

Dalton with Newton Town Council
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 4th March 2024 in the Town Hall, Station Road,
Dalton in Furness at 7pm

Present Councillors N Perie, N McDougall, T Mackereth, B Solari, A Thurlow, D Pearson and W Maddox

Meeting Commenced 7.00pm

1. **Apologies.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Ronson.
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The minutes of the previous meeting were **agreed** as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllrs Perie and Thurlow declared an interest in any matters relating to Dalton Community Association.

Meeting Suspended 7.02pm for Public Participation

A representative from Dropzone had been invited to the meeting to give brief details of youth provision in Dalton and the possibility of increasing the cover. It was reported that at the present time Dropzone were only present in Dalton one day per week (Tuesday) however a large reduction in funding provided to Dropzone this year meant that it may not be possible. Dropzone will draw up some costings for increasing the service for a twelve-month period for the Council to consider.

Meeting Resumed 7.10pm

4. **Reports from Westmorland and Furness Councillors.** Councillors T Callister (Dalton South) and Cllr Ben Shirley (Dalton North) attended the meeting to give a brief verbal report on matters relevant to Dalton and Newton. Cllr Callister reported that the full Westmorland and Furness Council had met on the 22 February and approved the budget for 2024/2025. Cllr Callister had met with a highways officer on site at Market Place today to look at issues surrounding parking, a number of residents had also joined to advise of problems in the area.
5. **Matters Arising**
 - (a) **Allotments-** The Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk had met with officers from WandF and were informed that the land the allotments are on will have to be negotiated by DTC not WandF and a new lease issued. The Town Clerk had made initial contact with the landowners agents and Livingtons Solicitors had been instructed to act on behalf of the Town Council.
 - (b) **Land at Goose Green-** The quote from the tree surgeon had been received and the costs involved are £700 for the felling of 6 diseased trees and the erection of approx. 30 bird boxes. Proposed by Cllr Maddox and Seconded by Cllr Solari. On a vote it was **resolved**

that the quote be accepted Felling is scheduled for 7th March. Locations for the placing of the boxes have now been identified and are available from the Assistant Clerk.

- (c) Sign Language Training – Councillors were reminded that free sign language training was being offered and those wishing to undertake the training should register their interest with the Assistant Clerk

6. Correspondence

(a) Dalton Leisure Centre Councillors had been provided with a copy of a request for funding from Dalton Leisure Centre for the installation of CCTV cameras. The Town Council had the power to spend money on various crime prevention measures using the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 s17. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Thurlow and seconded by Cllr Solari that the Town Council commit £2k funding from s137 budget from the current year and a further £2k funding from the s137 budget for the 2024/2025 year. On a vote of all in favour it was **resolved** that a total of £4k funding over the two-year financial period be committed to fund external cameras only at the leisure centre.

7. Forward Planning Group The Town Clerk reported that 3 projects identified by the Forward Planning Group required formal agreement and funding committed by the full council. The 3 Projects were the D Day 80 Project £3k, Brilliant Back Streets £2k and Youth Provisions of £2k, these projects had already been included in the 2024/25 budget. It was proposed by Cllr Thurlow, Seconded by Cllr Perie and **resolved** that the projects be accepted and funding approved. Cllr Mackereth had conducted some research in regards to youth provision and the possibility of providing an event during the May/June half term in Dalton. Further research is to be carried out before an event can be finalised and Cllr Mackereth will report back at the next meeting.

8. Annual Gardening Contract Only one quote had been received for the annual gardening contract despite being advertised widely. Councillors were in possession of the quote and the contract specifications for inspection. Cllr Maddox proposed that the quote of £2,100 received be accepted and the contract awarded to Cumbria Tree Surgery. Seconded Cllr A Thurlow. On a vote of all in favour the proposal was **resolved**.

9. Christmas Illuminations 2024 it had been resolved at a previous meeting to extend the Christmas Illuminations for the 2024 season. Permission for the erection of a further 12 motifs had been forthcoming from Westmorland and Furness Council subject to a lighting column survey. The survey had now been booked with Reilux at a cost of £2850 excl VAT. A Quotation for the supply of new motifs had also been received and the quote and options available were for discussion at this meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Solari and Seconded by Cllr Thurlow that the Council opt for the 3 year hire option of 12 motifs from Blachere at a cost of £2393 per Annum. On a vote of all in favour the proposal was **resolved**.

10. Policies for review and Adoption Councillors had been sent draft policies for Grant Awarding, Social Media and Electronic Communication and the Council Tree Policy. Social Media and Electronic communication Proposed by Cllr Solari, seconded by Cllr Thurlow and **resolved** that the policy be adopted unamended. Grant awarding Policy – Proposed by Cllr Mackereth seconded by Cllr Pearson and **resolved** that the policy be adopted

unamended. Tree Policy – It was proposed by Cllr Maddox, seconded by Cllr Thurlow and **resolved** that the policy be adopted unamended.

11. Training Statement of Intent Each councillor had been provided with the Statement of Intent with regard to training for staff and councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Mackereth, seconded by Cllr Solari and **resolved** that the Council accept the Statement of Intent.

12. Finance

(a) H F Thomson re-imburse (2 tablets for councillors)	£258.00
(b) Ancre Somme Assoc (D Day flags)	£412.00
(c) L Caine £25 x 4	£100.00
(d) Furness IT x 2	£88.32
(e) T Pearson (PAT)	£180.00

It was agreed that the above invoices be paid.

13. Reports.

Cllr Mackereth gave a verbal report on an event he is considering for next year that would attract visitors to Dalton. As the event would be for the 2025 year there is no immediate rush and he would continue working on details before presenting to council for approval.

14. Planning.

B28/2024/0103 Bali Hai, Ann Street, Dalton.

Application for works to trees subject to TPO 1993 No2: 3m reduction to maintain a mature tree in a confined space.
The Town Council have no objections

07/2023/0764 Land at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic, Ulverston Road, Dalton in Furness
Erection of 70 dwellings with associated Highways and Landscaping
The Town Council would question the validity of the supporting Construction Environment Management Plan. The document identifies the site as being located within an established residential area in Ormsgill, refers to the erection of 30 dwellings at Lichfield close and states vegetation clearance works will be completed by 1 March 2019.

The access and egress from the location of the proposed development is on the brow of a hill and in extremely close proximity to a primary School. The Town council believe that this will inevitably lead to conflict between road users and pedestrians at busy times.

Visibility of the access/egress for vehicles travelling into Dalton from the Ulverston direction is restricted by the brow of the hill and parking at the roadside connected with a nearby sports club, the Town Council would like to see what is being put in place to protect vehicles turning right into the development site from vehicles approaching from behind.

Section 106 - It is of great concern to the Town Council that the applicant has stated under Highway Infrastructure that they are undertaking highways improvements at Long Lane/Newton Road junction as their s106 contribution. Highways/junction improvements at the Long Lane/Newton Road development are in our opinion are too far removed from the application relating to the development at Our Ladys School to be regarded as relevant. The Town Council

would ask that the developer is requested to enter into a S106 agreement for the provision of a school crossing patrol during term time for a period of 2 years to prevent pedestrian/vehicle conflict. In addition the Town Council would request that the planning authority consider requesting a s106 agreement for a contribution to public realm improvements within the Town as specified in the Barrow in Furness Local Plan 2016-2031 Policy I1.

Barrow in Furness Local Plan 2016-2031 Policy I1 for which the community of Dalton can benefit.

Barrow in Furness Local Plan 2016-2031 Policy I1: Developer Contributions

Development and infrastructure provision will be coordinated to ensure that growth is supported by the timely provision of adequate infrastructure, facilities and services. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be used to identify the timing, type and number of infrastructure requirements to support the objectives and policies of the Plan as well as the main funding mechanisms and lead agencies responsible for their delivery. All development should make the most efficient use of existing infrastructure where there is capacity. Where developments will create additional need for improvements / provision of infrastructure, services or facilities or exacerbate an existing deficiency, contributions will be sought to ensure that the appropriate enhancements / improvements are made, and appropriate management arrangements are in place. Consideration will be given to how these requirements will affect the viability of development. The types of infrastructure that developments may be required to provide *contributions towards include, but are not limited to:* - Utilities and waste; - Flood prevention and sustainable drainage measures; - Transport (highway, rail, bus and cycle / footpath network and any associated facilities); - Community Infrastructure including health, education, libraries, public realm, heritage and geological assets and other community facilities (see 5.2.1.); - Green Infrastructure (such as outdoor sports facilities, open space, parks, allotments, play areas, enhancing and conserving biodiversity and management of environmentally sensitive areas); and - Climate change and energy initiatives through allowable solutions

B06/2024/0024 Land at Roanhead Farm, Hawthwaite Lane, Barrow in Furness.
The Town Council object to this application on the following Grounds:

Barrow in Furness Local Plan 2016-2031 Policy C4 – Contaminated and Unstable Land

On land known or suspected to be unstable, development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there is no significant risk of harm to health and wellbeing and the environment, and that any necessary remedial action is undertaken to safeguard users or occupiers of the site or neighbouring land. Where the proposed use would be particularly vulnerable to land instability, the planning application must be supported by a risk assessment report that demonstrates that adequate and environmentally acceptable mitigation measures are in place.

Section 7 of the Geological Environmental Risk Assessment refers to the fact that a deeper mining risk assessment still needs to be conducted. A simple visual assessment of the local area is enough to demonstrate the historic instability of land with deep ponds and mine collapses. Any further collapse would be catastrophic to this development and surrounding area.

Barrow in Furness Local Plan 2016-2031 Policy DS2: Sustainable Development Criteria

In order to meet the objectives outlined in Policy DS1, subject to other Development Plan policies which may determine the suitability of particular sites, where possible all proposals should meet all of the following criteria taking into account the scale of development and magnitude of impact and any associated mitigation by:

a) Ensuring that proposed development incorporates green infrastructure designed and integrated to enable accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport for main travel purposes, particularly from areas of employment and retail, leisure and education facilities;

b) Ensuring development does not prejudice road safety or increase congestion at junctions that are identified by the Local Highway Authority as being over-capacity.

The Town Council do not believe on the grounds of road safety, narrow rural roads constitute appropriate access. Accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport should be maintained. The proposed lodges will be built off site and transported to the development site. The movement of large loads will have a detrimental effect on nearby existing properties.

Barrow in Furness Local Plan 2016-2031 Policy DS3: Development Strategy

The Council will pursue an overarching strategy of sustainable growth, redistributing development across the Borough, to improve the residential environment of the central Barrow area and whilst also allowing some development adjoining Barrow and Dalton and within the development cordons. Other development will be supported where it complies with local and national planning policy. The distribution of housing development is outlined in Policy H2, and Policy H3 contains a balanced portfolio of sites, in a range of locations throughout the Borough, both brownfield and greenfield in order to support the achievement of this Strategy, other windfall developments will be supported where the proposal accords with national and local policy. This Strategy seeks to promote the opportunities and strengths enjoyed by the Borough and achieve sustainable development that enhances its offer in terms of housing, employment, leisure and culture, and encourages inward investment.

The number of units and associated facilities remain inappropriate for open countryside, rural surroundings or a sensitive stretch of undeveloped coastline.

Barrow in Furness Local Plan 2016-2031 Policy C2: Development and the Coast *Development in a coastal location will only be permitted where:*

a) There will be no unacceptable harm to natural coastal processes, including increasing the risk of flooding, coastal erosion and instability;

b) There will be no unacceptable harm to habitats, species, geodiversity, designated sites and the historic environment;

c) The capacity of the coast to form a natural sea defence or adjust to changes in conditions without risk to life or property will not be prejudiced;

d) There will not be an increased need for additional sea walls or other civil engineering works (defence structures) for coastal protection purposes except where necessary to protect existing investment;

e) The open character of the undeveloped coast is maintained, with the existing landscape character of the site respected and reinforced; Climate Change & Pollution Barrow Borough Local Plan 2016-2031 65

f) Local fisheries will not be prejudiced;

g) The proposal complies with the relevant policies in the Development Plan; and

h) There will be no adverse effect on recreational activities at the coast. Opportunities to improve access to the coast will be sought where possible and where the above criteria can be met.

Roanhead and Sandscale are defined as undeveloped coastline and unacceptable harm will be caused to habitats, species and biodiversity by this development.

Barrow in Furness Local Plan 2016-2031 Policy N3: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity

The Council will support development which maintains, protects and enhances biodiversity across the Borough. Proposals for new development should minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible. Proposals will be expected to improve access to important biodiversity areas, and will be required to show full details of measures to achieve this in the form of

a suitable Management Plan. Consideration must be given to the Council's Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and any other relevant guidance.

There is a presumption that Nationally and Internationally important sites require preservation and enhancement from potentially harmful development.

Barrow in Furness Local Plan 2016-2031 Policy GI6: Green Links

Proposals involving or adjacent to existing hedgerows or Green Links will be supported provided that they do not compromise the continuity or integrity of the hedgerow or Green Link. Where considered appropriate by the Planning Authority proposals should enhance the contribution made by the hedgerow or green link.

Greenlinks and wildlife corridors to enable wildlife to survive and thrive would be compromised, especially in the vicinity of the ancient woodland. Laying sewers through High Wood which is part of SAC, SSSI, SPA and Ramsar would have a devastating effect on wildlife and the wood.

Barrow in Furness Local Plan 2016-2031 Policy C7: Light Pollution

The Council will seek to minimise light pollution and applications which propose new external lighting will be expected to demonstrate each of the following:

- a) The proposed artificial light has no adverse impact on the locality or measures will be taken to avoid, and where appropriate mitigate, any negative impacts of the effects of new lighting on local amenity resulting from the development;*
- b) The proposal has no significant impact on a protected site or species e.g. located on, or adjacent to, a designated European site or where there are designated European protected species that may be affected;*
- c) The proposal is not in or near a protected area of dark sky or an intrinsically dark landscape where it may be desirable to minimise new light sources; and d) The proposal has no impact on wildlife (e.g. white or ultraviolet light) when being proposed close to sensitive wildlife receptors or areas, including where the light shines on water.*

The Town Council would like to see evidence from the Developer on proposals to protect the dark skies from light pollution.

The area of Roanhead and Sandscale provides recreation and amenity value which would be compromised by thousands of extra visitors, it currently provides a vital local resource for residents of Furness including those who may struggle to visit more distant areas. This development would dramatically compromise the open character of undeveloped coast. The impact on the quiet recreational use of local and visitors would be adversely affected.

All 3 former councils now forming part of Westmorland and Furness Council have declared a Climate Emergency, if this development is granted approval the significant increase in traffic and subsequent effect on species and habitat would be in direct conflict with actions needed to deal with the climate emergency.

Meeting Closed 8.58pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....

H F Thomson
Town Clerk

5 March 2024

