

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Forge Green
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Minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held at Forge Green on the 9th September 2025 at 7.15pm.

S. Milburn Clerk

Present

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

Apologies

The following apologies were approved:-
Cllr Melrose – Wedding Anniversary.

Minutes

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 8th July 2025.

Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

92/25 Public Participation

10 members of the public were present. They spoke regarding speeding concerns in Raughton and Gaitsgill. Cllr Allison agreed to arrange a meeting at the Civic Centre with Keiron Wilkinson (Cumberland Council Traffic Management Officer) and a representative from the police to discuss the issue.

The parishioners were strongly advised to report all incidents to the police.

Clerk to request the mobile speed van to be placed in Raughton.

It was also mentioned that the give way road markings at Gaitsgill had not been replaced, the Clerk stated that this had been requested (Ref No. E1/249359).

A request was made to replace the missing “unsuitable for HGV” sign at the Buckabank junction towards Raughton. The Clerk also reported that removing the vegetation from the beck at Gaitsgill is ongoing.

93/25 Cumberland Councillor Report

SID

There is little prospect of securing a TRO to reduce the speed limit through Raughton any time soon. At the Gaitsgill meeting there was support for installing the SID at Raughton. The ATC showed that a significant number of vehicles exceeded what was considered a safe speed. With 2 blind crests 60mph is far too fast. 40mph is more appropriate. It would need the police assessment of what is a safe limit and if they were prepared to intervene on a road subject to national speed limits. I suggest that we ask for advisory speed limit signs of say 40mph which do not require a TRO, as we did on the disabled parking bays in The Square.

Flood Drop in

I will be attending the Flood drop-in session at Raughton Head school on the 15th of the month. Although it is focussed on Raughton Head and Gaitsgill which suffered serious damage, 2 of the properties at Low Mill were flooded for the first time on the same event.

At a site visit with the residents there, they claim that it was due to the unauthorised bund directing flood water to the rear on the properties. Cllr Allison asked the Parish Council if they would support him in raising this with the Flood authority for an independent assessment, they agreed.

Parking in The Grange

Complaint of “Dangerous parking and an accident waiting to happen” on The Grange estate. You will recall that a resident came to a Parish Council meeting about her concern about parking near junctions and on areas designated for walking by the colour of the cobbles. I agreed to follow this up and had a site visit with her. I then raised this with the highways officer when considering the next batch of TROs for road markings. Given the width of the roads with relatively few traffic movements and clear visibility, this was considered to be a minor issue more appropriate for parking enforcement. I informed the lady that there are far more pressing areas in Dalston that warrant increased traffic warden attention. It may be that the resident comes back to the Parish Council.

There is a problem of reduced visibility at the junction of Bishops Way and Townhead Road due to overgrown vegetation. The clerk agreed to find out if the road had been adopted by Cumberland Council and ask if the vegetation could be cut back.

Sustran cut back

Thank you for contacting Nestle to cut back the overgrowth on the Sustran path along their perimeter fence. I strimmed a further 50m on both sides, still on Nestles land. The encroachment of vegetation is eroding the tarmac surface on one side. I currently have my arm in a sling but when I can ride my bike, I will survey the remainder of the path on Nestle’s land. Strimming is only temporary and encourages further growth. Spraying weedkiller on a 1ft strip down each side would be more permanent but in a public space requires a qualified operator. I will come back to you.

Toilets

Thank you for the update on the toilets. It does seem that they are intending to leave them open. Given the serious vandalism that we have experienced in the past, I do not think that is a good idea. It is not only costly for a severely cash strapped authority under Emergency Financial Support (EFS) but puts the toilets out of commission for an extended period. Crumbs and The Dalston Fryer could open/close them Mon-Sat.

Prompted by my meetings at Beaumont PC, I put a paper to Cummersdale PC (where I am a member), for a review of our parish boundary. From an informal discussion it had the support of the PC members. There will be an opportunity for PCs to make submissions to the Boundary body. I will copy you into my report if there is any interest.

Background:

With the building of the estates on Dalston and Wigton Road, Cummersdale PC has completely lost its rural identity. There is no interest or representation from the new estates, yet they pay the parish council precept. Phase 1 of SCGV with 943 dwellings, school and community hall are planned for the first phase on the east side of Cummersdale \Road just below Brow Nelson, bordering Dalston parish.

94/25 Planning Applications:

Applications:

Appn Ref:25/0444 6 Barras Close, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7NT. Single Storey Side and Rear Extension To Provide Additional Living Accommodation And 1no. En Suite Bedroom; Replacement Of Flat Roof With Pitched Roof Over Garage. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 25/0226 Raughton Farm, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7QA. Proposed Slurry Store, Reception Pit & Hard Standing. No Observations.

Appn Ref:25/0453 Land north of Tanglewood, Grange Park Road, Orton Grange, Carlisle. Erection Of Single Storey Detached Self Build Dwelling. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 25/0224 Brackenhov, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7AG. Construction Of Earth Banked Slurry Lagoon. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 25/0436 Dobicross Hall, Gaitsgill, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7AW. Installation of Micro Scale Anaerobic Digester. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 25/0484 Pinewood, Greensyke Court, Cumdivock, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7JY. Erection Of First-Floor Extension Over Flat Roof To Provide Additional Living Accommodation. No Observations.

NOTIFICATION OF AMENDED DETAILS/FURTHER INFORMATION

Appn Ref: 25/0121 Hazel House, Carlisle Road, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7NQ. Formation Of New Access Road To Serve Proposed Swimming Pool (Approved Under Ref 23/0108). To ensure the application meets highways safety regulations due to its location.

NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWN APPLICATION

Appn Ref: 24/0128 Dalston Hall Hotel, Dalston, Carlisle CA5 7JX. Variation of Condition 2 (Temporary Permission) Of Previously Approved Application 19/0243 (Erection Of Marquee) To Extend The Temporary Permission For A Further 2 Years.

95/25 Clerk and Chairman Report

- A Cumbria innovative Flood resilience meeting is to be held at Raughton Head primary School on the 15th September 2.30pm – 6.30pm.
- The Council have agreed to conduct a Community Governance review to align the Parish Council elections with those of Cumberland Council. An online consultation will commence on 28th July and will run for 8 weeks. The consultation can be responded to online or by email elections@cumberland.gov.uk
- An update on the devolution for Town and Parish Councils was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. The Government has confirmed it believes the introduction of a mayoral authority for Cumbria would improve peoples economic, social and environmental wellbeing and reflect the identities and interests of local communities. Cumberland Council are set to consider this in September.
- A briefing by Francesca Robinson (Cumberland Council) on the Cumberland Local Plan is to take place via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 7pm. A drop in event is to take place in the Victory Hall on Tuesday 30th September 1.30pm-7pm.
- Following a request at the Gaitsgill meeting, Cumberland Council have agreed to the installation of a 90-degree bend sign in the village.
- Electricity Northwest are to cut back the vegetation from the power lines between Station Road and Townhead Road.
- A new printer/scanner has been purchased for the office for a cost of £299 plus VAT.
- Eden Fabrications have fixed the damaged railings on The Green; due to their availability they were asked to fix all damaged areas on the Kingsway side. Clerk to obtain a price to fix parts of the fence adjacent to the road.
- CALC AGM is to be held on Sunday 4th October at 10.30am at the Braithwaite Institute, Braithwaite.
- United Utilities are renewing water mains on B5299 either side of Bridge End pub commencing 15 September. Work will take up to 12 weeks to complete.

96/25 Correspondence

- Following discussion, it was agreed Cllr McKerrell be the contact in the case of a tenancy emergency at Forge Green.
- Keiron Wilkinson (Cumberland Council Traffic Management Team) response to Individuals applying for a TRO restriction is as follows: -“Regarding applying for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and funding it independently, the short answer is yes – it is possible for a third party, such as a parish council or private individual such as a development to fund a TRO. However, it’s important to note that this does not guarantee it would be progressed any sooner due to the current programme workload.
We are presently working through a significant number of TROs, including those linked to Section 278 and Section 106 development-related agreements, and the team is committed well into next year. Even if funding were secured externally, we realistically wouldn’t have capacity to pick up any additional TRO work until early 2026.
In terms of cost, this can vary depending on the complexity of the proposal, the need for engineering works, site assessments, and whether legal objections are received. As a general guide, a straightforward TRO (such as a speed limit change with minimal engineering requirements) typically costs in the region of £3,000–£6,000, though this can increase if signage, lining, or civil works are needed.”
This item was also discussed in public participation.
- The request for the Parish Council to pay for the refreshments for the Cumbria In Bloom awards in the Victory Hall on the 14th October was discussed and declined.
- A complaint regarding the lengthy closure of the public toilets has been received. The Clerk reported that Orian have now taken over the contract and the toilets should be open week commencing 8th September. They will be cleaned daily Monday – Friday. Cumberland Council have advertised for a weekend cleaner. An advert is to

be put into the parish paper. Cllr Allison stated that Crumbs would open the toilets and The Dalston Fryer would close them Monday to Saturday.

- The request to use the Kingsway and The Green for a charity tractor run on the 28th September was discussed and it was agreed permission would be granted providing the organisers have informed the police and they have the necessary public liability/event insurance.
- Correspondence has been received from the Chair of Governors at St Michael School requesting the public footpath between St Michaels School and the Caldew boundary be moved for safeguarding issues. As this is part of the Cumbrian Way permission would need to be sought from the relevant organisation. The Chair of the Governors has been invited to attend the October meeting.
- A request to remove the vegetation/weeds/Himalayan Balsam from the Mill Race has been received. The water course is choked up and there is virtually no space for the water to flow. The Clerk reported that Cumberland Councils Highways Condition Inspector assessed the area and confirmed that the matter is the responsibility of the Environmental agency. The Environmental Agency responded that it is the landowners responsibility. A parishioner has volunteered to clear the vegetation and requested a grant from the Charitable Trust.
- The request to place a seat and wildflowers on the land between Railway Cottages and Nestle was discussed. It was agreed in principal however the Clerk is to find out ownership before proceeding.

97/25 The Kingsway

The Kingsway is now officially registered as Village Green in accordance with Section 15 (8) of The Commons Act 2006.

98/25 General Condition and Maintenance of Forge Green Properties

- **Forge Green Roof** – SAP Ecology completed the bat survey on the 29th August. Jonathan Underwood is to complete the tender for the roof by mid-September.
- The mandatory 5-year Electrical Installation Condition report has been completed for No1&2 Forge Green.
- It was agreed to hold a Forge Green Review group meeting; date to be arranged.

99/25 No.2 Forge Green

The new tenants have moved into No.2 Forge Green. H&H have completed all the relevant checks and tenancy agreement. The rent is now £650.

100/25 RoSPA Annual Play Inspection Report Summerfield Play Area

The annual safety inspection report was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr McKerrell and Cllr Dinning to address the issues. It was noted that the swing seat is waiting to be replaced.

101/25 Financial

- The following payments were approved:-

Chq	Payee	Details	£
BACS	Sue Milburn	Padlocks for Kissing gate September notices	18.62 9.00 27.62
BACS	Martin Broatch	Window cleaning August	5.00
BACS	Dalston Aggregates	Picnic table for Bridge End	210.00
BACS	Raughton Head PCC	Grass cutting Raughton Head Church March-June	840.00
BACS	Carlisle Business Supplies	Printer paper & ink New printer	38.01 358.80 396.81
BACS	Playsafety Ltd	Annual safety inspection Summerfield play equipment	96.00

BACS	Moore	External audit	504.00
BACS	H & H Land & Estates	Letting fee for 2 Forge Green	594.00
BACS	Martin Curran	Electrical Checks 1 & 2 Forge Green	320.00
BACS	Margaret Watling	Step ladder for office	36.00
		Carbonite Subscription to back up to the cloud	85.26
			121.26
BACS	Capsticks	Water & maintain planters & troughs June-August	3,207.60
Total			£6,322.29

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

- It was reported that the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2025-26 had been settled with a 3.2% increase applied to all pay scales backdated to 1 April 2025. Cllr Baxter proposed the new pay scales be applied for the Clerk & RFO. This was seconded by Cllr Byers. All were in agreement.
- The external audit has been concluded, and the audit report had been circulated. The RFO reported that a clean audit report has been received.
- Cllr Baxter proposed that David Couling F.I.I.A be reappointed as the internal auditor to report on the 2025-26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return. This was seconded by Cllr Robson. All were in agreement.

102/25 Cemetery

The Clerk reported that Westwood had provided a quote to level and re-turf outstanding areas of the cemetery and that no other contractors responded. It was agreed to proceed in Ward 5, Section G,H & I for a fee of £16,685 Ex VAT.

103/25 Councillor Matters

- Cllr Baxter reported that there is to be a bike ride on the 12th September at 10am from Carlisle Road to the cemetery in memory of a young man.
- Cllr Clarkson Webb reported the increased youth presence in the village (youths getting the train from outside the village) causing vandalism. This will be brought to the attention of PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick.
- Cllr Dinning reported that he has the 2 speed indicator devices, they will be placed on The Green once permission has been granted to use the telecom poles. It was agreed the cameras be placed at Raughton following the trial run on The Green.
- Cllr Drouet shared his frustration at receiving duplicate unsolicited emails from Cumberland Council.

Date of Forthcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to take place on the 14th October 2025 at 7.15pm in Forge Green.

Policy & Resource Meeting Dates for 2025 – TBA.

Property & Maintenance Meeting dates for 2025 – TBA.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

