

## **DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

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Minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held at Forge Green on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.15pm.

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Richard Wood and Camilla Carruthers spoke and answered questions regarding the Local Plan and Dalston Neighbourhood Plan. They assured the Council that there would be 3 consultation stages and 3 gateways providing plenty of opportunity for the Parish Council to express any views and concerns. A parishioner requested the Houghton Planning application reference number be forwarded to the Clerk. They also asked if S106 documents are still produced and where copies can be found, it was stated that the documents are currently in the process of being uploaded.

### **Present**

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

### **26/26 Local Plan / Dalston Neighbourhood Plan**

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan had previously been discussed at the Parish Council meeting in October 2025 where it was agreed not to discuss the matter further until more information had been received. Following this evening's presentation the same view was taken. Cllr Laycock to join the Dalston Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee. Cllr Mckerrell requested that Cllr Drouet lists what he feels is most relevant from the last Neighbourhood Plan. The parishioner correspondence regarding the proposed Story Homes residential development of 99 houses on land at Nook Lane was discussed and it was agreed the Council could not comment until it is an official planning application. Clerk to get details regarding the public consultation event on the 25<sup>th</sup> March and circulate to Councillors who are welcome to attend.

### **Apologies**

The following apologies were approved:-  
Cllr Clarkson Webb - Operation  
Cllr Newton – Work Commitments

### **Minutes**

**Resolved** to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

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### **Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **27/26 Public Participation**

There were 2 members of the public present.

### **28/26 Co-option of Councillor To Dalston Ward**

Cllr McKerrell welcomed Paula Warburton to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Byers and seconded by Cllr Irving that Paula Warburton be co-opted as a Councillor to Dalston Parish Council with effect from the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026. All Councillors were in favour. The declaration of acceptance to office and pecuniary and other registerable interest forms were completed and a new Councillor pack was given to Paula.

## **29/26 Cumberland Councillor Report - Cllr Allison Meeting Keiron Wilkinson Regarding Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Orders**

Cllr Allison produced the below report:-

### Station Road.

Extension to the double yellows already agreed.

Pedestrian crossing, Keiron was not against it in principle, but the pavements are too narrow, and the highway is not wide enough to allow any intrusion.

The statistics do not support a reduction to 20mph on Station Road.

### Townhead Road

Reduction in the speed limit to 20mph. The average speeds are 24mph. with no reports of serious incidents or KSIs. It will not be included on the list.

### B5299 though Dalston

Request 20mph from Nestle to the Kingsway. Again, the average speeds recorded are too low especially at school change overs, to justify a reduction to the speed limit. It will be proposed an advisory speed limit of 20mph with appropriate signage at each end be the recommendation. This can be done locally. Cllr Allison to request a flashing slow down sign be placed north of Caldew School.

### Hawkesdale approaching junction with the B5299

About a year or so ago I spent a considerable amount of time with the owners of the pods and the cafe. We did an ATC. The outcome was that the lower limit could not be justified. I recall that the visibility splay to the right for cars emerging from the pods/cafe is about 200m. and the traffic speeds reflected the fact that it is approaching the junction with the B5299. They were disappointed with a feeling that I could have done more to justify a reduction.

It is felt that signage and possibly road markings is appropriate here as there is little supporting evidence to justify a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph.

The Clerk to invite Keiron Wilkinson to the next meeting so further information can be gathered as to why our requests have been unsuccessful.

## **30/26 Planning Applications:**

### **Decisions:**

**Appn Ref: 25/0692** Dobcross Hall, Gaitsgill, Dalston, Carlisle CA5 7AW. Erection of Agricultural Building. Granted.

**Appn Ref: 25/0708** Buckabank House, Buckabank, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7AA. Erection of First Floor Extension Above Existing Garage. Granted.

### **Applications:**

**Appn Ref: 26/0012/S211** St Michaels Church Graveyard, 1 The Square, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7PJ. Removal Of 1no. Sycamore Tree (T6) In Dalston Conservation Area. No Observations.

**Appn Ref: 26/0038** 1b Barras Lane Industrial Estate, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7NY. Change Of Use Of Land Within Existing Commercial Storage Yard To Self-Storage Facility (Class B8) Including Siting Of 30no. Shipping Containers; Creation Of Internal Access Route With Associated Fencing; External Security Light And Ancillary Works. No Observations.

**App Ref: 26/0119** Roebeck, Cumdivock, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7JJ. Demolition Of Conservatory; Single Storey Extension To Provide Additional Living Accommodation And Utility Room; Single Storey Front Extension To Provide Sunroom. No Observations.

## **31/26 Clerk and Chairman Report**

- PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick is to increase his visibility and accessibility within communities and will attend the Annual Parish Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. There will also be a police desk in Dalston Co-op on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 12noon-2pm.
- It was agreed to run 3 Rural Funtime days over the summer holidays. An application for funding is to be made to the Charitable Trust to contribute £457.50 towards the running costs.

### **32/26 Correspondence**

- The organisers of the upcoming Tractor Run have asked permission for Nestle and possibly other stalls to park on The Green. This was agreed subject to them providing their public liability insurance, an alcohol licence if applicable and ensuring the area be left tidy.
- Following discussion it was agreed to enter Cumbria In Bloom 2026. A new category for cemeteries and graveyards has been added this year.
- Permission was granted to Dalston Show Committee to use The Green for parking on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2026.
- A Fells and Solway Community Panel meeting is to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 10am at Kirkbride Church.

### **33/26 Request for Defibrillator Funding**

The requests to place a defibrillator at Lingey and Orton Grange Park were discussed. It was agreed that the Policy and Resource Committee put together a draft defibrillator policy before a decision be made.

### **34/26 Cumbria Combined Authority Briefing – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Cllr Kyle gave a report from the briefing, and the slides were circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. These are available to read on the Parish Council website.

### **35/26 Memorial Seat Raughton**

The Cumberland Council memorandum of agreement to place a memorial seat at Raughton was signed by Cllr Mckerrell and Cllr Irving.

### **36/26 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Application Public Right of Way Summerfield**

Cllr Melrose agreed to help the Clerk complete the application.

### **37/26 Forge Green Roof Replacement**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to open the tenders for the roof replacement had already been circulated. Cllr Melrose summarised the process and confirmed that to avoid any conflict of interest the Clerk had not been involved in any aspect of the tendering process or the opening of the tenders.

It was proposed by Cllr Melrose and seconded by Cllr Byers that the contract be offered to Brian Hetherington Limited. All were in agreement. RFO to write to the contactor.

A building control application with full plans will now be completed. There will be a charge of £119 + VAT for the plan fee and £284 + VAT inspection fee.

The bat low impact licence required will take approximately 10 days to obtain and will cost £1,300 plus VAT. Liaison with the contractor regarding a start date will be required to ensure an ecologist is on site when the roof removal begins.

### **38/26 Auto Speed Watch Data**

A report for the period 7<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 from Autospeedwatch had already been circulated. There were a large number of vehicles speeding at or above a trigger speed of 35 mph. It was considered that the time needed to verify each vehicle to produce the report for Cumbria Constabulary was not effective use of the RFO's time. It was proposed to increase the trigger speed to 40 mph to reduce the workload. Nine councillors were in favour, there was one against and one abstention. RFO to action.

It was suggested that Cumberland Council be approached to provide a traditional SID device.

The vandalised device which was at Caldew School could not be repaired as the base containing the motherboard had not been recovered. RFO to report the vandalism to PCSO Kirkpatrick.

### 39/26 Financial

- The following payments were approved:-

| Chq        | Payee          | Details                         | £       |
|------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| BACS       | Sue Milburn    | March Notices                   | £9.00   |
| BACS       | M Watling      | Postage to return solar booster | £5.40   |
| BACS       | Martin Broatch | Window cleaning February        | £10.00  |
| CHQ<br>810 | S Diver        | Litterpicking Gloves            | £19.99  |
| BACS       | Watsign        | Cemetery notices                | £91.20  |
| Total      |                |                                 | £135.59 |

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

- A paper showing the price comparison for the current monthly flexible tariff with Octopus Energy and other available fixed tariffs had already been circulated. In the last week there has been no significant change to tariffs arising from the war in Iran. It was proposed by Cllr Kyle and seconded by Cllr Melrose to stay with Octopus Energy and switch to their Green Octopus 24 month fixed tariff. All were in agreement. RFO to action.

### 40/26 Cemetery

There were no cemetery matters.

### 41/26 Councillor Matters

Cllr Kyle reported an increase in fly tipping.

#### Date of Forthcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7.15pm at Forge Green .

Policy & Resource Meeting Dates for 2026 – 21<sup>st</sup> April 7.15pm Forge Green.

Property & Maintenance Meeting dates for 2026 – 18<sup>th</sup> March 1pm at Forge Green.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm