

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Forge Green
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Minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held at Forge Green on the 10th February 2026 at 7.15pm.

S. Milburn Clerk

Present

Cllr McKerrell (Chair) Cllr Kyle Cllr Ebbatson Cllr Laycock Cllr Irving Cllr Baxter Cllr Potter
Cllr Byers Cllr Dinning Cllr Drouet Cllr Melrose Cllr Clarkson Webb Cllr Newton

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 13th January 2026.

Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

11/26 Public Participation

There were 7 members of the public present.

A parishioner from Orton Grange Park requested funding for a defibrillator. This will be put onto the March agenda for discussion.

A member of the public spoke regarding public participation being at the start of the meeting. It was stated that the order of the agenda is the Councils decision and the public can speak for 3 minutes to air any views. Parishioners are not permitted to speak at any other time in the meeting. The parishioner also requested Cllr Allison investigate parking alternatives due to the sale of the car park next to Summerfield Play area.

A parishioner requested that the Neighbourhood Plan be looked at now as this would enable parishioners to give their views on future developments and the impact they will have on the village. It could also have a bearing on Cumberland Councils Local Plan. This is to be put onto the March agenda for discussion.

12/26 Planning Applications:

Decisions:

Appn Ref:25/0616 Cardew Hall, Cardew, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7JQ. Roofing Over Existing Uncovered Manure Store. Granted.

Appn Ref: 25/0589 Low Flanders, Buckabank, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7AF. Erection Of Vintage Agricultural Storage Building; Creation Of Access Track And Associated Hardstanding. Granted.

13/26 Cumberland Councillor Report

SID Installations

I attended the police presentation on 7th February, see minute number 21/26 for the meeting overview.

Cllr Allison agreed to ask Highways for support in installing the cameras, this was supported by the Parish Council.

Community Panel Resilience Meeting Wigton

I attended the Resilience event at Wigton which was organised by Helen Esselmont. It was prompted by the serious flooding events that they experienced there. Over 100 attended with many stands. They have established a local resilience group who had a stand. With local knowledge of the area and of the residents, especially the elderly, they help the public services in identifying and evacuating flooded homes. It covers other factors such as storm damage, fires, road incidents. etc. Is this something Dalston might be interested in? The Clerk was asked to invite Helen to the Annual Parish Meeting in May to present her thoughts on the subject.

Update on Car Parking for the Railway Station

I have had approaches from 3 residents following the locking of the gate in the steel fence alongside the Summerfield play area. The area is now tarmacked. Planning has a photo of the open gate about 30 years ago when the play area was established under a S106. It may be that a ROW has been established. There has been no application for change of use. Planning will keep a watching brief on this site. Clerk instructed to commence with a claim for the route / locked gate under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, as the route has been used without permission or secrecy by the public for a period of twenty years.

Grass Cutting on the public footpath along the railway between Carlisle Road and the Station

I started clearing and cutting the grass several years ago following complaints that this public footpath was becoming impassable due to overgrowth of nettles etc that had spread from the railway embankment. As a public footpath, the only obligation is to maintain a path. This initiative promoted residents whose houses back onto this stretch to cut their side of the tarmac path. The Parish Council paid for the planters at the road end to be filled and maintained. It is now a pleasant feature visible from the road.

I cut this grass every week in the growing season. It takes about an hour; a volunteer has agreed to help me with this. Now I have a smaller car and unable to transport the lawn mower from Cummersdale. I would appreciate it if one of the houses along there was able to store the mower.

14/26 Clerk and Chairman Report

- Following discussion, it was agreed to add “ No cycling” to the current cemetery notices.
- Wigton Town Councils quotation of £728 per annum to maintain the area of land at Hawksdale was approved.
- Cllr McKerrell was nominated to be placed into the draw for the Royal Garden Party on the 8th May 2026.
- Cllr Robson has resigned from the Parish Council. Clerk to write a letter of thanks. The vacancy has been advertised. Cllr Dinning and Cllr Newton agreed to take over the monthly inspection of the EV chargers.
- The Clerk reported that the application to the British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator to be placed at Lingey Close had been rejected. It was agreed to discuss this at the meeting in March.
- The Clerk reported that the train station sign and Parish Council hanging basket at the entrance to the station had been knocked down. Northern Rail have been contacted to replace the sign. Mtech Auto Services have also offered to replace it.

15/26 Correspondence

- Correspondence has been received requesting the white lines at the train station be re marked and no parking lines be placed on the left-hand side of the road when turning off Station Road towards the station. This land is partially owned by Network Rail whilst the rest of the area has no named ownership. The Clerk stated that Northern Rail have been approached to part fund the works. Following discussion, it was agreed to defer this item until the Council have clarification on what is happening with the recently sold car park next to Summerfield play area. Once this happens the whole area will be discussed.
- Correspondence has been received requesting a memorial seat be placed on a piece of land at the Raughton to Gaitsgill junction. The Clerk reported that the Church Commissioners have confirmed it is their land and highways have requested a site meeting to make sure the area is suitable. If all permissions are granted it was agreed to go ahead with the seat.

16/26 Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order Reviews

As part of the scheduled programme of Traffic Regulation Order Reviews, officers will soon commence the North Cumberland speed limit review. The current list includes the reduced speed limit at Raughton. Following discussion, the below requests are also to be put forward for consideration: -

1. The Parish Council would like to request a 20mph speed limit zone between Nestle and the Victory Hall. St Michaels Church of England primary school and Caldew secondary school are located on this stretch of road so too is the village centre which is a hub of activity due to the number of thriving businesses based in The Square. During school drop off and pick up times the road is full of vehicles parked on the roadside causing visibility issues and safety concerns for school children and parents alike.
Dalston is also on the Cumbrian Way and is used by many walkers and cyclists.
2. The Parish Council would also like to see the 30mph speed limit on Townhead Road reduced to 20mph. This section of road has become much busier due to the construction of the Story Estate; with more vehicles parked on Townhead Road and a busy Doctors Surgery. The 20mph zone to extend from the Co-op junction to the junction at Nook Lane.
3. The Parish Council also have speeding concerns regarding a stretch of road between Hawksdale and Lime House School near to the B5299 junction and would like the speed limit on this section to be reduced to 40mph.

When exiting Thornfield Camping Cabins to turn left (Northbound direction) you are unable to see oncoming vehicles until you are turned well into the carriageway, approaching speeding vehicles make this extremely hazardous.

A significant number of pedestrians now use the road to access the Woodside Welcome Café and the public right of way directly opposite the Thornfield Camping Cabins. Many of the users are unfamiliar with the area and the speed at which the traffic travels along the minor road. There has also been an increase in cyclists using the road.

4. The Parish Council would like the 30mph speed limit on Station Road reduced to 20mph on the section of road from the Post Office to the junction at Barras Close.

17/26 To Move the Fence to The Green and Make Both Grassed Areas on the Kingsway Equal in Size

The following quotation of £24,395 + VAT has been received from Westwood Landscape to carry out the work above: -

- Removal of existing metal fence and keep to re-use as required.
- Manufacture new/replacement metal fence panels as required to match existing as closely as possible.
- Install fence in agreed new position.
- Grade ground to provide as flat a surface as possible – overseeding as required.

In addition, we offer the following:

- Supply and install 8 seat heavy duty picnic bench on gravel surround with 47mm timber board edging - £1305 + VAT each.
- Supply and install heavy duty 2m park bench, installed onto paving flags - £1020 + VAT each.
- Supply and install litter bins (to match existing as closely as possible) - £630 + VAT each.

A sketch plan of the proposed works was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. If a professional drawing is sought, it will cost in the region of £1,000.

Cllr Ebbatson to obtain a further 2 quotations.

The Clerk suggested that memorial seats could be placed on the area.

Cllr Drouet proposed that local businesses be approached to help with the funding of the project.

The below parishioner correspondence has also been received and taken into consideration: -

- A scaled plan should be drawn that will enable contractors to tender prices for the work. The final plan and the cost should then not need to be altered.
- Prior to the parish meeting the boundary of the enlarged area should be marked using inexpensive posts, either painted white or with ribbons attached and the seat positions marked with ground paint so that everyone can clearly see what the completed work would look like should it go ahead.

18/26 Access Path to the Cemetery

Due to the current state of the access track into the cemetery via the side of St Michaels School the Clerk received a quote of £8,645 + VAT from Westwood Landscape for the following works: -

To supply and install a 3m wide hardstanding track from the pavement down to the cemetery access gate. This would be a compacted sub base layer sat on geotextile membrane and a 47mm timber edge would separate the track from the grass verge to the side. Following discussion, it was agreed that the path is adequate, Westwood to reinstate the area to its original condition prior to them doing the re levelling works in the cemetery.

19/26 The Green Grazing Agreement

Cllr McKerrell and Cllr Melrose were authorised to sign the 2026 Grazing agreement for The Green.

20/26 Forge Green Review Group Meeting 21st January 2026

The minutes from the meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was reported that one of the contractors had declined the invitation to tender for the re roofing work. The tender is advertised on the Government Find a Tender website and has so far brought four enquiries about the work. The deadline for receipt of tenders is noon on 23rd February with the tenders being opened on Wednesday 25th February.

21/26 Auto Speed Watch Update

Cllr McKerrell reported that the camera on Carlisle Road has been vandalised and has now been taken down. The solar booster pack has now been attached to the device on The Green.

The RFO had circulated a paper prior to the meeting regarding the operation of Autospeedwatch and statistics from the device capturing information on The Green.

The Councillors were very disappointed with the performance of the devices. It was agreed that until the performance issues are improved with the device on The Green the second camera would not be replaced. The RFO will continue to pursue avenues to get help setting up the device. A reply is currently awaited from the clerk at St Cuthbert Without Parish in this respect.

22/26 Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were approved:- Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 6.30pm in the Victory Hall on the 12th May 2026. Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm in the Victory Hall on the 12th May 2026. The 9th June Parish Council Meeting to take place in Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill.

23/26 Financial

- The following payments were approved: -

Chq	Payee	Details	£
BACS	Sue Milburn	February Notices	£9.00
BACS	Wigton Town Council	Parish grass cutting October to December 2025 3759.42 Cemetery grass cutting October to December 2025 2222.48 Summerfield grass cutting October to December 2025 145.19 VAT 1225.42	£7,352.51
BACS	Martin Broatch	Window cleaning January	£10.00
BACS	Carlisle Business Supplies	Printer paper	£22.86
BACS	Margaret Watling	Postage for roof tender documents	£34.05
CHQ 809	Ian Davidson	Dig cremated remains space Alfreda Bennett	£500.00
BACS	Cache4 IT Solutions	New computer and laptop	£1,585.80
Total			£9,514.22

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

- The accounts for the 9 months to 31 December 2025 had previously been circulated. The RFO reported that a sum of £10,000 has been agreed by St Michaels PCC to be paid from The Margaret Gore Fund towards the cost of the grave space returning.
There were no queries on the figures.

24/26 Cemetery

- The burial of the late Alfreda Bennett in Ward 5, Section H, Space 37 on the 16th January 2026.
- The purchase of grave space in Ward 5, Section L, Space 16, by Deborah Robinson.
- The RFO reported that following a meeting with Cumbria Memorials they had advised that the two large monumental memorials would be a large job requiring a crane to make them safe to BRAM and NAMM standards. The other three memorials which had been identified as requiring attention currently leaning could be attached to the church wall. The RFO to seek advice from Carlisle Cemetery if unsafe memorials where no living relatives can be traced can be removed from the cemetery.

25/26 Councillor Matters

- Cllr Baxter welcomed action but expressed concerns over the standard of pothole repairs.
- Cllr Irving requested the potholes at the entrance to the Recreation Building be attended to, Clerk to ask the Carlisle Southern Link Road team if this is something they could do for the Parish.
- Cllr Irving requested Paragon Vets be asked to address the pavement damage to their entrance.
- Cllr Irving requested an advert be put into the Parish Paper regarding Rural Wheels.
- Cllr Byers reported the footpath next to the river in the cemetery is starting to camber. The Property and Maintenance team to look at this.
- Cllr Laycock asked for clarity regarding the reopening of junction 42.
- Cllr Dinning reported the deterioration of Silent Quarry.
- Cllr Dinning requested vegetation be cut back at Forge Green and The Green.

- Cllr Kyle reported an increase in fly tipping in the Parish.

Date of Forthcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council to take place on the 10th March 2026, 7.15pm at Forge Green.

Policy & Resource Meeting Dates for 2026 – TBA

Property & Maintenance Meeting dates for 2026 – TBA

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.