrete raft to a currently grassed area nearer the river. Screening with trees would be feasible. An increase of 4 vehicles per week was envisaged. The effluent plant was in use and the spraying would be stopping shortly.

126 LIBRARY UPDATE

It was agreed to alter the agenda order by exchanging items 6 and 9. Mrs Dalton, Mr Auld and the Clerk had met Councillor Allison on 12th February 2007 to discuss a proposal for housing a static library in part of the Manor House, Dalston. The meeting was suspended and Councillor Allison reported that there had been a 50% drop in use since the closure of the Dalston library and transfer to the mobile van and that there was a danger of service withdrawal by Cumbria CC if nothing was done about the situation. He had made enquiries regarding planning, building regulations, access etc. and a stop gap facility would cost £10,600-£15,000 to set up. It was thought that the facility could be less densely staffed than previously, with some voluntary/community input. Capital costs might be able to be covered from the Carlisle CC Ward budget with matched funding applied for from other organisations. Councillor Allison was seeking Parish Council support for communicating with Mr Grisenthwaite, Cumbria CC Director of Culture regarding the matter. He was thanked for his efforts. The meeting was recommenced and it was **resolved**, proposed Mr Craig, seconded Mr Hand to support the project fully and assist financially when more information was available.

127 LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER

Messrs Auld, Kelsey, Mrs Dalton and the Clerk attended the CALC meeting on 3rd February 2007, when Cumbria CC and the District Councils made presentations. The Clerk read out the subsequent response from CALC to the Secretary of State and to Cumbria CC Chief Executive. Concerns were expressed by the attendees regarding the District Councils inability to produce a bid by the deadline, Cumbria CC indifferent standards of operation currently, the cost of transition to a unitary and the fear of a continuing authority or a model decided by central Government. It was **resolved** to advise the Secretary of State that the Parish Council supported the stance taken by CALC – copy letters to be sent to Cumbria CC and Carlisle CC.

128 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Dalston & Cummersdale Neighbourhood Forum agenda 12th February 2007 – Messrs Craig, Newton and Rickerby attended. The following items were reported: a) The request for a 20mph zone in Dalston had been accepted by the Cumbria CC Area Committee, but Cumbria Highways was looking at a whole package of proposals and for undertaking all the work at the same time. The 30mph markings on the Green were to be installed shortly. b) Following a resident's enquiry, information was given on the withdrawal of the Caldbeck Rambler bus service, which was being subsidised by £6,000. It was agreed that support publicity/sponsorship should be explored with Cumbria CC to try and maintain the service. c) The problems of motorcyclists on the cycleway were raised and the poor condition of the roads in general – there was only funding available for repair of severe potholes in Carlisle District. d) Recycling bins/boxes were to be distributed in April, with smaller residual waste bins being available if requested. e) Grants were awarded to St Michael's School (£250), Recreation Association (£500), Dalston Army Cadets (£476.91).
- 2 2 Forge Green –letter requesting the surrender of the agreement and security of tenure. It

- was **resolved** to agree to the White family vacating on 17th March 2007, provided an additional weekly rent was paid up to 23rd March 2007 to cover costs and they showed prospective tenants round following re-advertising. **Resolved** that a rebate of one week's rent was given to the tenant in 1 Forge Green for delayed installation of carpeting.
- 3 Carlisle CC – permission for sign at recycling centre and possible location for plastic bank out with Glave Hill car park. – **resolved** that the PC was not in favour of a recycling sign at the rear of Glave Hill car park. It was felt that the money could be spent on something more worthwhile, but it was the responsibility of the Victory Hall Committee, not the Parish Council. No suggestions were forthcoming for an alternative site for a plastics recycling facility. With the introduction of kerbside plastics recycling shortly it was thought that the bank might not be required anyway.
- 4 Geoff Fewkes, Countryside Ranger, Cumbria CC letter re Dalston Rights of Way Improvement Plan demonstration project to upgrade the public footpath around the schools to enable better access for those less mobile. Permission required for removing restrictive motorcycle barrier and replacing with more appropriate one by St Michael's School and improving surface of short section along the edge of Caldew School playing field. **Resolved** to respond indicating that a barrier should remain and efforts must be made to move the end of the cycleway to the exit near Nestle. Concerns were expressed about the lack of control on the cycleway and the safety for wheelchair use.
- 5 Letter re threat to funding for the local VCS from the National Lottery and request for petition letters to Government – no action.
- 6 Minutes of Carlisle CC Executive/CPCA representatives 04/12/06 – for information.
- 7 Responses from Jim Fitzpatrick MP and Eric Martlew MP regarding the Parish Council's concern over the future of Dalston Post Office.
- 8 The future of Morton School – consultation document
- 9 CALC February County Circular and training programme – no participants forthcoming.
- 10 Notification of Cumbria CC Local Committee/CPCA meeting 15th March – Mr Kelsey offered to attend.
- 11 Invitation to celebrate St George's Day on 23rd April 2007 – agreed that flag should be flown.
- 12 Communities and Local Government amendments to the Model Code of Conduct consultation – Clerk to respond.
- 13 Advisory letter re the deferment of the review of the Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme and that re-accreditation was not required, nor were there to be any changes in the electoral mandate from 80%.

129 GARDENS AND MAINTENANCE

- a) Resolve to exclude members of the public and press from the meeting pursuant to section 1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as required for items a) and b). Tenders were received from 4 invited contractors. **Resolved**, proposed Mr Kelsey seconded Mrs Dalton to award the Cemetery maintenance contract 2007/08 and 2008/09 for a total of £10,000 to Garthside Landscapes. **Resolved**, proposed Mr Hand, seconded Mr Cowen to award the two year grass cutting and ground works maintenance contracts (2007/08 & 2008/09) to Garthside Landscapes for £7,600 subject to reassurance that the contractor could take on the workload of this as well as the Cemetery maintenance contract. Maintenance of Forge Green garden on the south side was discussed and it was agreed that the contractor should be asked about including the grass cutting in the schedule.
- b) Messrs Auld, Cowen and the Clerk met with Mr Walters, Bingham Yates & Partners and Mr Hiscox, Donleys on 5th February 2007 to examine the structure of Forge Green and re-measure some of the details on the existing plan. Estimated outline costs were subsequently produced for Option 1) revamp of existing meeting room, office, w.c. to conform to DDA, fire regulations, health & safety etc. with alternative heating Option 2) alterations to whole building including upstairs as affordable housing units with roof/chimney stacks being assessed for attention. The Clerk reported that Bingham Yates & Partners had discussed the upgrade of the Parish Council rooms with the Building Control and Conservation Officers, with some limitations being highlighted. Bingham Yates & Partners had also produced a schedule of time rates for work carried out. Discussion took place on the possible method of funding for the two options. Option 1 could be covered by grants and a loan from the PWLB. Option 2 would involve the sale of the first floor to contribute to the costs of development. **Resolved**, proposed Mr Kelsey,

seconded Mr Craig that valuations should be obtained for the first floor flat/s and enquiries should be made to Housing Associations regarding their potential interest for affordable housing prior to the next meeting.

- c) Request that enquiries were made regarding the clearance and disposal of litter collected from round the recycling centre bins in Glave Hill car park.

130 ACCOUNTS

Resolved to approve the monthly expenditure and record of income.

1	E Davidson – grave digging 22/01 and 24/01/07	200.00
2	Information Commission – data protection registration fee 06/02/07	35.00
3	British Gas – gas supply	28.48
4	Primrose Hall Committee – CPCA (City & County) grant kitchen cupboards	473.04
5	Mrs E Auld – salary £561.21, expenses £51.16	612.37
6	Allan Gregory – Forge Green repairs	162.50
7	Chris Davidson – 1 Forge Green carpeting	375.00

Income:

1	Geo Hudson & Sons – burial fee 10/01/07	290.00
2	L & D White – 2 Forge Green rent 12/01, 19/01, 26/01, 02/02, 09/02	475.00
3	J Hill & Sons – burial ashes fee 16/01/07	85.00
4	J Tremble – burial fees 22/01, 24/01	375.00
5	L Hogg – 1 Forge Green deposit and February rent	468.00
6	Carlisle CC – CPCA grant Primrose Hall kitchen improvements	236.52
7	United Utilities – The Green substation rent	60.00
8	Dalston Post Office – 20 map packs	40.00
9	CPCA – County grant Primrose Hall kitchen improvements	236.52

131 CEMETERY MATTERS

Interments: Ruth McKinlay 22/01/07 Ward 5 Section K Space 35
Rae Scaife Lister 24/01/07 Ward 4 Section C Space 45c ashes

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.