

## DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Forge Green  
Dalston  
CA5 7QG  
Tel: 01228 712766  
Email: [clerk@dalston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@dalston.org.uk)

Minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held at Forge Green on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7.15pm.

S. Milburn Clerk

---

A minute's silence was held to mark the passing of Cllr Kaye-Krzeczkowski.

### **Present**

Cllr McKerrell Cllr Melrose Cllr Newton Cllr Irving Cllr Kyle Cllr Potter  
Cllr Byers Cllr Dinning Cllr Clarkson Webb Cllr Drouet Cllr Craig

### **Apologies**

The following apologies were approved:-

Cllr Baxter – Family Reasons  
Cllr Ebbatson – Family Reasons  
Cllr Robson - Illness

### **Minutes**

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

### **Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **125/25 Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

### **126/25 Cumberland Councillor Report – Cllr Allison**

#### Community Panel

It seems to me that Cllr Kyle's letter encapsulated the views of some colleagues on the panel including myself. With the odd exception the meetings are poorly attended often with no-one at all. Cllr Kyle recommended that the meetings be held in more accessible venues such as Wigton

My opinion is that apart from dispensing funds over which, as a member, I have some influence as I had at the County Council, there is an overlap between the Parish Councils as the focus of the community and the new Community Panels. I see a role for the latter in non parished wards which are almost exclusively urban. I wrote a paper for Cummersdale Parish Council which was submitted to the Boundary Review. The original rural parish of around 300 residents has been swamped almost 9:1 by the urban developments on Dalston and Wigton Road. Although they are included in our precept income, the new estates have no interest or representation in the committee. I proposed that they be devolved and could perhaps be better served by community panel(s) or be parished themselves.

We are meeting tomorrow at 10.30am at the market hall at Wigton. It will be interesting to see if there is greater public interest.

#### Flooding of Garden Cottage due to slit road drain

Both the Parish Council and I as Ward Councillor have been involved with trying to resolve this long running highway drainage issue, up to now without success. My last effort was to e-mail my appointed Highways mentor, copied to the Director of Highways saying that if there was no response then I would institute a formal complaint on behalf of the

owner of the property. The director visited the site this week and said that he would issue instructions immediately for a traditional gutter and gullies to be installed. Thank you, Margaret, for your involvement and photo. I am optimistic that this will finally be resolved.

#### Potential Highways TROs. Including the proposal for a Raughton/Gaitsgill reduced speed limit

I am pleased to see the road marking proposals including extending the double yellows on Station Road, are being taken forward.

Attached is the text of the card Chris Harrison and I put through the doors at Raughton and Gaitsgill. Based on the response from the police inspector who visited the site with us, we are increasingly optimistic of a positive outcome. I have already had a response from one of the residents who offered to make a financial contribution if this can be brought forward rather than just included in next year's combined submission to the DFT. If there are other offers of financial support I will establish if the authority is prepared to do a single application and the likely cost. Would the Parish Council be prepared to contribute as well? (The Parish Council agreed they would need to know the costs before making a decision).

I think that Chris's technical input in our submission impressed the Traffic Safety committee when they considered it. We will follow this up with further research. I propose a dash-cam video driving through Raughton at 30,40 and 50 mph. I use this route regularly and in my view the 85% centile is demonstrably too fast.

#### Train Station car parking

As you know the area adjacent to the Summerfield play area has been sold. For years this has been used as a car park for users of the train service including latterly myself when catching the train to Workington or Whitehaven on council business. It now has signs saying "No parking" and the access gate has been locked.

I have made some tentative approaches on what options there could be to provide an alternative but would appreciate the views of the PC on this issue before taking this further. It does represent a significant loss to the community. The Parish Council agreed that nothing could be discussed until they found out what the proposals for the area are.

#### **127/25 Planning:**

##### **Decisions:**

**Appn Ref: 25/0346** Beech House Plot 11, Greensyke Court, Cumdivock, Dalston. Amendment To House Type Comprising Erection Of Single Storey Extension To Provide Boot Room; Erection Of Single Storey Detached Building To Provide Home Studio / Office. Granted.

**Appn Ref: 24/0717** Chalkfoot Farm, Cumdivock, Dalston, Carlisle CA5 7JH. Demolition Of Existing Barn (Consented To Be Converted To A Dwelling Under Application 22/0577) And Erection Of A New Dwelling. Granted.

##### **Applications:**

**Appn Ref:25/0632** Marshall House, Greensyke Court, Cumdivock, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7JY. Erection of Sunroom To Rear Elevation. No Observations.

**Appn Ref:25/0665** 12 Buebank Road, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7RE. Erection Of Single Storey Side & Rear Extension To Provide Garage, Family Living/Kitchen, Shower Room & Utility. No Observations.

#### **128/25 Clerk and Chairman Report**

It was reported that the Carlisle Rural Traffic Regulation Order review is now complete and the following are to be implemented: -

- The disabled badge holder only parking spaces outside the dental practice to be limited to 3hrs only Monday – Saturday 8.30am – 6pm.
- The double yellow lines on Station Road are to be extended. Please see attached documents.
- Due to the office computer and laptop being un compatible with Windows 11 they are to be replaced. A quotation has been received from Casche4 IT Solutions Ltd and the Clerk reported that a second quote has been requested from DTech Computers. Clerk to speak to Cumberland Councils IT department for advice. It was agreed a support package would not be needed, the Parish Council would pay the support fee as and when problems occur.
- There is to be a police desk in the Co-op on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 1pm-3pm.

#### **129/25 Correspondence**

- Correspondence has been received regarding a proposed future housing development on part of the land south of Madam Banks and a request made to include it in the Neighbourhood Plan (as the next residential allocation) when it is updated. It was reported that Cumberland Council have advised the Council not to complete a new

Neighbourhood Plan until their Local Plan is finalised. Clerk to reply as follows to the correspondent “Thank you for the information and request but due to our role and responsibilities in the planning process the Parish Council are unable to make any comment at this time”.

- The submitted St Cuthbert’s Garden Village Local Plan 2025-2055 is available to view on the St Cuthbert’s Garden Village website or inspected in person at Cumbria House and Civic Centre Offices.
- Cumberland Council have identified 2 Ash trees on the riverbank which need felled due to Ash die back disease. They have given 12 months for the work to be completed. Clerk to contact Mike Lowther.
- A parishioner has requested a defibrillator be placed at Lingyclose. The Clerk reported that The British Heart Foundation are currently providing several free defibrillators and that an application for one had been completed. If successful, the only cost would be installation which could be funded by the Charitable Trust.

### **130/25 Dalston Charitable Trust Grants**

Cllr Kyle reported that the following grants had been approved:-

Dalston Festival Committee – towards cost of the 2025 festival	£1,500
Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill – refurbishment of front door	£ 400
Dalston Recreation Association – sand and re-lacquer floor	£3,000
Dalston Parish council – summer holiday fun time sessions	£ 452
Dalston Lawn Tennis Club – sessions during festival week	£ 500
St Michael’s Pre-School – sailshade for outside play area	£ 500
Dalston Flower & Craft Group – demonstrator for poppy wreaths	£ 210
Dalston Methodist Church – replacement microphone	£ 180
Dalston Victory Hall – replacing floor	£1,664

Total £8,406

The Parish Council budget provides for an amount of £3,300 for awards to local organisations this year. The Trustees have agreed that the balance of the above awards should be met from the Trust’s own ongoing funds. The Trustees also agreed to make an award to a young man in the Parish towards the cost of the equipment he required in order to open his own mechanical repairs business.

### **131/25 To Move the Fence to The Green and Make Both Grassed Areas on the Kingsway Equal in Size**

Cllr Ebbatson proposed the idea therefore due to his absence the item was deferred.

### **132/25 The Green Flooding Update**

Cllr McKerrell reported that a meeting had been held on The Green on the 25<sup>th</sup> November to discuss flooding issues. 3 members of Cumberland Council and 4 members of the Parish Council were present. It was reported that Highways want to direct some of the excess flows which end up on the highway, onto The Green. They don’t have specific details of the works as such, however it is likely that this will consist of alterations to the existing manhole in the grass verge, to allow some flows to discharge onto The Green. This is something they intend to discuss further with the area highways team. Once they have further information they will be back in touch. A lip is also going to be placed on the pavement preventing stones and debris washing onto the road.

The flooding issues at Glebe Close were also discussed. The ditch on Nook Lane Common Land is to be cleaned, and a grill is going to be placed on the opening to the drain, they are also to extend the gully so that the overflow water will seep into the adjacent field. Cllr Irving proposed permission be granted to divert the overflow water onto The Green. Cllr Byers seconded this, 9 Councillors were in favour and 1 Councillor abstained.

### **133/25 Report from Policy & Resources Committee Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> November 25**

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 Melrose and seconded by Cllr Kyle that the following recommendations by the Policy and Resources Committee are approved:

- To approve the amendment to the Financial Regulations.
- To confirm the increase in rents for 1 Forge Green & the allotment gardens.
- To approve the Information Technology Policy.

All Councillors were in agreement.

The RFO reported that the draft budget recommended by the Policy & Resources Committee showed a deficit due to the cost to replace the roof at Forge Green otherwise the budget would be a break even position.

It was proposed by Cllr Kyle and seconded by Cllr Drouet to accept the budget for 2026/27 with a 4.9% increase in precept equivalent to 7p per week increase for a Band D property. A precept of £99,086 will be requested.

All Councillors were in agreement.

### 134/25 Financial

The following payments were approved:-

Chq	Payee	Details	£
BACS	Sue Milburn	December Notices	£9.00
BACS	Margaret Watling	Postage stamps & cellotape	£30.96
BACS	Martin Broatch	Window cleaning November	£5.00
BACS	Graeme Vipond	Cemetery headstone inspections	£1,400.00
BACS	Stewart Blair	Trim hedge at the Forge	£135.00
BACS	SAP Ecology & Environmental Limited	Update bat activity survey	£1,113.00
Total			£2,692.96

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

### 135/25 Cemetery

Following the recent memorial inspection, it was reported that 4 gravestones need attention. As they are old headstones there are no details of the owners therefore the Parish Council requested Carlisle Cemetery be contacted to find out their protocol in this instance. Cumbria Memorials are to provide a quote for the works. This will be discussed further at the January meeting.

### 136/25 Councillor Matters

- Cllr Drouet reported that some Fibrus cables on The Green are intertwined in tree branches. Clerk to contact Open Reach.
- Cllr Newton reported that some tree branches in the cemetery are causing visibility issues when turning right out of The Square. Clerk to ask Mike Lowther to cut them back.

### Date of Forthcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.15pm in Forge Green.  
Policy & Resource Meeting Dates for 2026 – TBA  
Property & Maintenance Meeting dates for 2026 – TBA.

The meeting closed at 8.32pm

