

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Forge Green
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Minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held at Forge Green on the 7th April 2026 at 7.15pm.

Present

Cllr McKerrell (Chair) Cllr Baxter Cllr Byers Cllr Dinning Cllr Irving
Cllr Kyle Cllr Melrose Cllr Ebbatson Cllr Newton Cllr Warburton

Apologies

The following apologies were approved:-

Cllr Drouet – Holiday
Cllr Craig – Sickness
Cllr Potter – Sickness
Cllr Laycock – Work Commitments
Cllr Clarkson Webb – Operation Recovery.

Cllr McKerrell stated that the Clerk will be taking time off work from the 9th April for an operation. The Clerk from Cummersdale Parish Council will take the meeting minutes for however long is necessary.

Minutes

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10th March 2026.

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Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Melrose planning approval 22/0309.

42/26 Public Participation

There was 1 member of the public present. They expressed an interest in agenda item 9 (Forge Green Roof).

43/26 Cumberland Councillor Report – Cllr Allison

Story Homes presentation for their proposed Nook Lane development

In my view any development should be on this side of the village, not on land which could lead to the eventual merger of two settlements.

On the issue of the flooding at Glebe Close. Story claim that the attenuation pond has the capacity to more than compensate for the faster run off from the development. They assert that the flooding is from the field opposite the close and the lack of a drainage ditch connection along the road verge.

Despite being one of, if not the most popular recreational cycleways in the district, the Sustrans cycleway was not adopted as part of the CSLR project. This raises two ongoing issues.

Annual cutting back or treatment of overgrowth restricting the path and damaging the tarmac. This is simply too much to expect from volunteers.

Money raised between Cycle Carlisle and the Section 106 contribution from The Grange development was £40,000.

Although we have since raised a significant sum deposited in a separate account at Cycle Carlisle, it is not sufficient to cover these two issues.

In responding to the Story consultation, I propose to request that 50% of any S106 or other grant support be allocated to Cycle Carlisle as before, to provide professional cutting back /treatment of overgrowth, and/or repairs to the surface. Would this have the support of the Parish Council? Cycle Carlisle have a dedicated bank account with a significant sum already committed to this but clearly in need of other funding sources.

The Parish Council agreed that comments on the S106 couldn't be made until a firm planning application has been received.

Raughton Speed Limit Project

I was invited by Keiron Wilkinson to meet to discuss applications in my ward for speed related TROs. She then submits these to Abigail Doods for final recommendations to highways. It was disappointing that on the basis of tracking on a Google map she is of the view that Gaitsgill should not be included. Chris Harrison suggests we install a police speed monitoring device, but we could simply send her our ATC report. I raised this with Chief Inspector Andrew Leather who will contact Keiron directly, hopefully with a positive outcome.

Keiron supports a crossing on Station Road but unfortunately, as she demonstrated in a video, the footpath is too narrow for the installation of sensory pads which are a requirement. The footpath on the Post Office side is to be extended.

44/26 Planning Applications:

Decisions:

Appn Ref: 22/0309 The Oaks, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7BJ. Change Of Use Of Attached Annexe From Domestic Storage To Holiday Let Accommodation. Grant Permission.

Applications:

Appn Ref:26/0132 Rosina Cottage, Cardewlees, Carlisle, CA5 6LF. Erection Of Single Storey Front Extensions And Internal Reconfiguration To Provide New Kitchen, Utility, Link Corridor And Ground Floor Shower Room; Stopping Up Of Existing Vehicular Access And Provision Of New Site Access. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 26/0019/S211 28 The Square, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7PY. Removal Of 1 no. Hawthorn, 1no. Spruce & 1 no Beech Tree In Dalston Conservation Area. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 26/0147 Cardew Hall, Cardew, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7JQ. Installation Of A Small Scale Anaerobic Digester. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 26/0164 7 Lingyclose Road, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7LB. Erection Of Detached Garage. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 26/0139 Bishops Lough Farm, Dalston, Carlisle CA5 7JP. Demolition of Existing Farmhouse, The Attached Milking Parlour (Consented To Be Converted To A Dwelling Under Application 20/303), A Commercial Building With A Sui Generis Use For The Storage & Sale Of Vehicles; A Nissen Hut & Detached Garage; Erection Of 2no. Replacement Self-Build Dwellings. No Observations.

Appn Ref:26/0020 S211 Stonebeck Mill, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7QL. Felling of 1no. Birch Tree. No Observations.

45/26 Clerk and Chairman Report

- The July 14th Parish Council meeting will be held at Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill.
- The public liability, event management plan and police notification have been received for the Tractor Run event to be held on the 17th May. The documents have been circulated to the Councillors. The event is being run by Eden Valley Hospice.
- The Countryside Access Officer has confirmed receipt of the Parish Council application to add a public footpath across land at the former Dalston Station car park. It was noted that the application has been scored, prioritised and entered onto the list of outstanding applications, and presently sits at no.28. Cllr Kyle agreed to source the deeds for the area.

46/26 Correspondence

- The tenants of No.2 Forge Green request to have a dog was approved. A letter is to be written stipulating that the property must be left in the same condition as when they moved in. It was suggested that in future the deposit for Forge Green should be increased to 3 months.
- Correspondence has been received from Eden River Trust regarding volunteer groups willing to help with Balsam bashing within the Parish. The Clerk reported that contact details had been forwarded for Nestle & The Gardening Club. The Clerk also offered to put an article in the Parish Paper and onto the Parish Council website.
- Carriageway resurfacing works as part of the highways 2026-2027 capital improvement programme will include two sections of road in Dalston. They are Caldew Hurst to Station Road and The Square to Bridge End Inn;

- A request to cut the hedgerow on the footpath from Station Cottages to Nestle (adjacent to houses on the Summerfield Estate) was discussed and rejected due to the land in question having no registered owner and conflicting opinions regarding cutting the hedge.
- works are scheduled to take place during the school summer holiday period. Cllr McKerrell is to attend a site meeting with Cumberland Council and the contractor DSD to discuss the resurfacing of the Recreation entrance and car park.

47/26 Annual Parish Meeting 12th May 2026

- The agenda and speakers for the Annual Parish meeting were approved.

48/26 To move the fence to The Green to make both grassed areas on the Kingsway equal in size.

It was noted that 2 quotations have been received. The Clerk also reported that 2 funding applications had been completed; one to The Fells and Solway Committee and the other to the National Lottery, the outcomes are still to be determined. Another option is to apply to Cumbria Waste Management for a grant. It was agreed if a grant isn't secured the proposal will be put on hold.

Cllr Ebbatson / Cllr Dinning agreed to present the project proposals at the Annual meeting. A decision will then be made as to whether the project will go ahead.

The request to mark the area prior to the meeting was discussed and it was agreed this will be done.

49/26 Picnic Tables Bridge End

The Cumberland Council memorandum of agreement to place 2 picnic tables at Bridge End was signed by Cllr Ebbatson and Cllr Dinning.

50/26 Forge Green Roof

Brian Hetherington Ltd has accepted the roof works. A provisional date of the 8th June has been given for the commencement of work.

The Clerk reported a missing slate had been replaced on the roof at No.1 Forge Green.

51/26 Request for authorisation to use a copyrighted image on the internet

Following discussion and advice from CALC's legal team it was agreed that the email request received regarding copyright issues on the Parish Council website has the hallmarks of a scam and there is no reason for the Council to make any response.

52/26 St Cuthberts Garden Village

From 17th March 2026 St Cuthberts Garden Village Local Plan is available to view on the St Cuthberts Garden Village website. There is also an online questionnaire for people to complete.

Cllr Kyle stated the following "As Dalston is the largest Council on the southern edge of Carlisle the Parish Council should be involved in something which is ultimately going to produce an additional 10,000 houses on the fringe of the council's area. If we want to try to preserve Dalston as a village environment separate to Carlisle, should we not make sure we have a voice on the development before things become a fait accompli. There are plans for considerable new community establishments and outlets in the Garden Village which could well be in danger of competing with the existing ones in Dalston and perhaps taking present members away so that the organisations struggle to survive."

Cllr Allison stated "our new ward is to be Dalston & Cummersdale but as separate settlements with Cummersdale part of the new SCGV Local Plan. The developments in Cummersdale Parish on Dalston and Wigton Road now outnumber the original rural Cummersdale Parish by 9:1. but with no representation or interest. Cummersdale Parish Council submitted a paper for consideration at the appropriate time by the Boundary Commission, to relinquish most of this urban development. The 943 houses attached to Cummersdale village below Brow Nelson under the SCGV ethos will be more representative of Cummersdale as a rural Parish again. It seems to me that Dalston has retained its rural identity, hopefully Cummersdale can do the same."

It was agreed to keep a watchful eye on proceedings and request the information provided to the newly formed Stakeholder Group also be forwarded to Dalston Parish Council.

53/26 Financial

- The following payments were approved:-

Chq	Payee	Details	£
BACS	Sue Milburn	April Notices 9.00 Building Control fee 403.00 Postage for footpath application 6.67	418.67
BACS	Mark Nugent	Mole catching	40.00
BACS	Bourne Business Centre	Payroll processing April 2025-March 2026	216.00
BACS	Cache4 IT Solutions	Data transfer to new computer hardware, Microsoft Licence and security package	1,344.72
BACS	Carlisle Business Supplies	Copier paper, glue	60.44
BACS	Dalston Parish Charitable Trust	2026 Solar Farm income	7,834.39
BACS	Dalston Aggregates Ltd	Concrete for picnic bench at Bridge End	142.80
BACS	Watsign	Cemetery Notices	91.20
BACS	Martin Broatch	Window cleaning 2nd & 31st March	20.00
BACS	Cumbria in Bloom	Entry fee for 2026	50.00
BACS	Brian Hetherington Ltd	Leaking sink 2 Forge Green 104.32 Bases for seats/picnic benches & hang Forge Green noticeboard 907.68 VAT 202.40	1,214.40
BACS	CALC	Annual Subscription	518.78
CHQ 811	Ian Davidson	Gravedigging C Mitchell	500.00
Total			12,451.40

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

- The schedule of suppliers to be paid by direct debit for the year 2026/27 was approved.
- The RFO reported that the precept for 2026/27 of £99,086 was received and banked in the 30 day deposit account on 1st April 2026. Cllr Baxter queried the 6.2% increase in the Dalston element shown on latest Council Tax bills. Cllr Kyle advised that this was a result of the Council not using like for like calculations

when comparing the last two years. The increase in our precept was 4.9%. The Council have also provided details of changes to the number of eligible properties compared to last year in order that an explanation can be given if a parishioner asks. Cllr Melrose asked for a written confirmation of the different basis of calculation to be obtained from Cumberland Council.

- The RFO reported that the interim internal audit for 2025/26 has been completed. A written report is awaited.

54/26 Cemetery

- A Honister slate headstone 70cm x 55 cm x 10cm for the late Chris Scales in Ward 5, Section J, Space 44. Inscription to read :- Chris Scales, 24.12.1950 – 25.09.2025, A kind and gentle husband, Dad, Grandad and friend. A true listener. Now tending God's Garden with no weeds. A small white heart below.
- The burial of the late Thomas Craig Mitchell in Ward 5, Section K, Space 55 on the 25th March 2026.

55/26 Councillor Matters

- It was agreed that Cllr Melrose's defibrillator proposal be discussed at the Policy and Resource meeting on the 21st April. It will then be taken to the June meeting for ratification.
- Cllr Baxter requested that a damaged coping stone on the Co-op wall be reported to Lattimer's.
- Cllr Ebbatson asked if the village sign is still going ahead, Cllr McKerrell reported that it is.
- Cllr Kyle reported that Unthank Farm is for sale.
- Cllr Warburton reported that The Kingsway car park had areas on flooding.

Date of Forthcoming Meetings

The meeting of the Annual Parish Council to take place on 12th May 2026 at 6.30pm in the Victory Hall.

The Annual Parish meeting to take place at 7.30pm on the 12th May 2026 in the Victory Hall.

Policy & Resource Meeting Dates for 2026 – 21st April 7pm Forge Green.

Property & Maintenance Meeting dates for 2026 – TBA

The meeting closed at 8.55pm