DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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Minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held at Forge Green on the 13th October 2026 at 7.15pm.

Part A

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

Apologies
The following apologies were approved:-
Cllr Craig – Illness
Cllr Newton – Illness
Cllr Melrose – Work Commitments

Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960). (Standing order 3d).
To consider whether there are any items of business which require exclusion of the press, public and Councillors with a personal or pecuniary interest.
Resolved to exclude the press and public from the end of meeting in respect of confidential or other information which is prejudicial to the public interest for Planning application 26/0228, agenda item 3.

Minutes
Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st September 2026.
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Requests for Dispensations
There were no requests for dispensations.

Declarations of Interest
Cllr Ebbatson planning application 26/0228 agenda item 3.
Cllr Laycock excused himself from Part B of the meeting (discussion on planning application 26/0228).

109/26 Public Participation
There were 9 members of the public present. 2 parishioners spoke regarding planning application 26/0228. The Parish Council Working Group, friends, neighbours, Cllr McKerrell and the RFO were thanked for their sustained and thoughtful effort in opposing the application. They spoke regarding the progress of the application. A document detailing concerns in relation to Cumberland Council was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. The Councillors were asked to make a formal complaint regarding the quality of the processing of the application and the lack of acknowledgement of correspondence by Cumberland Council. As stated above this will be discussed in private in part B at the end of the meeting.
A parishioner asked for an update on the closure of the car park and locked gate at Summerfield. The Clerk reported that no further progress had been made and the issue is now in the hands of the Countryside Access Team and the Senior Planning Enforcement Officer.
2 representatives of Ellers Mill (Cowens Ltd) requested the Parish Council support their Blue Plaque and Historical Heritage Project for Ellers Mill. The Clerk is to write a letter of support to Carlisle District Civic Trust.

110/26 Cumberland Councillor Report – Cllr Allison

I have been contacted by residents of the Orton Grange residential park on several issues: -

1) The crossing on the A595 near Cranston's roundabout - It is used to access Cranston's and the bus stop to Carlisle. There was a fatality of an elderly person at the crossing which may still be recorded in the police KSI stats.
There is an island /refuge in the middle of the road but with the density of traffic in both directions and its proximity to the roundabout, it can still be difficult to cross safely especially for a wheelchair user and elderly residents.
Having visited the site and observed traffic speeds and numbers, if there are no technical or highway constraints, I am happy to submit a request for it to be a Pelican crossing including a unit on the refuge in the middle. Presumably the lighting columns could provide the power needed.
Would this have the support of the Parish Council? The Clerk reported as part of the ongoing Local Transport Grant programme of works Wigton Road and Orton Road have been identified for further development. There will be a review and upgrade on crossings where appropriate and the installation of tactile paving for inclusive mobility if needed. Cllr Allison and the Clerk to request a Pelican crossing.
2) The access road to the park is unlit. They are adamant that it is adopted highway. I will establish if that is the case. If it is adopted, I will take this up with highways.
3) I do not think that relocating the bus stop on the inbound side is warranted.
4) They pay band A rates and the Parish Council precept. Would the Parish Council consider a notice board on the highway near the entrance to the estate to serve them and the other local dwellings? Clerk to obtain prices.

Other

I have been contacted by motorists, some may be from Dalston, who have been caught out by the police camera van. It has been deployed twice following the reduction in the speed limit on Dalston road from 40 to 30mph between urban Carlisle and the new roundabout. I challenged this with the police. For outbound traffic it only involved removal of the single 40mph sign at the cemetery and without a Traffic Regulation Order. Cars receiving the GPS signal are still showing 40mph as the speed limit, however, the installation of new light standards up to the Cummersdale roundabout is apparently sufficient to redesignate it as 30mph. Cummersdale Parish Council intend to install a Speed Indicator Device just prior to the Cummersdale junction. We would welcome the reduction in speed at this junction.

111/26 Planning Applications:

Applications:

Appn Ref: 26/0503 Crispen House, The Gill, Dalston, Carlisle, CA57JP. Change Of Use Of Land To Create Private Equestrian Arena/Manege; Provision Of New Field Access (Revised Application). No Observations.
Appn Ref: 26/0497 Land at and to the southwest of Greenlands Equestrian Centre, Wreay, Carlisle, CA4 0PY. Erection Of A Solar Photovoltaic Farm With A Generating Capacity Of Up To 49.9 MW, Together With Associated Infrastructure & Landscaping. Three Councillors made the following points: -
1. The loss of good agricultural land.
2. Understand the need for renewable energy.
3.Growing crops is becoming harder due to wetter winters and hotter summers therefore farmers need to diversify.
Appn Ref: 26/0524 3 Courtyard Barns, The Square, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7PJ. First Floor Link Extension And Conversion Of Store To Provide Kitchen / Dining Area; External Works To Include New Doors And Windows, Replacement Roof; Existing External Staircase To Be Repaired And Reinstated. (LBC). No Observations.
Appn Ref 26/0062/S211 Swan Cottage, 3 The Square, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7PY. Removal Of 3no. Leylandii Trees 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. Parishioner request to submit additional information and speaking on behalf of an individual or member of the Parish Council. Item to be discussed in private at the end of the meeting (Part B).

112/26 Clerk and Chairman Report

- The February 2027 meeting has been brought forward and will now take place on the 2nd February.
- The office will be closed for the Christmas period on the 24th December and re-open on the 4th January 2027.
- Carlisle West Rural Neighbourhood Policing Pledge meeting is to be held on Wednesday 9th December 2026 at 6pm via teams, the joining instructions have been circulated to the Councillors.
- A memorandum of agreement between Cumberland Council and Dalston Parish Council to place 3 planters on the common land at Bridge End was approved and signed by Cllr McKerrell and Cllr Dinning.

113/26 Correspondence

- The Cumberland Local Plan Scoping Consultation is open and will run from the 14th September – 23rd October 2026. The call for sites has also been reopened.
- A parishioners request to consider a small pond at the entrance to Kelseys Meadow was discussed and declined for safety reasons.
- There is to be a drop-in session at Stockdalewath Bridge on Wednesday 14th October 2026 between 3-6pm for residents to find out about the recently installed mobile phone service.
- An event is to be held in Carlisle Library on the 17th October between 10.30am and 2.30pm to have your say on the future of bus services in Cumbria.
- Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience are holding a Resilience & Preparedness Webinar 20th October 11-12 via Microsoft teams.
- The request from Caldew School for students to do a Lichen survey in the cemetery was discussed and approved.
- The request for double yellow lines on Nine Rigg was discussed, Cllr Allison agreed to follow this up with highways.

114/26 Kingsway Car Park Resurfacing Works

The Clerk was requested to obtain a quotation for permeable paving. Item to be discussed again in November.
A further request has been made to have lighting in the Kingsway Car Park. This item was discussed in March 2025 and the report from the senior lighting engineer at Cumberland Council was circulated to the Councillors once again prior to the meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed not to go ahead with any lighting due to several problems highlighted in the report.

115/26 Jubilee Garden Seat Request

The Gardening Club request for an additional green bench for a cost of £804 ex VAT to be placed in the Jubilee Garden was discussed, it was agreed they complete a Charitable Trust grant application.

116/26 Raughton Head School Speed Signs

Cllr Allison reported that the average speed past the school is 34mph therefore it does not qualify for Council funding for flashing indicator lights. He stated he is currently sourcing prices. This will be an agenda item in November.

117/26 Clerk Contracted Working Hours

The Clerk requested a reduction in weekly working hours from 18 to 15. It was agreed that additional hours will be worked if there are meetings or any unexpected items which may require time. Clerk to inform payroll monthly of her working hours. New hours to commence the 1st November 2026.
The Clerks office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8-1pm. The RFO working hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10-3.

118/26 Parish Grass Cutting Contract 2027-2030

It was agreed Cllr McKerrell, Cllr Irving, Cllr Dinning, Cllr Newton and the Clerk meet to look through the submitted grass tenders prior to a formal decision being made at the Parish Council meeting on the 8th December 2026. Clerk to arrange a date.

119/26 Cumbria In Bloom Awards 2026

Cllr Byers and Pat Jackson attended the awards on the 5th October at the Castle Green Hotel, Kendal. The results were as follows: -
For the Neighbourhood entries we received 3 level 5 (outstanding), 4 level 4 (thriving) and 1 level 3 (advancing).
Cumbria In Bloom Pride in your Community Award – Gold medal winner of large village including the trophy.

120/26 Update Fells & Solway meeting 14th September 2026 – Cllr Kyle

The ongoing benefit of the Community Panels to local residents was questioned with a view being put forward that it was merely a grants organisation.
<u>Electric Vehicle Charging Programme</u>
The Government scheme is being funded for another 3 years.
Part of this involved the Cross Pavement Scheme where there was a £499 one off charge to residents.
If access was regularly not available because of other parked cars a TRO for a permanent space could be applied for.

The Cumberland Council Monitoring Officer briefly outlined the changes to the way in which planning applications were going to be considered as from 1st November.
Referral of applications to the Committee would become the exception with the majority being decided under delegated powers by the planning officers.
Councillors will no longer be able to "call in " an application. Also, an application will no longer be referred to Committee automatically because of a set number of objections.
Silloth Town Council has received £600 previously from the usual award system for a community notice board under the "Community Infrastructure" section. Awards up to £1,500 can be approved by the Chair and the Senior Manager. Only one grant can be applied for in any financial year.

121/26 Financial

- The following payments were approved: -

Chq	**Payee**	**Details**	**£**
BACS	Martin Broatch	Window cleaning September 2026	£10.00
BACS	George Douglas	hedge cutting X 2	£420.00
BACS	Cache4 IT Solutions	Upgrade Wi-Fi box	£367.37
BACS	Carlisle Business Supplies	Copier paper	£28.08
BACS	Light Bulb Web Design	Annual website hosting and support	£432.00
BACS	Sue Milburn	October Notices	£9.00
BACS	Brian Hetherington Ltd	Install new Kelsey seat and repair seat around the Cockerel	£417.60
CHQ	Ian Davidson	Dig grave Jessie Bell	£500.00
Total			£2,184.05

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

122/26 Cemetery

- The burial of the Late Jessie Bell in Ward 5, Section H, Space 42 on the 25th of September 2026.
- The additional inscription for the Late Jessie Ewart Bell in Ward 5, Section H, Space 42. To read 'Died 5th Sept 2026, Aged 96, Together again.'
- The quotation of £517 ex VAT from Atlantic Geomatics to add the additional cemetery cremated remains area was discussed

123/26 Councillor Matters

- Cllr Baxter reported that some parishioners have queried why the St George Flag is still up. Cllr McKerrell stated that it was in support of our national football team. It is to be changed to the Union flag in respect of the Kings birthday and Armistice Day.
- Cllr Dinning spoke regarding the new speed camera. It was agreed it be placed higher up but in the same location as the vandalised one outside Nestle.

- Cllr Dinning reported an increase in dicarded nitrous oxide cannisters. Clerk to report the issue to PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick.
- Cllr Potter requested the Clerk investigate the possibility of getting Emergency blood control kits.

Date of Forthcoming Meetings
The meeting of the Parish Council to take place on 10th November 2026, 7.15pm at Forge Green.
Policy & Resource Meeting Dates 2026 – TBA
Property & Maintenance meeting 2026 - TBA

The public left the meeting before Part B discussion took place in relation to planning application 26/0228.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm