

## **DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

Forge Green  
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Minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held at Forge Green on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.15pm.

M Watling Assistant Clerk

### **Present**

Cllr McKerrell (Chair) Cllr Baxter Cllr Byers Cllr Dinning Cllr Drouet Cllr Irving  
Cllr Kyle Cllr Melrose Cllr Newton Cllr Robson Cllr Clarkson Webb

### **Apologies**

The following apologies were approved:-

Cllr Kaye-Krzeczkowski - Holiday

Cllr Craig- Sickness

### **Minutes**

**Resolved** to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11th February 2025.

### **Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **23/25 Public Participation**

Cllr Allison was present. There were no members of the public present.

### **24/25 Cumberland Councillor Report - Cllr Allison**

1) The Flood Investigation Report No.CC4 for Low Mill has been published. Cllr Allison has had a meeting with the residents of Low Mill and looked at the “unofficial” bund. The residents are of the view that this is diverting the flood water to the rear of their properties. This has never happened before although this was an exceptional flood. Cllr Allison to respond to the residents.

2) Last year, to prevent traffic hold ups on Station Road extending round the pharmacy corner due to parked vehicles, Cllr Allison contacted Abigail Dodds requesting that the double yellow lines on Station Road be extended approximately 50m to the pavement at the far end. There are parking spaces on the opposite side between the white “hockey Sticks”. Cllr Allison also requested a pedestrian crossing to serve the houses on that side and the estates. Abigail said she would include these on the listing of possible projects for the coming year. Cllr Allison to follow up.

3) Now that the B5299 connection has been restored, Cllr Allison asked the Parish Council if they would be interested in undertaking a parking survey in the Square as discussed last year. It was agreed that a survey would be useful but it should be undertaken once the roads were all fully reopened.

4) Cllr Allison is supporting Burgh by Sands Parish Council with the installation of speed indicator devices and enquired if this was something Dalston would be interested in. He was prepared to assist with funding. At this juncture item 8 on the agenda was brought forward for discussion Information provided by the Clerk of Burgh By Sands Parish Council who are currently in the process of purchasing 2 for their Parish together with details of the device had been circulated prior to the meeting. The cost per unit is in the region of £850. It was agreed that in principle the device was a good idea although a concern was raised regarding how much time the downloading and reporting of the speeders to the police

would entail given the volume of traffic in the village. Cllr Allison agreed to try and obtain further information such as whether a speed filter could be set to keep the volume of data captured to a manageable level.

5) Cllr Allison is still to have a meeting with affected residents about the Oak Tree in Glebe Close, he will follow this up with Cllr Irving. It would be sensible for this to be actioned before the tree is in leaf and the crows re-establish their nests.

6) It was disappointing to see that the Cumberland Authority's response to the Ward Boundary Review is to link Dalston with Caldbeck village. Cllr Allison had hoped that it would be with Cummersdale village.

### **25/25 Planning Applications:**

**There were no planning decisions.**

#### **Applications:**

**Appn Ref: 25/0085** 14 The Green, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7QB. Demolition Of Rear Extensions; Erection Of Single Storey Rear/Side Extension Including Replacement Roofing And Extension To Garden Workshop. No Observations.

**Appn Ref: 25/0089** 12 The Green, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7QB. Erection Of First Floor Extension Of Existing Store. No Observations.

**Appn Ref: 25/0086** Dobicross Hall, Gaitsgill, Dalston, CA5 7AW. Proposed Calf Shed and Associated Infrastructure. No Observations.

**Appn Ref: 25/0016/S211** Forge Mill, 1 The Forge, Dalston, Carlisle CA5 7QP. Crown Reduction To 1no. Silver Birch In Dalston Conservation Area. No Observations.

**Appn Ref: 25/0018/S211** Greenhead House, 37 The Green, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7QD. Works to 2no. Fastigate Yew Trees in Dalston Conservation Area. No Observations.

**Appn Ref: 25/0114 36** Caldew Drive, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7NS. Demolition Of Dining Room & En-Suite Bedroom At Side Of Property; Erection Of Single Storey Rear And Side Extension To Provide Garage, 1no. Bedroom, Bathroom, Utility & Additional Living Accommodation. No Observations.

**Appn Ref: 25/0024/S211** Stonebeck Mill, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7QL Work To 2no. Beech Trees and Removal of 2no. Silver Birch Trees In Dalston Conservation Area. No Observations.

### **26/25 Clerk and Chairman Report**

- Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council hold 3 Rural Fun time days during the summer holidays. Application for funding for one of the days will be made to Dalston Parish Charitable Trust. Clerk to arrange.
- Westwoods quote of £775 + VAT to install a path at Summerfield Play area was approved. The Property & Maintenance Committee will look at the position.

### **27/25 Correspondence**

- A letter has been received from Nestle offering volunteers to help / support parish projects. Clerk to forward information to the Festival Committee.
- A devolution consultation to seek views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined Authority for local government in areas of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness has opened and will close on the 13th April 2025. Details were circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting.
- Dalston Show Committee request to park on The Green on the 9th August 2025 was approved. Clerk to inform the tenant.
- Communication has been received from Raughton Head School regarding an area of grass verge which runs alongside the school grounds. Previously as a gesture of goodwill the area has been cut as part of the grounds maintenance programme of the school, however going forward they have a new contractor and the outside of the school will not be maintained. The Clerk has contacted Wigton Town Council for a price to cut this area.
- Entry forms for Cumbria In Bloom have been received. It was agreed to enter the village category as in previous years. RFO will send entry form and claim the free tree. Property & Maintenance committee will consider species of tree.
- Cllr McKerrell and Cllr Melrose agreed to be representatives and attend 2 annual virtual meetings with Cumbria Constabulary as part of their Neighbourhood Policing Pledge.
- The next Fells and Solway Community Panel meeting is on Monday 17th March at 10am in Silloth Community Hall, Petteirill Street, Silloth. Cllr McKerrell and Cllr Kyle are attending.

### 28/25 VE Day - A Shared Moment of Celebration 8th May 2025

VE Day 80 is to take place on the 8th May 2025. The proposed itinerary is as follows: -

9am - Flag to be raised.

9am - Proclamation to be read at The Lamp.

6.30pm - Church Bells rung.

9.25pm Tribute to be read.

9.30pm Lighting of the Beacon on The Green.

The Property & Maintenance Committee are to decide the location of the Beacon. Cllr Newton will oversee lighting the Beacon with help from The Festival Committee. RFO to ensure the event is covered by the Parish Councils Zurich Insurance. Cllr Byers to advertise in the Parish Paper. Dalston Cinema to be consulted regarding timing of the film showing to allow cinema goers the opportunity to attend the event.

### 29/25 Grazing Agreement for Chalkfoot

It was agreed that 2 members at the Property & Maintenance Committee meeting on 18th March are authorised to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council when it was returned by the tenant.

### 30/25 Financial

The following payments were approved:-

	Payee	Details	£
BACS	Sue Milburn	March Notices 9.00 Land registry fee High Buckabank 23.95	32.95
BACS	Martin Broatch	Windows February	5.00
BACS	Carlisle Business Supplies	Printer Ink	356.40
BACS	SH Electrical Ltd	Repair security light outside office	223.51
BACS	Brian Hetherington Ltd	Landlords gas safety checks 180.00 Roof repair 110.00 Repair sink 1 Forge Green 129.64 Renew barriers Kingsway car park 465.53 Check boiler & new CO2 monitor 2 Forge Green 89.32 Repair vandalised Kelseys Meadow Sign 59.20 Repairs to Bridge End Bus shelter flags 119.60 Oddments 43.74 VAT 239.41	1,436.44
BACS	Wigton Town Council	Grass Cutting October-December 2024 Cemetery 2145.25 Grass Cutting October-December 2024 Parish 3487.86 Grass Cutting October-December 2024 Summerfield 140.14 VAT 1154.65	6,927.90
BACS	IJ & E Armstrong	Buyback of grave space	375.00
BACS	Watsign	Shield for The Beacon	397.20
BACS	Newton Newton Flags	VE Day 80 flag	36.60

Total			£9,791.00
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The Clerks/RFO agreed Salary, PAYE and National Insurance were paid.

It was approved to transfer £20,000 from the Building Society 30 day deposit account to the current account.

- The internal audit report had previously been circulated for discussion. The RFO reported that the salary budget for 2025/26 had taken into account the increase in Employers National Insurance announced in the Chancellors Autumn Statement. In respect of the grass cutting contract, any annual RPI increase in contract price is applied in arrears, therefore the increase in National Insurance on the contractors labour cost would be in the 2026/27 year. As the budget already includes an increase each year of 5% it was considered any effect on Parish finances would be minimal. The Clerk and RFO were asked to consider what they feel is needed for security and safety in respect of the front door and access to the office.
- Cllr Kyle proposed that David Couling F.I.I.A be reappointed as the internal auditor to report on the 2024-25 Annual Governance and Accountability Return. This was seconded by Cllr Drouet. All were in agreement.

### 31/25 Cemetery

The following cemetery matters were approved:-

- A dark grey granite headstone in Ward 5, Section J, Space 40 to read 'Always in our hearts, Peter Brookes, 09.03.1938 - 14.11.2024, much loved husband, Dad, Grandad and friend to many, a life well lived, full of love and joy, I will lift up mine eyes to the hills. Psalm 121'.
- Mr Ian J Armstrong & Mrs Eileen Armstrong request to sell back their grave space in Ward 5, Section J, Space 34 for £375.
- To make Ruth Heyes joint owner of spaces 37b & 37c in Ward 4, Section C with her parents Mr & Mrs D Heyes. Upon receipt of a letter signed by both current owners detailing their request for their daughter to be added as an owner the exclusive right of burial certificate will be amended appropriately.

### 32/25 Councillor Matters

Cllr Baxter requested that the lack of double yellow and white lines on Carlisle Road be reported again to Cumberland Council.

Cllr Dinning reported that the grey refuse bins on Carlisle Road had not been emptied. This will be reported to Cumberland Council.

Cllr Kyle reported that St Michaels PCC are ready to release money from The Margaret Gore Fund. The Property and Maintenance Committee are to look at sections of the cemetery in need of levelling and returfing.

Cllr Kyle also spoke regarding the unacceptable situation regarding the public toilets closure. Cllr Alison stated that if the Parish Council send him an email he will take this up with Cumberland Council. The clerk will also ask for an update regarding the appointment of a cleaner.

### Date of Forthcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council to take place on the 8th April 2025, 7.15pm at Forge Green .

Policy & Resource Meeting Dates for 2025 – 1st April 2025, 7.00pm at Forge Green.

Property & Maintenance Meeting dates for 2025 – 18th March 2025 at 2pm. Meet at Bridge End.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm