

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Monthly Meeting** held at Forge Green, Dalston on Tuesday 8th June 2010.

PRESENT

Mr R Auld
Mr T Baxter
Mr DB Craig (Chairman)
Mrs P Dalton
Mr C Drouet
Mr P Ebbatson

Mrs F Kaye-Krzeczkowski
Mrs C Millar
Mr I Newton
Mr R Potter
Mr O Rickerby
Mr O Roberts

22. APOLOGIES

Cllr D Cowen, Mr D Gray & J Kelsey.

23. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 11th May 2010 were agreed and signed subject to the following amendments:-

Minute No. 5/5/10 - delete Cllr Baxter as a member of the Property & Maintenance Committee and include as a member of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Minute No. 7/5/10 – Orchard Grounds Contract to be reviewed by the Property & Maintenance Committee [delete Policy & Resources].

24. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Dalton declared a personal interest in item 9 – Relocation of recycling facility

Cllr Ebbatson declared a personal interest in item 6 – Planning Application No. 10/0429 Westwood Garden Centre.

25. RELOCATION OF RECYCLING FACILITY - This item was moved forward on the agenda due to a member of the public attending the meeting specifically for this item.

The Victory Hall Committee wished to determine Council opinion on the movement of the re-cycling facility to Barras Lane or if the re-cycling facility could be incorporated into the Kingsway development. Consideration was given to the following:-

- Barras Lane – relocation foreseen as problematic, industrial area therefore industrial waste would be disposed of and fires could occur, due to the lack of overlooking properties. Also noted that Carlisle City Council does not support the movement of the site to Barras Lane.
- Incorporation into Kingsway Development – considered unsuitable for area.
- Forge Green area – too quiet and unsuitable for large vehicles to make collections.
- Usage levels – well used site (commercial, as well as domestic) that has become a victim of its own success and outgrown current area.
- Aesthetics – unsightly for nearby residents, who also advise that collections are occurring prior to 9:00 am – despite assurances from Carlisle City Council staff that this would not happen.

Resolved: Clerk to write to City Councillors to ask for this matter to be brought to the attention of the portfolio holder.

One member of the public left at 8:10 pm.

26. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr T Allison, N Clarke and one member of the public were in attendance.

Cllr Allison advised that he has a Ward budget of £12,000, £3,000 of this designated for the Dalston area. Asked for suggestions on projects suitable for funding from this allocation. Cllr Allison suggested that it be spent on a 'no through road' sign for Raughton Head Hill, movement of the 30mph illuminated sign on Carlisle Road and Station Car Park improvements. Asked for suggested projects to be forwarded to him before the end of June.

Cllr Clarke advised that City Cllrs are proposing to walk the Dalston to Denton Holme cycle path, Cllr Clarke being willing to consider funding improvements on the route. Also advised that she is currently in correspondence with Green Spaces at City Council regarding improvements to the public toilets for this years Cumbria in Bloom entry. Bridge End Garage is still of concern, the parking of vehicles on the roadside still causing problems. P.C. Hird advised that he is in correspondence with Carlisle City Council as regards the insertion of bollards in the area – in his opinion the only solution to this problem.

27. ANNUAL AUDIT

Mr D Couling, Internal Auditor had carried out an independent examination of the accounts for the financial year 2009/10 and reported that they showed a true reflection of the financial position of the Parish Council. It was suggested that the council should consider the following points:-

- With the appointment of a new Clerk and Resonsible Financial Officer it may be an appropriate time to review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, these to define clear responsibilities.
- Computer data should be held in the safe and a second copy retained off the premises to ensure continuity.
- Clerk's timesheet should be monitored and authorised for payment by a member of the Council, probably the Chairman and consideration should be given to the payment, calculation of pay, tax and national insurance to be carried out independently of the Clerk.
- If a pension/gratuity arrangement is to be entered into at the end of the Clerks service, funds should be set aside for this purpose.
- War Stock – documentation suggests that the Council holds an extra £50 in War Stock, the interest having been paid into an unknown bank account. Clerk to investigate further.

The Council had been supplied with copies of the Annual Accounts 2009/10, Assets Register and Statement of Assurance. **Resolved:** to approve all of the above, the Chairman and Clerk to sign the Audit Commission Annual Return for the year 2009/10 and Cashbook.

Also **Agreed:** Cllr Kaye-Krzeczkowski to check PAYE, NI and salary payments every 3 months.

28. PLANNING DECISIONS

- 1/10/9003 Cardewmires Quarry – importation of overburden and soils for use in site restoration – approved 6 conditions.
10/0321 Stoneleigh, Chalkfoot – two storey side extension to provide dining room on ground floor with covered link to existing garage and 1no. en-suite bedroom with 1no. en-suite to existing bedroom at first floor level – approved 1 condition.

29. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

10/0253 Cumbria County Council Dept., Barras Lane Industrial Estate, Dalston – erection of 2.4m high security fencing.
Resolved: no observations.

10/0393 Gill Farm, The Gill, Dalston – erection of agricultural workers dwelling (revised location).
Resolved: no observations.

10/0464 South Muse, Buckabank, Dalston – single storey extension to rear elevation to provide 1no. bedroom and kitchen/dining area; demolition of conservatory and removal of window to provide internal passage to extension (LBC).
Resolved: no observations.

10/0429 Westwood Garden Centre and surrounding land, Orton Grange – full planning application for garden centre retail development incorporating restaurant/cafe and farm food hall, with ancillary works including car parking, access, outdoor display/demonstration areas, farmyard pens area, allotments and landscaping (revised application).

Resolved: to object to the development for the following reasons:-

- Scale of development – the size of the proposed development (despite being smaller in size to App. No. 08/0600) still being considered too large and inappropriate for the location.
- Increase in traffic - the Council thought that the traffic figures shown in the Green Travel Plan were underestimated and rejected Dobbies figures that only 10% of the traffic flow would come through Dalston. Many of the potential visitors from the south and north of Carlisle, Penrith direction and from the Caldbeck area would come through Dalston village. Traffic and parking is a major issue in Dalston and one which is currently being pursued by the Parish Council in conjunction with Cumbria Highways and Carlisle City Council. The existing infrastructure just cannot sustain more traffic.
- Section 106 - the Council asks that Carlisle City Council give consideration to some of the Section 106 funds being used to remedy current traffic and parking problems in Dalston village centre. The Parish Council is currently pursuing the Kingsway car park and environmental project for this purpose. It was

suggested that the City Council could contribute financially to this scheme, via monies collected under the Section 106 agreement.

- Inadequacy of the roads on the Dalston side – all of the traffic coming through Dalston to this site will have to pass along a very narrow, twisty unclassified road. This route is already used as a 'rat run' from junction 42 of the M6 motorway. In the absence of a southern by-pass, it was asked that this road is maintained to a higher standard.
- Sustainability of local business - many of the products that Dobbies is likely to sell can be sourced in and around the Dalston area, from high quality locally farm sourced meat and other provisions, to the full range of garden and horticultural produce.
- Employment - the Council felt that, although Dobbies was planning on employing a significant number of people, given that much of the present workforce in local industry comes in from Carlisle and elsewhere, it was thought unlikely that the people of Dalston would benefit. With the potential number of job losses in the area due to businesses scaling down as a result of Dobbies, it could even be a net loss.
- Planning creep - the Council was especially concerned about the long-term likelihood of other large scale retail enterprises seeking permission to build alongside this site. Also, the proximity of the current and future city boundary made it possible that, in 20 or so years, Carlisle and Dalston might merge. Dalston is particularly concerned to retain its rural village identity and does not wish to become a major service centre to Carlisle. In at least one other area where Dobbies has been granted permission for a similar scale development outside the obvious city boundaries, already other commercial developments were being built alongside.
- Re-cycling Facilities – the Council requests that a re-cycling facility is included on the site. Dalston is currently experiencing problems with an overburdened re-cycling facility, many users of this facility having been determined as travelling from the West of the City.

10/0476 Riverside, Stockdalewath – change of use of barn to create 1no. dwelling along with ancillary residential accommodation for adjoining barn conversion (revised application).

Resolved: no observations.

Notice of Withdrawn Application:

09/1066 Westwood Garden Centre, Orton Grange – Garden Centre retail development.

Cllr Clarke left at 9:00 pm.

30. BOLLARDS AT CRUMBS

Clerk advised that a revised estimate had been received for the bollards at Crumbs totalling £2,690 + VAT. The estimate including a public consultation fee of £350.

Resolved: to authorise the estimate for £2,690 + VAT.

Clerk to approach Neighbourhood Forum for possible further financial contribution.

31. RELOCATION OF 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT SIGNS – CARLISLE ROAD

Consideration was given to costs of £1,650 for movement of the signs. It was questioned as to if this work should not be undertaken by Highways Dept. as it was suggested that these signs may not be entirely legal.

Agreed: Cllr Allison to fund from Ward budget.

32. COMMUNITY OWNED RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE 22nd MAY

A verbal report from attendees was received, that included the following:-

- Workshops attended included windpower, anaerobic digesters, solar and hydro power. It was thought that the hydro presentation was the poorest.
- Considered that the County Council is not investigating the potential of hydro power sufficiently, leaving it to individual bodies to investigate its potential.
- To progress, properly constituted local groups need to be formed. Suitability surveys need to be instigated at considerable cost before any progression made in first instance – the costs being borne by the groups.
- Suitability of River Caldew due to variation of seasonal flow rates needs to be determined, although it is thought that the potential is there. Environment Agency agreement also required before any projects undertaken, this often being problematic to obtain.

Cllr Drouet and Auld to attend presentation by Sir Martin Holdgate on 10th June – will report on this to July meeting.
Cllr Ebbatson also advised that he had arranged a meeting with Mr Catterson for Friday 11th June to discuss the possibility of an Archemedies Screw, all being invited to attend.

33. COUNCILLORS – ALLOCATION TO AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Due to the resignation of five Councillors and the appointment of five new Councillors, areas of responsibility needed to be allocated.

Agreed: areas of responsibility to be:-

Cllr Drouet – Bridge End, Riverside, Walk Mill, Bishops Mill and The Forge

Cllr D Gray – Stockdalewath & High Bridge

Cllr T Baxter – Cardewlees & Orton Grange

Cllr O Roberts – Dalston Center

Cllr P Ebbatson – Hawksdale, Lakerigg & Rose Bank

34. CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Carlisle Environment Forum ‘Solway Energy Gateway’ meeting, Thursday 17th June, Tullie House at 6-8:30 p.m. – invitation received – Cllr Auld, Gray, Craig, Ebbatson & Drouet to attend.
- 2 Carlisle City Council – Forward plan of key decisions 1st June to 30th September 2010 – noted.
- 3 Dalston & Cummersdale Neighbourhood Forum, Tuesday 15th June, 7:00pm at Great Orton Village Hall – Cllr Craig & Auld to attend.
- 4 CALC Circular – June 2010.
- 5 Talkin Tam Amateur Rowing Club – Request for donation towards new boat house – **Agreed:** to write and advise that grant applications only considered in October.
- 6 Cumbria Constabulary – Letter of thanks for provision of parking space and donation of £200 towards cost.
- 7 Eden Rivers Trust – Newsletter summer 2010 and invitation to Hog Roast.
- 8 Friends of the Lake District – Annual review 2009.
- 9 Carlisle Parish Council Association – Notification of joint meeting with Carlisle City Council to be held on Monday 14th June, 7:00pm at Nicholforest village hall. Cllr Craig & Auld to attend.
- 10 Cumbria Highways – Notification of temporary 40mph speed limit on Hawksdale to Wetheral road commencing 5th July for 2 weeks - noted.
- 11 Gaitsgill Parent & Toddler Group – letter of thanks for grant of £100.
- 12 Cumbria In Bloom – Letter from L Auld concerning omission of Parish Paper insert .
- 13 Dalston Church – Notification of Annual village service to be held Sunday 4th July at 10:30 am - noted
- 14 Dalston Tennis Club – request letter of support for lighting funding application – **Agreed:** Clerk to send letter of support
- 15 Cumbria in Bloom entry – notification of judging to be held between 5th and 16th July - noted

35. GARDENS AND MAINTENANCE

a) Clerk reported that repairs for a leaking boiler at 2 Forge Green had been authorised.

b) Property & Maintenance Committee Meeting held 3rd June – minutes circulated and noted.

Resolved: Estimate for external painting of Forge Green building approved totalling £1384 + VAT.

36. ACCOUNTS

It was **resolved** to approve the monthly expenditure and record of income.

Expenditure:

1	O2 - Mobile Phone – D/D 04/05/10	26.32
2	Carlisle City Council – Rates – D/D 04/05/10	33.00
3	E Davidson – Grave digging fee – Paid 05/05/10	240.00
4	Orchard Grounds Maintenance – May cemetery maintenance	377.66
5	Orchard Grounds Maintenance – May grounds maintenance	291.66
6	Orchard Grounds Maintenance – April underpayment	15.99
7	Andrea McCallum – Salary £631.60 & Reimbursements £54.29	685.89
8	HMRC – PAYE & NI April 2010	254.54
9	Staples – Stationery	30.89
10	CALC – Training Course – Mr C Drouet 17/05/10 & 24/05/10	40.00
11	Dalston Womens Institute – Refreshments for AGM 27/4/10	40.00
13	S Bell – Chimney Sweep, fitting of cowl	40.00

14	Biffa – Waste Disposal charges 03/07/10-01/10/10	276.08
	Total	£2319.03

Income:

1	C Collins – Rent 2 Forge Green May 2010	400.00
2	L Watson Rent 1 Forge Green – May 2010	244.83
3	Cumbria Constabulary – Parking space contribution	200.00
4	Studholmes Funeral Directors – Grave purchase	750.00
5	HMRC – VAT reimbursement 1 st Jan to 31 st March 2010	676.81
	Total	£2,271.64

Community a/c balance 31/05/10 £715.66

Business Premium Step Saver a/c balance £48,234.25

37. WAR STOCK

The disposal of War Stock valued at £182.00 was proposed.

Resolved: to dispose of War Stock.

38. ACCOUNTS 2010/11

The Council was asked to consider changing from income and expenditure basis to receipts and payments. Also to change computerised recording method from SAGE to Excel. A report produced by the Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting highlighting the benefits of moving to the new system.

Resolved: to change to receipts and payments and Excel systems.

39. PURCHASE OF EXTERNAL DISC DRIVES FOR SECURITY PURPOSES

The Council was asked to consider the purchase of two external disc drives at a cost of approximately £70.00 + VAT.

Resolved: to purchase disc drives, procedures for storage and data transference to be formulated.

40. POLICY & RESOURCES MEETING HELD 1st JUNE 2010

Minutes of the meeting were circulated and noted.

41. CEMETERY MATTERS

a) Headstone application – Additional inscription for Iris Howells to read “and his wife Iris May Howells 1921-2009”

b) Churchyard Maintenance – Advised that a monument had been noted as leaning, this is being monitored.

42. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting to take place on Tuesday 13th July at 7:15pm at Forge Green.

The meeting closed at 9:45 p.m.