

## **DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

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

S. Milburn Clerk

A small presentation was held for Ronnie & Liz Auld to thank them for all their work in the Parish and to wish them well for their move to Scotland.

### **Present**

Cllr Melrose (Chaired meeting due to absence Cllr McKerrell)      Cllr Newton      Cllr Baxter      Cllr Irving  
Cllr Byers      Cllr Dinning      Cllr Clarkson Webb      Cllr Drouet

### **Apologies**

The following apologies were approved:-

Cllr McKerrell – Family Reasons  
Cllr Kaye-Kreczkowski – Leave of Absence  
Cllr Robson – Work Commitments  
Cllr Potter – Sickness  
Cllr Ebbatson – Family Emergency  
Cllr Kyle – Work Commitments

### **Minutes**

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

### **Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **115/25 Public Participation**

The Chair of Governors from St Michaels School spoke regarding minute number 120/25. He also stated that the school will temporarily lose their car park whilst United Utilities carry out works. The Parish Council suggested he contact Nestle, the Co-op and Dalston Show Committee.

### **116/25 Cumberland Councillor Report – Cllr Allison**

#### Raughton TRO site visit

Chris Harrison (Raughton resident) and I (ward councillor) met with Police Inspector Andy Leather and PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick on Sunday morning 02/11/25. We discussed the merits of the proposal for a 30mph speed limit followed by a drive through in the police car. It was the collective view that any scheme should include Gaitsgill. If adopted, the 30mph signage would include one at Gaitsgill village and both ends of Raughton

In adopting a 30mph limit, the police must commit to enforcement. I discussed this aspect with Graham. Perhaps the residents would be prepared to fund a SID with number plate recognition or the type installed in the approach to Cummersdale which flashes up the speed and a notice at three levels depending on the speed.

Andy will be taking this to the next Highway Safety meeting with his recommendation that it be supported. The two documents generated from within the community are quite outstanding. I feel they convinced Andy of the merits of the case.

As regards to timing, my understanding is it will be some months before it could be included in the next batch to be submitted to the DFT.

A number of residents who attended an earlier parish council meeting said they were prepared to cover the cost of an individual application. I believe that the legal charges would be significant. Cllr Allison agreed to contact Chris Harrison and recommend that the residents meet and discuss how they would like to proceed.

#### Flooding of Garden Cottage from the highway.

Thanks, Margaret, for your involvement and photos of the interior of Garden Cottage. My highways "mentor" has told me that the issue of road flooding and the inadequate capacity of the slit drain has been recognised and action proposed. I forwarded this to the homeowner. In the meantime, the drain is constantly blocked by falling leaves.

I will give this a further two weeks to see if there is any progress. If not, I will take it up with the Head of Highways, Karl Melville.

#### Flooding on the cycle path

Following the heavy rain fall on the 4/11/25 flooding was reported next to the newly built bridge on the cycle path. The issue has been reported to Rachael Land (Galliford Try) and Cumberland Highways.

### **117/25 Planning Applications:**

#### **Decisions:**

**Appn Ref: 25/0226** Raughton Farm, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7QA. Proposed Slurry Store, Reception Pit & Hard Standing. Granted.

**Appn Ref: 25/0224** Brackenhaw, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7AG. Construction Of Earth Banked Slurry Lagoon. Granted.

**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. Granted.

**Appn Ref: 25/0453** Land north of Tanglewood, Grange Park Road, Orton Grange, Carlisle. Erection Of Single Storey Detached Self Build Dwelling. Granted.

#### **Applications:**

**Appn Ref: 25/0378** Westwood Nurseries, Orton Grange, Carlisle, CA5 6LB. Display of 11 no. Fascia Signs & 1 no. Window Vinyl (All Non-Illuminated). No Observations. However, it was noted this was a retrospective application.

**Appn Ref: 25/0589** Low Flanders, Buckabank, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7AF. Erection Of Vintage Agricultural Storage Building; Creation Of Access Track And Associated Hardstanding. No Observations.

**Appn Ref: 25/0616** Cardew Hall, Cardew, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7JQ. Roofing Over Existing Uncovered Manure Store. No Observations.

### **118/25 Clerk and Chairman Report**

- The office will close for the Christmas period on the 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and will re-open on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
- An extension has been put in place for the closure of public footpath 14005 from Bellgate to Cardew Hall. It will re-open in November 2026.
- It was reported that on request Cllr McKerrell visited Raughton Head School to do a presentation about the role of the Parish Council and answer questions.
- Following discussion, the Parish Council agreed that they would use CALC's internal audit service were CALC to go ahead with the proposal.
- Cumbria Local Resilience Forum have free emergency resource kits for Community Emergency Hubs. We have requested kits for Stockdalewath, Gaitsgill and Victory Hall. The Councillors asked to see the kit when it arrives.
- Cumberland Council's Electoral Services Team are looking to commence a Community Review in 2026 it will consider Councillor Numbers, Merging of Parish Councils and Minor Boundary Amendments (anomalies only). The Councillors requested that we be included in all correspondence to ensure that changes made don't affect our Parish Council.

### **119/25 Correspondence**

- The rescheduled CALC AGM will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am on Microsoft Teams. Peter Allison (Chair NALC's Policy Committee) will be the guest speaker and will Talk about West & South Yorkshire Mayors. It was noted that the original meeting date was cancelled at 9.30pm the night before the

meeting (Friday evening), due to the weather. Only the Clerk was emailed and not individual Councillors, therefore a member of our Council went to the meeting as they weren't aware it had been cancelled.

- A parishioner has made a complaint about mud on the road between Dalston and Cumdivock. The issue has been reported to Cumberland Council (log no. E1/263401) and it has been passed onto the relevant team for action.

### 120/25 St Michaels Church of England Chair of Governors Request to Re-locate Path in the Cemetery

The Chair of Governors has made a request to the Parish Council to relocate the existing path in the cemetery to the river end of the cemetery exiting beside the United Utilities pumping station. Reasoning behind this is to close the public footpath alongside the school and cemetery due to unique safeguarding of the pupils. Members discussed the issues, considering all aspects including the safety of the children, the impact moving the path will have on the community who value the access to the cemetery, particularly the elderly and the financial implications involved moving the path. Councillors concluded that no decision could be reached at this stage. If permission to relocate the public footpath outside the school was granted from the Countryside Access team and a more detailed proposal put forward for the re routing of the existing path, including clarity around the point any path from the cemetery could join the new route then the council would consider a change in the cemetery paths at that point.

### 121/25 The Green Flooding Update

The Clerk reported that contact had been made with Andrew Hasrison (Cumberland Council Senior Lead Officer for Flood & Coastal Risk Management) regarding the long-standing flooding concerns on The Green. Andrew's response was as follows "We do know where/what the issue is and where the water comes from and historical changes made by the landowner. We know the size of drains across the road and the size of the drain that runs down the road. When the main carrier drain is full the gullies in the gateway area surcharge due to this probably being the low point. There wouldn't be funding to upsize hundreds of metres of drain down the highway edge back towards the village, nor would there be enough funding to put a new pipe in across The Green area hence the idea of an overflow pipe that would surcharge into The Green area during large rainfall events. As stated, this would be a trial to see if there were detrimental effects in The Green area. I believe highways are to carry out some works in the region so the work could be incorporated into this." It was agreed a meeting be arranged with Andrew on site. Cllr McKerrell, Cllr Byers, Cllr Irving, Cllr Dinning and Cllr Kyle agreed to attend.

Following the heavy rain on the 4/11/25 issues were also raised about slurry running off the fields at Buckabank down the hill to The Forge, leaves blocking the drains on The Green, flooding outside Glebe Close and the cycle path flooding where the new bridge is being installed.

### 122/25 Financial

- The following payments were approved:-

Chq	Payee	Details	£
BACS	Sue Milburn	November notices 9.00 Flowers 28.00 Cake 28.00	65.00
BACS	Martin Broatch	Window cleaning September	5.00
BACS	Raughton Head PCC	Grass cutting July-September	880.00
BACS	Viking	Wall planner and 2026 desk diary	12.88
BACS	Light Bulb Web Design	Website hosting	432.00
BACS	Carlisle Business Supplies	Stationery and ink	58.66
BACS	Plastecowood Ltd	2 benches for Stockdalewath & Cyclepath	951.60

BACS	Harry Stebbing Workshop	Noticeboard for Forge Green	1,784.40
BACS	Wigton Town Council	Grass cutting July to September Parish 3759.42 Grass cutting July to September Cemetery 2222.48 Grass cutting July to September Summerfield 145.19 Vat 1225.42	7,352.51
BACS	Roadware Ltd	3 Replacement litterbins for Riverside, Jubilee Garden & The Green bus shelter	650.22
BACS	Sage	Annual software support contract	422.40
BACS	Underwood Associates	Preparation of Forge Green roof tender document	875.00
BACS	James Gardening & Property Services	Cut back vegetation on Kingsway 675.00 Weed Co op flower beds 250.00 Weeding between gravestones 120.00 Hedge cut Forge Green Office 50.00 Waste disposal 120.00	1,215.00
BACS	Capsticks	Winter planting 1882.92 Watering September 388.80	2,271.72
BACS	Eden Fabrications	Repair railings on The Green	2,256.00
CHQ 806	Westwood Landscapes	Returfing work in Cemetery	20,022.00
BACS	SH Electrical	Service air conditioning unit in 1 Forge Green	138.77
CHQ 805	Ian Davidson	Gravedigging for C Scales	500.00
Total			£39,893.16

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

A transfer of £30,000 from the 30-day notice deposit account to the current account was approved.

### 123/25 Cemetery

- The burial of the late Christopher Scales in Ward 5, Section J, Space 44 on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025.
- Sections G,H &I cemetery levelling is complete. The lane by St Michaels School will be reinstated to its original condition when the weather allows.

- The memorial inspection is complete. A report of works to be completed will be provided in due course.

#### **124/25 Councillor Matters**

- Cllr Baxter stated that parents picking up their children from school arrive early and sit with their car engines running causing air pollution outside the houses on Carlisle Road. Clerk to report the issue to Graham Kirkpatrick.
- Cllr Byers thanked Cllr Dinning for organising the Remembrance lunch in the Victory Hall. It was very well attended and £220 was raised.
- Cllr Dinning reported that the 2 auto speed watch cameras have been installed one on The Green and one outside Caldew School. The Clerk has registered them online.
- Cllr Dinning also reported that the overgrown vegetation in the Mill Race has been removed by the landowner and gorse cut back on The Green.
- Cllr Drouet reported that there is a planned power cut in the Buckabank area on the 19/11/25, 9am-4pm to allow Electricity North West to repair equipment in their substation. Due to this the Policy and Resource meeting has been brought forward to 1pm.
- Cllr Newton stated that the car park in front of Summerfield Play area has been sold. Clerk to check that the access to the play area isn't affected.

#### **Date of Forthcoming Meetings**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7.15pm in Forge Green.

Policy & Resource Meeting Dates for 2025 – 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1pm Forge Green.

Property & Maintenance Meeting dates for 2025 – TBA.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm