

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Forge Green
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Minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held at Forge Green on the 1st September 2026 at 7.15pm.

Present

Cllr McKerrell (Chair) Cllr Baxter Cllr Byers Cllr Dinning Cllr Irving
Cllr Kyle Cllr Ebbatson Cllr Potter Cllr Laycock Cllr Clarkson Webb Cllr Warburton

Apologies

The following apologies were approved:-
Cllr Drouet – Grandchildren duties

Minutes

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14th July 2026.

Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Laycock works for the Cumberland Combined Authority.

94/26 Public Participation

There were 2 members of the public present. A parishioner informed the Council of a coffee morning in the Victory Hall on the 26th September 10-12 noon to raise funds to support the objection to planning application 26/0228.

95/26 Cumberland Councillor Report – Cllr Allison

1) Proposed e-mail to the head teacher at Raughton school

PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick has contacted me. He shares your concern about the speed of traffic past the school. I am surprised that you do not have the usual flashing mph signs at the approach to the school. Apparently, a traffic assessment was done which showed an average speed of 34mph. This was not considered sufficient to warrant a 20mph limit device during the opening and closing times of the school. For a cash strapped authority funding may be the issue and not just the cost of the device.

It seems that installation will require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) via the Department for Transport which incurs legal costs to the Cumberland authority. There is currently a public consultation asking for possible traffic schemes this could qualify for inclusion. If funding is the issue, I may be able to give a grant towards cost of the device from my allocation and will ask the Parish Council if they would also be prepared to support this. The school would also be required to contribute. You may want to consult with the Governors.

The Parish Council were fully in support. Cllr Allison to source prices for the next meeting.

2) Cutting back the vegetation on the Sustrans Cycleway

With Cycle Carlisle, we have concluded that it is unreasonable to expect volunteers to trim the edges to prevent encroachment by weeds, nettles docks etc which affects passage and breaks up the tarmac.

I have a quote from Westfield Landscapes of just over £6K including VAT to cut back and subsequently spray both sides of just under 1,000m in Dalston Parish.

Since it is all on Nestle land, I would appreciate the contact's name at Nestles to advise them of our intentions.

3) Low Mill flooding

I assume that the PC were copied the EA report on the impact of the “illegal bund.” This was intended to protect Low Mill properties from flooding. Unfortunately, under extreme flood events it diverts flood water at a point near Nestles, resulting flooding of at least two properties that never flooded before. The residents wish to have the bund removed under an enforcement notice. My concern is that that much of the bund is not soil with possible commercial value, but civil waste that would need to go to landfill at prohibitive cost

I met with the residents recently and agreed to follow this up with the authorities. I would appreciate background information or submissions by the PC which might help me in this. As I recall the PC objected to the application for a bund. Clerk to provide background information.

4) 14th July 2026 Parish Council Meeting Ongoing Follow Ups

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 trees in the beck (Cllr Allison agreed to take this matter up with Cumberland Council).

96/26 Planning Applications:

Applications:

Appn Ref: 26/0044/S211 Land to rear of 28 The Square, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7PY. Removal Of 17no. Douglas Fir Trees & 1 no. Lime Tree In Dalston Conservation Area. No Observations.

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.

It was proposed by Cllr Irving that the objection submission to the planning application prepared by the working group and which had been previously circulated to all councillors be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Byers. Seven Councillors were in agreement and one Councillor abstained.

It was reported that the Parish Council had only recently been informed that the planning officer for the application was leaving Cumberland Council on 2 September. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Allison would raise with Cumberland Council the Parish Councils concerns about poor communication in respect of this application. It was also agreed to enquire if there is a time limit in which a new planning officer needs to be allocated to the application.

97/26 Shaping Dalston Meeting July 28th 2026

Cllr Laycock gave a summary of the meeting. The minutes are attached and a further meeting will be scheduled in the autumn.

98/26 Clerk and Chairman Report

- The Councillors approved 9 wreaths to be ordered on behalf of the Parish.
- The Gardening Clubs request for an additional seat to be placed in the Jubilee Garden was discussed. Cllr Byers to agree which seat they would like to purchase and if they will contribute to the cost. This will be discussed again at the October meeting.
- It was agreed to take the two old Parish Council office hard drives to Cashe4 IT Solutions Ltd to be destroyed.
- A quotation from Cache4 IT Solutions of £306.14 Ex VAT to supply a unit to improve the office Wi-Fi and network was approved.
- The Chalk Lodge Woodland Management Plan was circulated and discussed. The Council agreed that due to current climate changes the potential risk of fire should be addressed. It was also noted that the newly planted areas would need protection from wildlife damage.
- It was proposed by Cllr Laycock and seconded by Cllr Dinning to purchase a new speed camera for approximately £890 to replace the damaged one, all Councillors present were in favour. The camera will be available to use in different parts of the parish. The Clerk reported that Zurich had been asked if there would be a cost to add the cameras to the insurance, they are still to reply.

It was reported that Cumbria Constabulary community speedwatch team at present are unable to provide details of any action which has been taken on reports submitted in respect of highest speeders, persistent speeders or illegal vehicles for a particular area. An officer has offered to attend a Parish Council meeting to field questions on the work they are carrying out. He has been invited to the October or November meeting if he is available. The RFO was asked to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner to express our concern that we have been unable to ascertain if the data submitted is being actioned.

- The home addresses of Councillors have now been redacted or removed from the records on the Parish Council website as required by the new section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 (as inserted and made by section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026).

99/26 Correspondence

- The CALC AGM is to be held at the Roundthorn Hotel, Penrith at 10am on the 10th October 2026.
- Correspondence regarding the village 7.5 tonne vehicle weight restriction not being adhered to was discussed. The Clerk is to report the issue to Cumberland Highways and PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick. An article is to be put into the parish paper.
- Correspondence regarding the maintenance of the cycle path between Dalston and Cummersdale was discussed. See agenda item 95/26 - No.2 above.
- A letter of thanks has been received from the Dalston Show committee thanking the Parish Council for the use of The Green for parking on Dalston Show day.
- The next meeting of the Fells and Solway Community Panel is being held in Thursby Parish Hall on Monday 14 September at 10 am.

100/26 Village Information Board

Two images of board layouts and proposed wording / paintings were circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed to investigate the following: -

- Location and number of information boards.
- Investigate license to get stone from the river Caldew.
- Approach local businesses for funding.
- Cllr Byers to forward details of possible designers.

The Clerk reported that £4,000 was in the budget for the board.

101/26 Property & Maintenance Meeting 28/7/26

- The grass cutting contracts were approved to go out to tender in November 2026.
- It was agreed to place Christmas Tree lights on the Fir tree in the Kingsway car park. Clerk to speak to electrician to ascertain whether the lights should be powered by electricity or battery.
- The quotation of £7,525 from James Gardening and Property Services to replace the broken grids in the Kingsway car park was discussed alongside the quotation of £800 to put in a soakaway on two car park spaces to prevent flooding. It was agreed the Clerk contact All Seasons for a second quote and Tolsons to request a quote for tarmacking the area. The item will be discussed further at the October meeting.
- It was approved to put 3 more planters on the common land at Bridge End.

102/26 Glave Hill Car Park Fence

Following discussion, it was agreed the Clerk investigate different options for the fencing. This will be discussed again at the October meeting.

103/26 Dalston Charitable Trust

Cllr Kyle stated that a new single use plastic bottle and aluminium can deposit return scheme is to launch in October 2027. For retailers, hospitality venues and event organisers, this will mean changes to how sales, storage and sales of drinks in a single-use plastic bottle or metal can (between 150ml and 3 litres). When customers purchase a drink, they will pay an extra 20p surcharge, this will be recoverable when they return the bottle or can through a vending machine or manual collection point. Cllr Kyle asked if the Parish Council would support a dedicated recycling bin in the Glave Hill car park provided by the Charitable Trust who would then receive the 20p's after costs of having the bin emptied. The Parish Council were in support of the idea.

104/26 RoSPA Safety Inspection Report Summerfield Play Area

The report was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk reported that the damaged timber seat slats are to be replaced by steel. The other comments made related to the drainage underneath the trampoline and a replacement buffer needed for the entrance gate. The links on the swing chains have been looked at and are in a satisfactory condition.

105/26 Forge Green Roof Replacement

The Clerk reported that the roof replacement and repairs to the outbuilding had been completed. A list of the PC sums and extra works (completed free of charge) was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Prior to taking down the scaffolding the contractor noted that the gutters at the front of the building (office side) and the river side of the building sit low beneath the roof and there is only one downpipe for both sides. The Councillors were asked if the gutters should be rubbed down, heightened, painted and an extra down pipe and soakaway be installed before the scaffolding is taken away. It would cost in the region of £1,000.

Currently the downpipe at the side of No.1 &2 Forge Green runs into the drain that goes underneath the building to the sewer. This could be causing the damp in the office. The contractor suggested running the rainwater to a soakaway in the garden.

Cllr Irving proposed the works be completed, this was seconded by Cllr Potter, and all Councillors present were in favour.

106/26 Financial

- The following payments were approved:-

Chq	Payee	Details	£
BACS	Martin Broatch	Window cleaning August 2026	£10.00
BACS	Carlisle Business Supplies	Ink	£77.92
BACS	Play Safety Ltd	Annual Summerfield playground safety inspection	£99.60
BACS	Moore	External audit fee	£504.00
BACS	R & M Lowther	Clear blown tree along Riverside footpath	£180.00
BACS	Sue Milburn	September notices	£9.00
BACS	James's Gardening & Property Services	Dealing with ivy on wall at Forge Green	£180.00
BACS	Brian Hetherington Limited	Landlord gas safety checks	£228.00
BACS	Capsticks	Watering June, July and August	£3,207.60
CHQ 821	Brian Hetherington Limited	Roof work at Forge Green	£41,763.60
Total			<u>£46,259.72</u>

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

A transfer of £30,000 from the 30 day notice deposit account to the current account was approved.

- The external audit has been concluded, and the audit report had been circulated. The RFO reported that the matter drawn to attention of the council which did not affect the audit opinion would be dealt with on the 2026/27 Accounting Statement.

- It was reported that the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2026-27 had been settled with a 3.3% increase applied to all pay scales backdated to 1 April 2026. Cllr Byers proposed the new pay scales be applied for the Clerk & RFO. This was seconded by Cllr Kyle. All were in agreement.

107/26 Cemetery

- Cllr McKerrell stated that after the recent memorial inspection report our contractor had contacted Douglas Swan for advice regarding the monuments. Signs reading “Danger, Unsafe Structure” are to be placed on the appropriate monuments.

108/26 Councillor Matters

- Cllr Ebbatson asked if there had been an application from Lime House School for a change of use to provide accommodation for asylum seekers. The Council are not aware of any proposed changes.
- Cllr Baxter stated he had read an article in the SAGA magazine regarding putting plaques onto seats reading “happy to chat”. The councillors agreed this was a nice idea.
- Cllr Dinning reported a dead cherry tree on the Kingsway. This was a covid remembrance tree. Clerk to ask Capsticks to replace it.

Date of Forthcoming Meetings

The meeting of the Parish Council to take place on 13th October 2026, 7.15pm at Forge Green.

Policy & Resource Meeting Dates 2026 – TBA

Property & Maintenance meeting 2026 - TBA

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Shaping Dalston; working together to shape the future of Dalston Parish.

Shaping Dalston brings together Parish Councillors, residents and partner organisations to help shape the future of Dalston Parish. The group works proactively with Cumberland Council, developers and other stakeholders to influence housing development, transport and infrastructure, protect and enhance the environment, and ensure that growth delivers lasting benefits for the community.

Minutes from the inaugural meeting July 28th 2026

The Forge; 19.00-20.30

In attendance

- Ann McKerrell
- Christopher Drouet
- Dougal Kyle
- Philip Laycock

The meeting was chaired by Philip Laycock and notes taken accordingly to set out the objectives of the group

Focus of the group

- Strategic planning and development matters
- Highways, infrastructure and Utilities
- Environmental impact and net zero
- Neighbourhood plan update (long term)

Actions

1. To advise the Dalston Parish Council of the proposed plans for the working group
2. To gather the relevant statistics and background info regarding (but not restricted to) the following **(Chris/Dougal)**
 - The call for sites response
 - 5-year housing plan
 - Cumberland local plan
 - Cumbria Infrastructure plan
 - Current planning applications impacting Dalston, Rickerby etc
 - St Cuthberts update; timing and housing plans
3. Engage with Cumberland Councillors and Executive team and develop the dialogue for working closer together to provide feedback and to develop a better understanding of planning matters that impact Dalston. To gain an earlier understanding of potential development sites. **(Phil)**
4. Identify and engage with developers that have an interest in developing in Dalston and Carlisle **(Phil)**
5. Approach the utility companies; United Utilities and Electricity North West, to discuss long term planning matters **(Phil)**

6. At the appropriate time (2027) Identify likeminded Parish Councils adjacent to Dalston and promote a more collaborative approach **(Ann)**
7. Clarify the role of the Cumbria Combined Authority (CCA) with regards to planning related matters **(Phil)**
8. Look into the role of the Parish Council regarding net zero and low carbon and sustainable developments (could be a separate committee in 2027). Setting the bar high and developing an environmentally friendly Dalston Village.**(Phil)**

Note – The short-term focus remains the Nook Lane Development (October / November decision)

Suggested group logos – which do we prefer?

