

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary monthly meeting held at Forge Green on Tuesday 12th June 2007.

PRESENT	Mr D B Craig (Vice-Chairman)	Mrs J L Rawstron
	Mrs P Dalton	Mr O Rickerby
	Mr G Harrison	Mr S A Sinclair
	Mrs F Kaye-Krzeczkowski	Mr M Smillie
	Mr R J Potter	

19 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs A R Auld, O Roberts (holiday), D C Cowen, J F G Kelsey (work), D W Hand (hospital) and I Newton (meeting). Mrs Felicity Kaye-Krzeczkowski was welcomed to the meeting and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests.

20 MINUTES

The minutes of the annual meeting held on 8th May 2007 were agreed and signed as a true record.

21 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr M Smillie declared and recorded an interest in agenda item 10c) a) – Station access.

Mr O Rickerby declared and recorded an interest in agenda item 10c) b) – library proposal.

Mrs P Dalton declared and recorded an interest in agenda item 5 – planning application 07/0584 – Thwaite Holme Kitchens and agenda item 6 – car parking.

22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Tweedie. G Fewkes, Cumbria CC Countryside Ranger, J Collier, Cumbria County Councillor, T Allison and Mrs N Clarke, Carlisle City Councillors and R Hayward, Cumbria Highways Carlisle Area Engineer were present. Mr Fewkes spoke about the current barrier by St Michael's School being totally restrictive for some users of the public footpath and access to the cycleway. Councillors were advised of an alternative 'A' frame type barrier which prevented access for motorbikes but allowed wheelchairs and pushchairs. These cost approximately £500, with installation at £400. St Michael's School was in favour of any replacement barrier being the river side of the children's crossing to the play area for safety reasons. Mr Fewkes reported that there were currently no funds for dropped kerbs. Network Rail was aware of the eroded wall adjacent to the cycleway and steps to carry out repairs required to the riverbank were in hand.

Councillor Allison indicated that a report on the static library facility was due any time from Capita Symonds. He advised the Council that he would be speaking at the Local Plan Public Inquiry and expressing his concerns about the proposal, re-introduced into the revised re-deposit draft, for a supermarket on the Wigton Road near Peter Lane and the implications for Dalston businesses. A copy of his representation was made available for circulation – comments appreciated by 10th July. It had been pointed out to Councillor Allison that the enforcement action regarding the area of common land at Lingy had only partly been adhered to. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Planning Enforcement Officer regarding Parish Council support for further action to be taken.

Councillor Clarke reported to the Council that PC Peter Forster had indicated that the Police had difficulties in dealing with foreign drivers of HGVs speeding and ignoring traffic regulations, together with ensuing enforcement. He was willing to talk to the Parish Council regarding the matter if requested. No response had been received for E Martlew MP to date regarding these problems. Mrs Clarke indicated that she felt the Police might be struggling to deal with some aspects of human resourcing and funding application matters in isolation. No Police crime report was received for the meeting.

23 PLANNING DECISIONS

07/0285 Hawthorn Cottage, Unthank – single storey side and rear extension to provide utility/WC, rear porch and garage, formation of first floor store and change of use of agricultural land to garden ground – approved 3 conditions.

- 07/0174 Nestle UK Ltd, Beverage Division – extension to existing production and process building, new base unit for compactor unit – approved 2 conditions.
- 07/0318 Land adjacent to 16 Brow Nelson – change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden – approved 3 conditions.
- 07/0287 18 Low Moorlands – erection of first floor side extension to provide 2no. bedrooms over existing garage – approved 1 condition.
- 07/0302 4 Bishops Mill – single storey extension to provide garage conversion to family room and utility to side with extended kitchen and dining room to rear – approved 2 conditions.
- 07/0289 2 Glebe Close – widening of existing driveway – approved 2 conditions.
- 07/0338 Cumdivock House, Cumdivock – extension to existing cubicle shed – approved 2 conditions.
- 07/0357 St Michael's C of E School, Carlisle Road – change of use from School House (attached to school) to educational use – approved 1 condition.
- 07/0375 Kingswood Educational Study Centre, Greensyke, Cumdivock – extension of period for compliance from six to twelve months – condition 16 (Green Travel Plan) – refused 1 reason. Breach of condition notice to be served with 4 months for compliance.
- 07/0376 Kingswood Educational Study Centre, Greensyke, Cumdivock – variation of timescale from four weeks to three weeks – condition 26 (summer break) – withdrawn by applicant.
- 07/0377 Kingswood Educational Study Centre, Greensyke, Cumdivock – extension of time for twelve months from 05/04/07 to 04/04/08 with regard to conditions 21 and 24 concerning noise issues – refused 2 reasons. Breach of condition notice to be served with 10 weeks for compliance.
- 07/0378 Kingswood Educational Study Centre, Greensyke, Cumdivock – variation of condition 14 (climbing wall) to allow for an extension of time from six to twelve months – refused 1 reason. Breach of condition notice to be served with 2 months for compliance.
- The Clerk had been advised that the Breach of Condition Notices should be issued during the week. Mrs Dalton reported on the Carlisle CC Development Control Committee meeting held on 1st June 2007 attended by her and Mr Auld. It was felt that noise monitoring devices could be obtained fairly easily and were reasonably priced. The landscaping scheme was limited to one season only for compliance. Councillor Allison stated that Mr Walsingham, acting for Kingswood, had indicated that a robust response to the planning decisions could be expected from the Kingswood solicitor
- 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 – appeal (APP/E0915/A/07/2046186/NWF) starting 13/07/07 – 6 weeks period for amendments or withdrawal of comments – no further action.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 07/0437 Thornthwaite Close, Gaitsgill – two storey side extension to provide 2no. bedroom Granny annexe – no observations.
- 07/0482 Holly House, 9 The Green – two storey extension to side and rear of dwelling – deferred for site meeting and further report – no observations.
- 07/0490 Low Flanders – proposed detached garage – rather large for garage in rural location.
- 07/0495 Dalston Hall Holiday Park – proposed formation of 9 holiday lodge pitches, road and car parking and new sewerage treatment plant – concern about loss of woodland, destruction of wildlife and the type of development in a historical setting. The expanded holiday site may not be appropriate, but the need for tourism was recognised.
- 07/9008 Thackwood, near Southwaite – phased extraction of clay followed by progressive restoration to wetland/nature conservation after use. Councillor Collier declared an interest. The clay was to be used in connection with improvements to the A74 and flood defence works in Carlisle. Mr Hayward indicated that the vehicles transporting clay would be restricted to a one way system inward through Burthwaite and outward through Durdar. The planning application and environmental statement was not available at the meeting – no observations.
- 07/0584 Thwaite Holme Kitchens, 13 Lingy Close Road – steel clad industrial unit (brown agricultural sheeting) to be used as workshop/assembly areas and also employee welfare facilities – no observations.
- 07/0595 Moordyke, Unthank – conservatory to rear elevation – no observations.
- 07/0593 The Blue Bell Inn, 6 The Square – formation of external drinking area and erection of crown terrasol (LBC) – no observation except for some reservations regarding potential noise pollution.
- 07/0627 1 Walk Mill – first floor extension to front elevation to provide shower room – no observations.
- Carlisle District Local Plan 2001-2016 Core Topic Paper – Employment – Clerk advised the Council that there was nothing in the document of particular relevance for Dalston to report.

25 CAR PARKING CONSULTATION

The Clerk reported on correspondence with Mrs Roberts, Councillor Collier and Mr Hayward. Mrs Roberts highlighted the problems of randomly parked vehicles in the vicinity of the Building Society in relation to obstructing access and in terms of safety, particularly for pedestrians. She suggested that double yellow lines be installed, apart from some disabled parking provision adjacent to the Co-Op. Mr Hayward put forward various options regarding speed limits, time limited parking in the Square, additional parking etc. The introduction of a 20mph speed limit from the Co-op to Station Road would require traffic calming measures. The speed limit review was currently being undertaken and the process had been authorised by the Carlisle Area Committee. The existing 30mph speed limit on the Green could be changed to 40mph and the position of the 30/derestriction signs on Station Road/Barras Lane would be looked at. Any changes might be implemented by winter/spring 2008. Cumbria Highways contribution to a restricted parking scheme in the Square could be up to £50,000 maximum, but no financial support would be given to additional car parking provision. External funding might be possible for this from NWDA and/or English Heritage with the assistance of the Carlisle CC Planning Conservation Officer. Changes to the speed limit on the Green were not favoured. It was felt that residential parking needs in the Square were low, but long term parking by business employees (63 employed in the Square) and park and ride vehicles was a problem. Mr Hayward indicated that an experimental 18 months traffic regulation order could be implemented in the Square at a cost of £5-8,000 for signs and road markings required for time limited parking within the framework of the existing layout. Any long term proposals should aim to attract business funding. It was **resolved** to accept Mr Hayward's offer to compile a simple pro forma questionnaire to distribute to residents in Dalston Parish, followed up by a public consultation meeting later in the year once more details of the favoured options had been identified and further work carried out on them. It was agreed that the wording of the questionnaire would be discussed with Mr Hayward by the Clerk and Mr Smillie. An article regarding this was to be included in the Parish Paper insert.

26 PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

It was agreed that the Parish Council Newsletter should be distributed with the Parish Paper and Raughton Head magazine. Additional copies were to be left in the Post Office and Building Society for other residents to pick up, rather than additional delivery costs being incurred for those households not included in the Parish Paper/Magazine distribution.

27 CONSULTATION ON UNITARY CUMBRIA

It was **resolved** following discussion on the content, to respond to the Government on the Unitary Cumbria proposal submitted by Cumbria CC. The Clerk agreed to circulate the response for confirmation/alteration prior to sending it.

- 1 Cumbria would be best represented by some form of unitary body, which promoted the wider interests of the County, but, at the same time, was not too remote from the diverse population which it served. Cumbria is a very varied area in social and economic terms, partly fashioned by the physical landscape and the distances separating the different centres of population. Years of tension between the County and Districts has often led to an irresponsible attitude to working together, duplication and a decline in levels of service provision and therefore it would be detrimental for the status quo to remain.
- 2 It was felt that the Cumbria County Council bid was flawed at the community governance level. There was a danger that the proposed Community Boards could be un-democratic and that Parish Councils might be devalued. Parish and Town Councils were closest to the needs of the local communities which they served and the importance of this tier of Local Government must be acknowledged and enhanced. The people of Cumbria must not be governed by unelected appointees making up bodies such as the Community Boards, which might be too large, remote and ineffective.
- 3 There was a lack of clarity as to how the powers and responsibilities would be devolved to the community level. It was also unclear as to how Parish Council representatives on the Community Boards might be recompensed financially.
- 4 The bid seemed to ignore a central part of the Local Government White Paper which promoted Parish and Town Councils and underlined the importance of local representation. The Better Governance for Cumbria Group, in suggesting alternative proposals to the Cumbria County Council bid, did recognize the importance of Parishes by giving support to the whole of Cumbria being parished.
- 5 Dalston Parish Council endorsed the Cumbria Association of Local Councils' view regarding community empowerment by:
 - Influencing Principal Authority decisions before they were taken

- The opportunity to take on responsibility for the management of local services, facilities and land as appropriate
 - Scrutinize and challenge Principal Authority performance and achieve changes if necessary.
- 6 There was a lack of confidence in the proposals put forward by Cumbria County Council that Parish Councils would be adequately represented and supported.

28 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Standards Board for England – copies of Code of Conduct: Guide for Members distributed. Carlisle CC letter re formal adoption of Code of Conduct, new Register of Interest forms and notification of training event for Chairman and Clerk on 2nd August 2007. Consideration of 10 General Principles, adoption of paragraph 12(2) and adoption of new Code of Conduct to be on the August meeting agenda.
- 2 CALC June County Circular and request for contact email addresses – action taken.
- 3 CPCA/Carlisle CC Executive meeting 7th June 2007 – the Clerk reported on the main topics relating to the village halls annual workshop, council tax and second homes, the roles of Green Spaces and East Cumbria Countryside Project and a presentation by the Better Governance for Cumbria Group..
- 4 Dalston PCC invitation to Village Service Sunday 17th June 2007 – noted.
- 5 Carlisle CC information on new mileage rates for Parish Councillors – **resolved** to retain allowance at 40p/mile..
- 6 Cumbria in Bloom judging date 18th July commencing 10am. Mrs Rawstron agreed to collect bedding plants and lamppost planters for planting out/hanging.
- 7 Gaitsgill Parent & Toddlers Group letter of thanks and receipts for purchases – noted.
- 8 Planning Portal Professional Workshop 15th June 2007 – no attendance.
- 9 Copy of Rural Voice June issue
- 10 UK Nuclear Power consultation – noted.
- 11 M Smillie letter of resignation from the Parish Council – thanks were expressed for his service to the community and valuable input, especially regarding financial matters during his time on the Council. Notification of the vacancy would be advertised in the Newsletter and on the notice boards.

29 GARDENS AND MAINTENANCE

- a) Grass cutting - complaints received regarding the lack of grass cutting under and around obstacles particularly in the Recreation Ground play area. **Resolved** that a letter should be sent to Mr Lowrie requesting more attention to detail with strimming around obstacles, in corners and edges. The grass cutting at Stockdalewath was not completely satisfactory and at Raughton Head it needed to be cut.
- b) Barrier by St Michael's School – **resolved**, proposed Mrs Dalton seconded Mr Smillie to agree to the replacement 'A' frame type barrier on the river side of the pedestrian crossing to the school play area. It was suggested that Mr Fewkes asked for a second barrier together with financial support from Nestle at the end of the track onto the cycleway adjacent to the factory site. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Network Rail regarding the wall repair and the restoration of the cycleway edge being eroded by the river.
- c) a) Station access - the Clerk reported on correspondence with Cumbria CC and Bingham Yates in connection with specifications, adoption of the highway and land ownership issues. **Resolved**, proposed Mr Craig, seconded Mr Harrison to instruct Bingham Yates to carry on with the project.
b) Library – letter from Bingham Yates regarding initial costs to be passed to Mr Allison for attention.
- d) Forge Green – Kim Doran, Eden Housing had requested a meeting (date to be arranged) with Parish Council representatives to discuss preliminary options for development.
- e) Complaints regarding fly tipping at Glave Hill car park recycling centre and on Buebanks Lane were received – Clerk to report incidents to Carlisle CC and an article was to be included in the Parish Newsletter.
- f) Mr Harrison reported that the road junction in Highbridge was being washed away – Clerk to pass on to Cumbria Highways for attention.

Resolved to approve the monthly expenditure and record of income.

1	E Davidson – grave digging 22/05/07	170.00
2	British Gas – gas supply 23/05/07	24.75
3	British Telecommunications – telephone charges 21/02-21/05/07	75.76
4	Biffa Waste Services Ltd – Cemetery waste collection, EPA charge	224.07
5	Garthside Landscapes – Cemetery, grass cutting & maintenance contracts March/April/May	2,538.00
6	Staples - cartridges	62.98
7	Allianz Cornhill – additional premium	99.00
8	Mrs E Auld – salary £579.15, expenses £19.73	598.88

Income:

1	Step Saver a/c – interest 04/06/07	186.99
2	J Tremble – burial ashes fee 17/05/07	85.00
3	Ken Patton – burial fee 23/05/07	290.00
4	C Collins – 2 Forge Green rent 08/15/22/29/05/07, 05/06/07	485.00
5	Corner Shop – 48 x postcards, 4 x map packs	15.68
6	Corner Shop – fishing permits	58.00
7	L Hogg – 1 Forge Green June rent	234.00
8	Mrs M Ellams – Sheepwash rent	1.00
9	Dalston Post Office – 100 x postcards	16.00
10	C Collins – 2 Forge Green rent 12/06/07	85.00

31 CEMETERY MATTERS

- a) Interment: Dorothy Capstick 22/05/07 Ward 5 Section F Space 49
Christopher John Sowerby ashes 21/07/07. Inscription to go either on headstone or on separate stone set at angle against existing one ‘Christopher John Sowerby 1948-2006 In Loving Memory R. I. P.’ – approved.
Annabella Barrie – request from daughter to inter ashes. Resident in Dalston from 1988-2001 prior to moving to sheltered accommodation - agreed at standard fees.
Enquiry regarding exhumation of ashes – Clerk reported that the details of procedures and relevant papers were being ascertained.
- b) Cumbria Memorials cremated remains stones ‘In memory of William Paterson 25.8.1912 – 23.1.1986 Margaret Paterson 17.7.1917 – 22.7.2001 Beloved parents of Anna, Rae and Margot’ – approved. ‘In loving memory of Rae Scaife Lister (Nee Paterson) 24.5.1941 – 16.1.2007 Cherished Wife, Mother and Grandmother Your Smile Will Live On’ – approved.
Additional inscription: ‘And her Husband Albert Frederick Cope (Johnny) Died 31st December 2006 Aged 97 years’ – approved.
- c) Biffa Waste Services Ltd Pre-Treatment Requirements Declaration form. **Resolved** to offer some form of segregation of waste (glass, garden, general) in Dalston Cemetery on the provision of suitable containers, even though the segregation of waste was entirely dependent on the general public adhering to the separation. The alternative would be exemption for this waste to be collected without any pre-treatment.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm