

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at Forge Green on Tuesday 9th August 2005.

PRESENT	Mr B C Craig (Chairman)	Mr J F G Kelsey
	Mr A R Auld	Mrs C M Oakley
	Mr D C Cowen	Mr R J Potter
	Mrs P Dalton	Mrs J L Rawstron
	Mr D W Hand	Mr O Roberts
	Mr G Harrison	Mr M Smillie
	Mr A G Jackson	

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S A Sinclair

42 MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 12th July 2005 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

43 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Apologies were received from Councillor J Collier and L Crookdake. Mesdames Molly Marsden and Heather Bruce spoke about the pending closure of the Dalston Library towards the end of September 2005. They emphasised that a focal point and essential part of the community was being lost. In addition to the loan of books, the library was used for computer and Internet access, child development, large print books, DVDs and audiotapes, display of Parish and local events information, social outings for the elderly and regular children's programmes. Better hours would have created greater business community use, that might have been obtained through Saturday opening, but which was now being offered by the mobile service. There would be less social opportunity for the elderly and children with a mobile service and concern was expressed as to where the vehicle would be able to park, particularly for safety reasons. It was also not guaranteed that the service would be fully accessible, if the wrong van was in use. A 5-year lease only had been offered for the current building and Cumbria CC had been unable to agree to that on the grounds of it not complying with the Disability Discrimination Act. The landlord/tenant terms were questioned and it was felt by the meeting that Cumbria CC had failed in its consultation. Agreed that a letter be sent from Dalston PC to the Chief Executive of Cumbria CC expressing concern at the lack of consultation regarding the closure of the current library and the transfer to a mobile service. Councillor Allison had sent an email to Cumbria Library Service expressing his concerns regarding the closure and a large number of signatures were being obtained on a petition regarding the matter. Councillor Allison was thanked for his part in pulling a large amount of ragwort from the Green. PCs Paul Shorrock, retiring Community Officer and Colin Hird, his replacement, attended the meeting. They reported that Andy Hunton, Safety Officer had advised Sergeant Paul Senior and Andy Bains, Crime and Disorder of the problems in the Cemetery and in St Michael's churchyard. In his report Mr Hunton had identified overgrown trees and shrubs, poor lighting, steps to the church boiler house, access through the gate at the north end of the Cemetery, the lack of engagement of members of the community and passers by, the absence of information signs regarding the nature of the premises and the limited liaison with Caldew School as contributors to the exacerbation of the difficulties with youth disorder and vandalism. If these items were all addressed, then improved lighting and CCTV were potential solutions. It was unlikely that Carlisle CC would monitor any camera that was installed; caps and hoods would be used to prevent recognition by the individuals concerned and it would be dependent on the Parish Council or its employee to maintain vigilance. Mrs Dalton stated that all the measures identified had been looked at previously. It was suggested that greater Police presence would help the situation, but regulations and resources restricted the use of officers in rural areas. PC Colin Hird indicated that the erection of fencing round the Cemetery and the reduction of opening hours in Carlisle had helped to combat problems. He thought that Dalston might consider doing the same, but it was felt that costs would be prohibitive. The use of digital camcorders, in conjunction with cooperation from members of the public had been successful in other areas and might be looked at as well as the targeting of hotspots.

44 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr M Smillie declared and recorded an interest in agenda item 8 re the Station approach.

45 PLANNING DECISIONS

- 05/0267 Lime House School, Holm Hill, Hawksdale – erection of classroom block to provide 5no. classrooms and toilet facilities – approved 1 condition.
- 05/0438 37 New Road – change of use from agriculture/hardstanding to create parking area for a maximum of 3no. private hire mini buses, retention of metal storage container and erection of 1.8 metre high security fence around part of the parking area – deferred to consider further comments from the Highway Authority and a further report on the application.
- 05/0494 Windmill Court, Cardewlees – erection of boundary railings to the dwellings – approved 1 condition.
- 05/0214 Dalston Hall Hotel – first floor extension and ground floor conversion to form 8no. rooms in East Wing and erection of two storey Lodge comprising 12no. rooms – approved 5 conditions.
- 05/0224 Dalston Hall Hotel - first floor extension and limited ground floor extension/conversion to form 8no. rooms and garage, new build two storey block (LBC) – approved 2 conditions.
- 05/0533 Rose Castle Farm, Hawksdale – re-alignment of stock building size to provide summer midden area (resubmission 04/0591) – approved 2 conditions.

46 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 05/0646 Dalmar House, Barras Lane- three storey extension to existing office accommodation and associated car parking – no observations.
- 05/0702 Birds Hill Farm, Raughton Head – erection of replacement general purpose agricultural building – no observations.
- 05/0725 Hillcrest Farm, Cardewlees – erection of steel framed livestock building (Phase 1) – development to comply with effluent and slurry storage requirements i.e. 4 month s prior to use.
- 05/0726 Hillcrest Farm, Cardewlees – erection of steel framed silage building (Phase 2) – comments as above.
- 05/0723 3 Summerfields – conversion of garage to playroom with 1no. ensuite bedroom extension above – no observations.
- 05/0794 Lime House School, Holm Hill, Hawksdale – siting of temporary classroom – concerns regarding proliferation of temporary buildings, especially this site in front of the main school, adjacent to the Cumbrian Way and its affect on the landscape.
- 05/0799 Lime House School, Holm Hill, Hawksdale – erection of temporary classroom – concern regarding the proliferation of temporary buildings and their affect on the landscape.
- 05/9014 Cardewmires Quarry, Cardewlees – provision of office accommodation and laboratory – no observations. Councillors Auld and Rawstron had visited the site. The office staff from Willowholme were being relocated and the laboratory would be used for testing concrete. Tarmac will probably apply for an extension to the abstraction licence from 2009, but the recreation area could be released prior to that date.
- 05/0139 S211 Struan, Carlisle Road – fell sycamore in garden adjacent to the Cemetery access lane - supported.
- 05/0140 S211 St Michael's Church – fell sycamore (Norway maple) adjacent Carlisle Road in the churchyard – acknowledgement of application.
- 2 copies of Carlisle District Local Plan Redeposit Draft received for consultation on amendments by 16th September – to be circulated. Information booklets received on Outdoor Advertisements and Signs, The Planning System – General Principles and Planning Simplified – a Guide for Councillors. A query was raised regarding the severe lopping of the beech tree at Beech House, Stockdalewath – enquiries were to be made as to whether it was approved under Listed Building Consent.

47 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Mr Ian Newton, 9 Ninerigg had expressed interest in becoming a Councillor – agreed that the Chairman should discuss the matter with him.

48 QUALITY PARISH STATUS

Mr Clive Moth, CALC Quality Parish Development Officer spoke about the credibility of Councils being judged by Parishioners. The benefits gained were that by demonstrating a standard, the electorate would listen, there would be no question re competence, the relationship between Councillors, members of the public and other tiers of local government, through the establishment of Charters, would be improved, additional responsibilities could be accepted and functions performed. To achieve Quality Parish Status there were seven tests to pass, which would collectively take 30-40 hours work to achieve. Three parts of the tests could be an advantage to some of the current projects under consideration i.e. accessibility, accountability and visibility. The Clerk was also required to pass a qualification. Grants in the future might be dependent on Quality Parish Status. Parishes would not lose out by ignoring QPS, but eventually it might be beneficial – the recommendation was to consider it sooner rather than later. CALC was there to assist with capacity building. Mr Moth was thanked for attending the meeting.

49 POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Reply received from Cumbria CC Library Service Manager regarding the reasons for closing the current Dalston facility, the concerns about lack of consultation, the level of use of the service and the replacement mobile library opening hours. Resolved to exclude members of the public and press. A briefing note had been circulated relating to the possible sale of Forge Green and the development of a central office/community building. Discussion focussed on the need to investigate funding to support the financial model, the benefits of a move to a central location, ensuring greater accessibility for members of the public and following an initial outlay, the reduction in running costs of the building itself. Resolved that Messrs Craig, Smillie, Hand, Auld, Harrison, Cowen, Kelsey and Mrs Dalton should be members of the Working Group on the project. Resolved, proposed Mr Smillie, seconded Mrs Oakley that subject to appropriate and necessary valuations and subject to contract, the Parish Council instructed Smiths Gore to place Forge Green for sale on the open market, enter into negotiations on its behalf with a view to purchase the Maurice Dalton Ltd property so that the Council could consider fully at a future time, entering into contracts for such transactions – carried, 1 against. Resolved that the Chairman should advise the tenants at Forge Green of the proposal as soon as possible. Enquiries were to be made with District Valuation regarding the necessity of its involvement. Thanks were expressed to Mr Auld for the preparation of briefing papers and other work involved.

50 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Carlisle CC Legal and Democratic Services reminder letter for Councillors to complete Notices of Change of Registrable Interests in relation to the Parish Councils Code of Conduct – Mrs Oakley, Messrs Kelsey and D Cowen to complete forms.
- 2 CALC – Special meeting for largest member Councils – 19th September, 7.30pm, Keswick – Messrs Auld and Craig to attend.
- 3 The Countryside Agency letter – Local Heritage Initiative programme will cease to operate after 31/03/07. Any ‘live’ projects will transfer to the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 4 English Nature notification of change of status of River Eden from a candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) to Site of Community Importance (SCI) now designated as Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Coy of SiteLine Summer 2005 magazine.
- 5 Cumbria CC Roadside Verges in Cumbria leaflets.
- 6 Cumbria CC Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework consultation regarding the submission of the Statement of Community Involvement – no response
- 7 Carlisle CC Sports Facilities questionnaire – Clerk to complete.
- 8 Redspearlands Footpath Group August Newsletter – for information.
- 9 Cumbria Community Foundation Spring 2005 Update magazine.
- 10 Friends of the Lake District undergrounding overhead wires information pack and Summer

2005 Newsletter.

- 11 Copy of Cumbria Local Transport Plan – Annual Progress Report 5
- 12 Carlisle CC Committee meeting agendas
- 13 Councillor Allison – invitation to the Clerk or PC representative to attend a meeting on 15th August to discuss illegal motorbikes on the cycleway and possible preventative measures.
- 14 CALC August County Circular, QPD Update and consultation on Charters – response by 1st October – to circulate. 2 copies of CALC Statement of Policies
- 15 Wind Prospect Ltd – invitation to presentation and exhibition on 17th & 18th August regarding the development of 9 wind turbines at Grise Farm, Skelton

51 GARDENS AND MAINTENANCE

Agreed to have a ragwort pulling session on the Green on Friday evening at 7pm. Cumbria CC to be asked to attend to removal of ragwort and cut the verge alongside the Green, especially at Greenhead. Suggested that the Community Punishment Service be asked to attend to ragwort removal in the Parish.

52 ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Resolved to approve the following expenditure and record of income:

1	E Davidson – grave digging ashes space 22/07/05	30.00
2	E Davidson – grave digging 03/08/05	140.00
3	British Gas – gas supply	16.12
4	Dalston PCC – working group meeting in Church House 26/07/05	5.00
5	Garthside Landscapes – Cemetery maintenance 2 June-July	1,421.75
6	Mrs E Auld – salary £645.56 (+ 0.24p underpaid), expenses £19.76	665.56
7	Staples – stationery & cartridges (part Parish Plan)	111.93
8	Amev Infrastructure Services Ltd – grass cutting contract 4 months Apr -July	1,152.17

Income:

1	K Patton –burial ashes fee and grave space purchase 22/07/05	127.00
2	J Tremble – burial fee (Saturday) 18/07/05	391.50
3	Co-op Funeral Services – burial fee 22/07/05	261.00
4	J Tremble – burial ashes fee 28/07/05	74.00
5	J Hill – burial fee	261.00
6	T & E Allinson – 2 Forge Green August rent	390.87
7	P Rowcroft & R Willatt – 1 Forge Green August rent	256.25

An unqualified opinion and certification had been received from the External Auditor for the Statement of Accounts 2004/05. Resolved that the notice of conclusion of audit and right to inspect the annual return would indicate that the annual return was available for inspection on application to the Clerk and the charge for a copy of the annual return would be £10. Agreed that a copy of the Statement of Accounts would be displayed in Dalston Library. Regarding other matters not affecting the opinion, it was suggested that the fidelity insurance needed to be increased, with the cover being the equivalent to the year-end balance plus 50% of the precept. The cover should also be extended to include Councillors.

53 CEMETERY MATTERS

- a) Interments: John Henry Lupton ashes only 22/07/05 Ward 4 Section C Space 33d
James Taylor Robinson 03/08/05 Ward 5 Section I Space 29
- b) Grave space purchase: Mrs Kathleen Beak, 3 Forrest Hill, Carlisle Ward 4 Section C Space 34d – fee £106 for outside Parish – approved. The Clerk indicated that the purchase fee for cremated remains spaces was incorrect in relation to cost of full grave space (£286) – agreed to an increase from £53 to £71.50.

The meeting closed at 10pm.