

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Forge Green
Dalston
CA5 7QG
Tel: 01228 712766
Email: clerk@dalston.org.uk

Minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held at Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill on the 14th July 2026 at 7.15pm.

David Wood (Red Spearlands Walking Group) spoke and answered questions regarding footpaths within the Parish. Concerns were raised about the prolonged closure of Gill Beck footpath (no. 114005) and the poor state of both footpaths leading from Gaitsgill to Dalston.

A copy of David's report is attached and available to read on the Parish Council website. Redspearlands are to apply for funding to the Charitable Trust to republish the "Lets Walk In Dalston". An article will also be put into the Parish Paper and onto the Parish Council website asking for voluntary donations.

It was noted that it is a statutory obligation for Cumberland Council to maintain footpaths. The Clerk is to invite Christopher Graham (Senior Countryside Access Officer) to the Parish Council meeting in October and Cllr Allison is to raise the concerns discussed at the next full meeting of Cumberland Council.

Present

Cllr McKerrell (Chair) Cllr Byers Cllr Dinning Cllr Drouet Cllr Warburton
Cllr Kyle Cllr Melrose Cllr Potter Cllr Laycock Cllr Newton Cllr Clarkson Webb

Apologies

The following apologies were approved:-

Cllr Irving – Personal reasons

Cllr Baxter – Unwell

Cllr Craig – Illness

Cllr Ebbatson - Holiday

Minutes

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9th June 2026.

.

Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr McKerrell 91/26 (additional payment for authorisation Caldew Premier Travel)

81/26 Public Participation

There were 7 members of the public present.

Parishioners spoke regarding Gaitsgill and asked the Parish Council for help in the following areas: - to cut the hedge opposite Primrose Hall, to address the vegetation and tree's in the beck (Cllr Allison agreed to take this matter up with Cumberland Council), to paint the railings by the beck, to have the road swept, to address the issue of vehicles above 7.5 tonnes driving through Raughton, to clean the village entrance signs and to have the road markings re painted at the Raughton to Gaitsgill junction. They also requested the speed camera be placed at Raughton.

A member of the public logged their objection to the proposed Kingsway project (agenda item 7) and spoke regarding The Green Covenant. The Clerk reported that the conveyance is in Forge Green and asked the Councillors to read it to ensure any works on The Green aren't in contravention of the document.

82/26 Cumberland Councillor Report – Cllr Trevor Allison

There is one issue in the Parish that I continue to be involved with, that of the flooding at Low Mill. The detailed report that was published identifies the impact of the extensive bunding in relation to the flooding of properties.

About ten days ago I met with the Low Mill residents and will be exploring with the EA what options there are to address the issues that they raised. A primary concern and frustration was the lack of enforcement by the then planning authority which is strongly felt by this community. I expect to be able to give some feedback in due course.

On the Sustrans cycleway, of course I am disappointed that the PC are not prepared to be a conduit for Cycle Carlisle for any potential S106 funds they might secure from major developments in the Parish. Persimmon have such a development in Cummersdale Parish. Cllr McKerrell and Cllr Melrose re iterated any S106 monies could only be discussed on receipt of funds.

If domestic circumstances allow, I am down to speak at the planning meeting at Allerdale on Wednesday on two issues, one being a mechanism for a contribution to the cycleway. After the meeting I will be happy to copy you my presentation with the outcome.

Cllr Kyle reported that there had been a Fells and Solway meeting on the 29th June. A Cumberland Heating Oil Support Fund of £400 is to be made available, more details of who can claim and how to claim can be found on the Parish Council website and in the Parish Paper.

Nick Raymond (Operations Manager for Cumberland Council Highways) stated that pothole numbers were down significantly.

Cllr Allison was requested to give future updates from the panel in his Cumberland Councillor report.

83/26 Planning Applications:

Decisions:

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. Granted.

Applications:

Appn Ref: 26/0307 23 Summerfields, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7NW. Erection of Two Storey Side Extension To Provide Store On Ground Floor With En-suite Bedroom Above. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 26/0319 26 Bishops Way, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7LF. Erection Of Single Storey Rear Extension To Provide Enlarged Kitchen, Living/Dining Room. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 26/0036/S211 28 The Square, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7PY. Removal of 4no. Tilla Trees in Dalston Conservation Area. No Observations.

Appn Ref: 26/0383 Bluebell House (Green Lane Cottage), Buckabank, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7AF. Installation Of Fibre Optic Connection To Include Fixing Of 2.3mm Wide Fibre Cable To Front Elevation (LBC). No Observations.

Notice of amended details/further information:

Appn Ref: 26/0228 Land South of Nook Lane, Dalston, Carlisle. CA5 7JG. Erection of 99no. Dwellings Including New Vehicular Access, Landscaping And Associated Works.

The observations on the 33 new documents and two new consultee responses are as follows:

- The traffic survey results included in the further information is misleading. The strips were placed at a 90 degree bend and so would not give a true representation of traffic speeds.
- The claim that there was spare capacity in the schools was questioned.
- Councillors consider the comment that objection letters had been AI produced to be insulting to parishioners.
- The Council are dissatisfied that the Neighbourhood Plan, a legal document agreed by referendum as representing the wishes of parishioners, is being ignored.
- To date the only document submitted by the Parish Council published on the planning application portal is the objection submission. None of the further correspondence is published.
- Replies have not been forthcoming from the Planning Officer or his Service Manager to the Parish Council queries.
- The provision of 10,000 dwellings in the St Cuthbert Garden Village which will address the housing need is being ignored.

- The application is being processed at an unacceptable speed for thorough consultation.

The RFO will pursue responses to queries raised.

It was suggested that the issues should now be escalated to the Director of Planning and reported to the Member of Parliament.

The next meeting for the working group has been arranged for 7 pm on 21st July at Forge Green.

84/26 Clerk and Chairman Report

- There will be no Parish Council meeting held in August unless urgent business dictates otherwise (standing order 5d).
- A social meeting for Councillors is to be held on the 11th August at Bridge End Inn, more details to be provided by the Clerk.
- A police desk is to be held in the Co-op on Sunday 30th August 1-3pm.
- To address the issue of overflowing water onto the road during heavy rainfall on The Green, Cumberland Council will commence the following works on the 13th July 2026:-
Install two new 150mm diameter (6") pipes from the existing roadside manhole chamber, that will act as a high-level overflow to reduce pressure of the overall drainage system and the amount of surface flow running down the highway.
The new twin pipes will be routed out from the existing manhole through the greenspace, with the pipes out-falling 20 metres inland where the ground level drops off, to keep it well away from the highway and footpath. In addition, improvements will be made to the highway gully by creating an additional flow channel with modifications to the existing chamber lid, to aid getting more of the surface flow directed into the system. All works are essentially on the river side verge of the highway. The ground within the greenspace will be reinstated at completion of the pipe works.
- Cumberland Council are to commence resurfacing work on B5299 Monday 20th July 2026 for approximately 35 nights.
Phase 1: Caldew Hurst to Station Road, Monday 20 July – Friday 7 August. Phase 2: The Square to The Bridge End Inn, Monday 10 August – Friday 4 September. Full road closure between 6pm & 3am Monday to Friday.
- Carlisle West Rural Neighbourhood Policing Pledge meeting has been rescheduled for 15th July 6pm on Teams. Joining instructions have been circulated to the Councillors.
- The Cumberland Council Local Plan timetable has been issued and circulated to the Councillors and can be found on the Cumberland Council website.
- Martyn's Law webinar to be held on the 20th July 2.30pm-3.30pm via teams. Joining instructions have been circulated to the Councillors.

85/26 Correspondence

- A further letter has been received from the residents of Orton Grange Park requesting the recent defibrillator decision be overturned. They also requested a list of benefits they receive from the monies paid to the Parish Council. Following discussion, the Clerk was requested to reply.
- A parishioner spoke regarding concerns relating to the dates on the fishing permits. This has been rectified.
- Parishioner correspondence regarding engaging with the landowner of the field by the bay to make a permitted footpath over their land was discussed. The Parish Council agreed not to follow this up due to past correspondence with the landowner.
- A parishioner has requested signage be displayed in the Glave Hill car park stating that vehicle engines be turned off when parked. Following discussion, it was agreed an article be put into the Parish Paper and the Clerk to report the issue to PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick and the Environmental Health Department at Cumberland Council.
- A temporary road closure on the 19th July, 9am-12noon is in place for Carlisle Half Marathon. Details can be found on the Parish Council website.
- Cllr Laycock proposed to create a Parish Council subcommittee focused on strategic planning and development matters, discussions would include highways, infrastructure and net zero. It was agreed this would fit in well with the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group.

86/26 Planning Consultant

- It was agreed this will be discussed further at the Neighbourhood Plan Review Meeting on the 28th July. To be taken into consideration will be number of houses, number of objectors and ensuring applications adhere to the Neighbourhood Plan.

87/26 Kingsway Project – Proposal to make both grassed sides of the Kingsway equal in size to provide more seating/tables

Following discussion and on the basis that funding can be obtained a vote was taken on whether to proceed with the project. 7 Councillors were in favour and 3 Councillors were against.

The Clerk to apply for funding through Cumbria Waste Management. An application has also been sent to the Co-op Community Investment fund.

88/26 Cumbria In Bloom

Cllr Byers reported that the judging went well and thanked David Wilcock for his excellent presentation and all the parishioners and businesses involved. The village looked lovely. The presentations will take place sometime in the second week of October at Castle Green, Kendal.

89/26 Autospeedwatch

Data for the period 1 March to 7 July 2026 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The RFO reported that two requests have been made to Cumbria Police for feedback of actions which have been taken by Community Speedwatch. To date no reply has been received. This will continue to be pursued.

It was resolved to renew the Autospeedwatch licence for another year and continue to monitoring vehicles on The Green. Moving the device to an alternative location will be considered later in the year.

90/26 To receive the internal report

- The internal audit report for 2025-26 had been circulated before the meeting. The recommendation that a written procedure should exist to ensure contractors are properly vetted will be considered at the next review of the Financial Regulations.
- Cllr Byers proposed that David H. Couling be appointed as the internal auditor to report on the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year 2026-2027. Cllr Laycock seconded this. All Councillors were in agreement.

91/26 Financial

- The following payments were approved:-

Chq	Payee	Details	£
BACS	Martin Broatch	Window cleaning June 2026	£10.00
BACS	SH Electrical	Pat testing & replace smoke detectors in office & 1 Forge Green	£776.52
BACS	Raughton Head PCC	Grass cutting April-June 2026	£420.00
BACS	Carlisle Business Supplies	Copier paper & black ink	£63.01
BACS	Autospeedwatch	12 month licence	£214.80
BACS	Plastecowood Ltd	Replacement John Kelsey Memorial Bench	£582.00
BACS	Capsticks	Summer planting	£2,058.72
BACS	Sue Milburn	July Notices 9.00 Padlocks 72.96	£81.96

BACS	Greer Pritchard Planning	Planning Consultant for Nook Lane Application	£3,600.00
BACS	J M Finn-caile	Gardening work	£2,800.00
BACS	Primrose Hall Gaitsgill	Hire of hall for July PC meeting	£15.00
BACS	DA Byers	Cumbria in Bloom judges lunches	£69.95
BACS	Caldew Premier Travel	Hire of minibus for Cumbria in Bloom judging day	£48.00
CHQ 817	Ian Davidson	Dig grave for Robert Roy	£500.00
Total			<u>£11,239.96</u>

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

- Cllr Kyle proposed a gift card for Marks & Spencer to the value of £150 should be purchased to thank the internal auditor for the work carried out. Cllr Drouet seconded this. All Councillors were in agreement. RFO to action.
- The accounts for the 3 months to June 30th 2026 which had previously been circulated were approved.

92/26 Cemetery

- The additional inscription for the Late Olga Rose Gardhouse in Ward 1 Section Q Space 20. To read 'Also Olga Rose. Their beloved daughter and sister. Died 27 March 2025. Aged 84. Rest in peace'.
- The additional inscription for the Late Thomas Craig Mitchell in Ward 5, Section K, Space 55. To read 'Also Thomas Craig Mitchell, 1968-2026, Dearly loved Son, Brother and Uncle'.
- The purchase back of grave space Ward 4, Section A, Space 16 which was owned by the late Olga Gardhouse for £50.
- The burial of the late Robert James Roy on the 17th June 2026 in Ward 5, Section L, Space 19.
- The purchase of cremated remains space Ward 4, Section C, Space 43h by Mrs Julia Dobson.

93/26 Councillor Matters

- Cllr Byers reported that the Gardening Club would like an additional seat in the Jubilee Garden. Clerk to speak to a parishioner who had previously sought permission to have a memorial seat in there.
- Cllr Laycock reported the damaged footpath sign by the White Bridge. The Clerk reported that this was in hand.
- Cllr Warburton requested the road markings on the road between Nestle and the Pharmacy be repainted. This will be completed after the road surfacing works.
- Cllr Drouet stated the following regarding the roundabout at Cummersdale: - Travelling from Dalston to Carlisle, after negotiating the new Cummersdale roundabout on the CSLR, I note that the two 30 mph terminal signs on the roundabout slip road are not being effectively noticed by most other motorists. In my opinion these signs are mounted too close to the manoeuvring area of the roundabout slip road leading to Carlisle. In this area drivers are concentrating on traffic entering and leaving the roundabout and the terminal signs are easily missed. In addition, as this section of road from the area of the roundabout to just after the Carlisle Cemetery entrance was a 40-mph zone (temporary 30 mph whilst the new road works were being constructed), drivers can easily think the road has reverted to its former 40 mph restriction if they do not observe the terminal signs adjacent to the roundabout.

As a result, drivers are reporting that whilst they are obeying the 30-mph speed limit, others are “tailgating” them, unaware that the speed limit here has now changed.

On one occasion, one impatient driver behind me, overtook my vehicle at the earliest opportunity narrowly missing the new central safety island adjacent to one of the new housing estate roadways, travelling at a speed more than 40 mph. This was clearly a very dangerous manoeuvre for both other vehicles and any pedestrians.

My corrective suggestion would be to move these 30 mph terminal signs 30m – 50m, to the other side of the footbridge in the Carlisle direction where the carriageway returns to a normal roadway from the roundabout.

Date of Forthcoming Meetings

The meeting of the Parish Council to take place on 1st September 2026, 7.15pm at Forge Green.

Policy & Resource Meeting Dates 2026 – TBA

Property & Maintenance meeting 2026 – 28th July 1pm Forge Green.

Neighbourhood Plan Review Meeting 2026 – 28th July 7pm Forge Green.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm