

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Forge Green
Dalston
CA5 7QG
Tel: 01228 712766
Email: clerk@dalston.org.uk

Minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held at Forge Green on the 14th November 2023 at 7.15pm.

S. Milburn Clerk

Present

Cllr McKerrell (Chair) Cllr Kyle Cllr Kaye-Krzeczkowski Cllr Robson Cllr Clarkson Webb
Cllr Potter Cllr Irving Cllr Byers Cllr Dinning Cllr Drouet Cllr Melrose Cllr Newton
Cllr Ebbatson Cllr Craig Cllr Baxter

Apologies

There were no apologies.

Minutes

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10th October 2023.

Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

113/23 Public Participation

Cllr Allison and 3 members of the public were present.

2 parishioners spoke regarding the new digital voice telephone system. Everyone's land line telephones will be disconnected from their present phone lines and switched over to work through their broadband routers instead. The main phone will therefore be positioned next to the router.

In a power cut the router and the phone will both stop working, and you will therefore be reliant on your mobile phone. Mobile phone coverage is extremely poor along the southern part of The Green from the recreation ground to and including Bridge End. In an emergency during a power cut, phoning will thus be impossible.

BT is offering some help to customers:

People over 75 should be able to request a delay of a year before being swapped to Digital Voice.

To protect against routers and land line phones not working during a power cut, power packs giving 6 hours of back up are available from BT for around £85 - £150. For vulnerable customers without mobile phone coverage these should be provided free. However, BT doesn't define what vulnerable means.

Customers will be notified in writing when they will be changed to Digital Voice, and it is up to them to raise any queries or requests with their broadband provider (BT etc) at that point. The parishioner had great concern for those who may not be well versed in technology and for people who may rely on Care Lines.

Cllr Byers advised that an article would be appearing in the December Parish Paper to alert parishioners of the planned changes.

A parishioner requested a letter be sent to EE Customer Services regarding the poor mobile phone coverage in the village and the siting of masts and new telegraph poles. Cllr Allison is to discuss this with the Chief Executive at the next Cumberland Council meeting.

114/23 Planning Applications:

Applications:

Appn Ref:23/0733 5 The Green, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7QB. Installation Of Air Source Heat Pump To West Elevation. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 23/0747 25 Low Moorlands, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7NX. Erection Of Single Storey Rear Extension To Provide Additional Living Accommodation. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 23/0778 Bishops Lough Farm, The Gill, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7JP. Variation Of Condition 1 (Approved Documents) Of Previously Approved Application 23/0408 (Retention Of Building For The Storage & Sale Of Motor Vehicles, (Incorporating The Relocation Of The Lawful Use Of The Site Granted Under Application 22/0780) Together with The Erection Of an Extension To Accommodate A Valeting Bay And Photo Booth (Part Retrospective) To Omit The External Hardstanding For Vehicle Preparation & Include It Within The Building. No Observations.

Notification of Amended Details:

Appn Ref: 23/0629 Beech House, Stockdalewath, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7DN. Erection Of Single Storey Orangery Extension To Provide Dining Area; Erection Of Detached 4 Bay Garage. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 23/0630 LBC Beech House, Stockdalewath, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7DN. Erection Of Single Storey Orangery Extension To Provide Dining Area: Erection Of Detached 4 Bay Garage. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 23/0784 1 Vicars Cottages, The Square, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7LW. Change of Use From 1no Ground Floor Residential Flat To Commercial Use For Dispensary Extension, Staff Room & Storage For Dalston Pharmacy. The Parish Council expressed concerns regarding pharmacy delivery vehicles and customers of the Post Office vehicles being parked outside the building on the double yellow lines and directly on the pavement outside the front door. The Post Office is located at the busy junction leading towards Barras Close. The inconsiderate and illegal parking makes it extremely dangerous for drivers and pedestrians. Blocked pavements restrict access for wheelchair users and parishioners with pushchairs. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to the shop owner and PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick.

Highways Act 1980 – Section 119

Order Making Authority: Cumberland Council

Title of Order: Footpath No 114014 & 114015 Parish of Dalston) Public Path Diversion & Definitive Map & Statement Modification Order 2022. The Planning Inspectorate request that the order be confirmed as made. Objectors have the opportunity to speak at the enquiry at 10am on the 20th February 2024 at Cumbria House.

115/23 Clerk and Chairman Report

- The RFO reported the toilet in No.2 Forge Green had been blocked due to a plastic toilet freshener. A pipe had to be cut to remove the item. The RFO has sent the invoice to the tenant to reimburse the Parish Council.
- ROSPA Play Safety has completed the annual inspection of the Summerfield Play Area. Cllr McKerrell and Cllr Dinning to remove the debris from underneath the trampoline and replace the finger trap on the gate as per recommendation.
- NALC has responded to the government consultation on very hard to reach rural broadband. A copy of the response was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting and can be found on the Parish Council website.

116/23 Correspondence

- A parishioner has raised concerns regarding vehicles parking on the pavement and double yellow lines at the village corner shop / post office. See planning application 23/0784 above.
- The Clerk reported that the Woodland Trust are currently accepting applications for free trees. Groups can apply for up to 420 free saplings. St Michael School, Caldew School and the Dalston Flower club have been informed of the initiative. Clerk to inform Lime House School and apply for trees on behalf of the Parish Council.
- A request to place a seat at the top of Bridge End hill was Approved. Clerk to get approval from Highways.
- Concerns have been received regarding Openreach proposed telecommunications development. They intend to place 8m wooden telegraph poles on The Green and Nook Lane. Poles have already been erected on Station Road. The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Openreach requesting the purpose of the poles. A response is awaited. A parishioner also spoke and expressed concerns regarding the poles.
- Correspondence regarding a near accident at the exit by the cockerel has been received. PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick has been informed. He stated that as it appears to be a one-off incident and there is nothing to suggest the layout of the road or junction has played any part of the incident unfortunately nothing can be done. For future reference it was also stated that the vehicle would need to be identified by the complainant.

- The Parish Council agreed to accept the Chartered Loss Adjusters and Claim Specialists payout fee for the Glave Hill car park damage providing the error in meterage is rectified.

116/23 Sub Committee Meeting Kingsway Access

Cllr Kyle reported that the sub committee had met on the 17th October to review all the information relating to the access. Cllr Kyle also stated that a meeting had taken place between himself, Cllr Drouet and David Gray on the 8th November 2023 to discuss the situation. The Parish Council has the option to request a Land Registry Tribunal, this would entail them looking through all the information and making a decision regarding the caution however this would incur costs. This will be discussed further at the December meeting once David has provided a copy of his deeds.

117/23 Report from The Fells and Solway Community Panel Meeting

Cllr Byers reported that Cllr McKerrell, Cllr Kyle, Cllr Craig, Cllr Allison and herself had attended the meeting. Cllr Kyle agreed to be a representative on the panel. Cllr Byers reported that she had spoken to Simon Higgins regarding staff not replying to emails. An article is to be placed in the parish paper highlighting how to apply for a community grant. Only 1 grant per organisation is accepted per financial year.

118/23 Report from Policy & Resources Committee meeting 24th October 2023

The draft minutes of the meeting had previously been circulated together with documents recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

It was proposed by Cllr Baxter and seconded by Cllr Byers that the following recommendations by the Policy and Resources Committee are approved:

To accept The Financial Regulations 2023;

To add Cllr Byers and Cllr Kyle as signatories to the Cumberland Building Society mandate following the resignation of Cllr Utting;

To accept the list of approved contractors after removing Chris Steele who has now retired;

To confirm the increase in rents for numbers 1 & 2 Forge Green and 2 & 3 Walk Mill;

To transfer the Josephine Merle Smith Legacy to the Dalston Parish Charitable Trust to be administered in the medium to long term in a separate ringfenced fund in her name. The RFO to put a notice on the 30 day deposit account to action the transfer;

To accept the 2024/25 budget with a 5% increase in precept equivalent to 7p per week increase for a Band D property. All Councillors were in agreement.

It was reported that Cllr Baxter is in the process of drafting a new Cemetery Policy document for discussion at the December Parish Council meeting.

It was further reported that Cllrs Kyle and Newton had meet Rev. Phillips on 14 November to discuss The Margaret Gore Trust Fund. A further meeting will be arranged in January after Rev Phillips familiarises himself with the details.

119/23 Christmas Office Opening Hours

The office will close on the 21st December and re-open on the 2nd January. A message will be left on the office answer phone to contact Cllr McKerrell in the case of an emergency. The RFO is doing an interment of ashes on the 29th December and will check the office phone on this day.

120/23 Cumbria In Bloom Results 18th October 2023

Cllr Byers thanked everyone who helps keep the village tidy. This year's results were as follows: - Pride in your Community – Gold award. King Charles III Coronation Feature – Silver award. Biodiversity – Gold award. The Jubilee Garden – Silver- Gilt award for biodiversity. The Millennium Garden – Silver-Gilt for biodiversity and the woodland copse. In total there were 8 Its Your Neighbourhood entries all of which did very well. It was noted how the Parish performs consistently well in the awards. All results can be found in the November edition of the Parish paper. The Annual General meeting took place on the 14th November in Threlkeld Village Hall.

121/23 Traffic Count Results Raughton

Cllr Allison spoke regarding his recommendations for a 30mph speed limit following his analysis of the recent traffic count results at Raughton (the results were circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting). Cllr Allison is to compose a letter with Simon Richardson (Raughton resident) detailing reasons why the speed limit should be reduced. The Parish Council agreed to send the letter to the appropriate persons.

122/23 Financial:

The following amounts were approved for payment:

Chq	Payee	Details	£
BACS	Martin Broatch	Windows	5.00
BACS	David Harrison	Repair noticeboards, seats, litterbins 2,004.00 Board up cupboard & vents 2 Forge Green 75.00	2,079.00
BACS	Playsafety Limited	Annual Summerfield playground inspection	90.00
BACS	Sue Milburn	November notices	9.00
BACS	Raughton Head PCC	Grass cutting July-October	910.00
BACS	Beacon Fire Protection	Service fire extinguishers	37.50
BACS	Dalston Victory Hall	Village Hall Capital Grant for increased loft Insulation	400.00
BACS	SH Electrical	Attend blocked toilet 2 Forge Green 48.00 Attend Ventilation system in 1 Forge Green 54.00	102.00
BACS	Howard Armstrong Drainage	Attend blocked toilet 2 Forge Green	200.00
BACS	Stewart Blair	Trim hedge at The Forge	92.50
Total			£3,925.00

The Clerks/RFO agreed Salary, PAYE and National Insurance were paid.

- It was reported that a Disability Access Grant of £807 has been awarded by Cumberland Council towards the provision of 2 disabled parking bays within the Glave Hill car park.
- The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on rates of pay with the Unions. An award of £1 per hour on all pay scales was awarded for 2023-24.
- Cllr Kyle presented the proposed list of grant awards from The Dalston Parish Charitable Trust. It was resolved to make the following awards: - Dalston Recreation Association £1,000 – contribution to gas and electricity. All Saints Church, Raughton Head £1,233.91 – contribution to replacement boiler. Caldew squirrel Initiative £500 – contribution to cost of thermal imaging camera. St Michaels Pre School-Nursery £709.12 – play equipment. Dalston Dramatic Society £500 – contribution to production costs. Dalston Handbell Ringers £120 – purchase of music. Penrith Swift Group £700 – Nest Boxes for Dalston area. Dalston Flower Club £300 – contribution to demonstrator's fees. A contribution of £5,257.86 towards the cost of new seating installed within the Parish in the past two years was also granted to the Parish Council. The Parish Council will fund £3,100 from the 2023-24 budget. The balance will be financed from the reserves of the Charitable Trust.

123/23 Cemetery

The following cemetery matters were agreed:

- The purchase of grave space in Ward 5, Section J, Space 48 by Mrs Lexie Smith.

- The additional inscription in Ward 5, Section J, Space 28 for the Late John Joseph Baxter. “John Joseph Baxter, Dearly Loved Husband of Marion, Beloved Son & Brother, Loving Dad & Grandad, Born 20th Feb. 1949 – Died 6th April 2023.”

124/23 Councillor Matters

- Cllr Byers reported that PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick’s police desk in the Co-op on Saturday 11th November had been well attended. It was also reported that unfortunately there is nothing the police can do regarding the antisocial parking in The Square.

Date of Forthcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council to take place on the 12th December 2023, 7.15pm at Forge Green .

Policy & Resource Meeting Dates for 2023 – TBC.

Property & Maintenance Meeting dates for 2023 – TBC.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm