

**Dalton with Newton Town Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 in the Town Hall, Station Road, Dalton in Furness at 7pm**

**Present** Cllr A Thurlow, B Solari, W Maddox, N McDougall, M Dodson, D Pearson and C Fox

**Meeting Opened at 7.00pm**

**C1/01/2026. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs N Perie and B Parrington.

**C2/01/2026. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Resolved:** That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of:

- a. the Council meeting held on Monday 1st December 2025
- b. the Emergency Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2nd December 2025
- c. the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 15th December 2025

**C3/01/2026. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest from members in respect of items on the agenda.

**C4/01/2026. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved:** That, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for item 20 due to the confidential nature of the business (potential legal matter relating to council property).

**C5/01/2026. Reports from Westmorland & Furness Councillors**

Cllr Callister attended the meeting and gave a verbal report on Team Barrow's support for students and the progress of the Borderlands business case.

**C6/01/2026. Report from the Police**

There were no police officers in attendance.

**C7/01/2026. Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public in attendance.

**C8/01/2026. Clerk's Report**

The newly appointed Administrative Assistant was introduced to the Council and received a warm welcome.

The Clerk reminded Councillors of an online meeting regarding climate change hosted by

Westmorland and Furness Council on Wednesday 7th January.

**C9/01/2026. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to note.

**C10/01/2026. General Reports**

Cllr Pearson reported on his attendance at a Community Cohesion session run by Westmorland and Furness Council. Key discussion points included lunch clubs, school visits, food bank support and transport provision.

**C11/01/2026. Co-Option**

One application for co-option was received. The applicant was present and answered questions.

**Resolved:** That Alison Fox be co-opted to the Council. Proposed by Cllr Pearson, seconded by Cllr Solari. On a vote of all in favour.

Cllr A Fox signed her acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

**C12/01/2026. Country Show 2026**

Councillors considered the following:

**a. Resolved:** That a budget of £10,000.00 be approved for the 2026 Country Show. Proposed by Cllr C Fox, seconded by Cllr Dobson.

**b. Resolved:** That a working group, including non-council members, be established to organise the event. Proposed by Cllr C Fox, seconded by Cllr Dobson.

**c. Resolved:** That the terms of reference of the Country Show Working Group be approved.

**C13/01/2026. Budget 2026–2027**

Councillors considered the recommendations of the Finance Committee for the budget requirement for 2026–2027.

**Resolved:** That the budget for the financial year 2026–2027, as set out below, be approved. Proposed by Cllr C Fox, seconded by Cllr Dobson. On a vote of all in favour.

**Expenditure Summary**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2026–27 Estimate</b>
<b>Staff Costs</b>	<b>£80,000</b>
<b>Christmas Illumination</b>	<b>£3,000</b>
<b>Civic Payments</b>	<b>£1,300</b>
<b>Grants</b>	<b>£4,000</b>
<b>Environmental / Grounds</b>	<b>£27,900</b>
<b>General Administration</b>	<b>£13,205</b>
<b>Building Costs</b>	<b>£13,800</b>
<b>Projects</b>	<b>£45,475</b>
<b>Goose Green</b>	<b>£10,000</b>

Category	2026–27 Estimate
Pension	£15,095
PAYE / HMRC	£22,872
Utilities	£3,930
Cleaning	£700
Photocopier & Printing	£2,900
Phones & Broadband	£1,300
IT / Web Hosting	£5,000
Grass Cutting	£5,000
Tree Work	£7,000
Planters	£20,000
Allotments	£40,000
Storage	£1,100
Christmas General	£39,200
Refuse Collection	£900
Mayor's Allowance	£1,500
Annual Insurance	£2,000
Training	£2,000
Contingency	£20,000
<b>Total Budget Required</b>	<b>£389,177</b>

#### **C14/01/2026. Precept 2026–2027**

Councillors considered the recommendations of the Finance Committee for the precept demand for 2026–2027.

**Resolved:** That the precept for the financial year 2026–2027 be set at £340,177, as detailed below. Proposed by Cllr Solari, seconded by Cllr Pearson. On a vote of all in favour.

**Budget required: £389,177**

**Less reserves: £49,000**

**Precept required: £340,177**

#### **C15/01/2026. Policies**

**a. Resolved:** That the Data Audit Policy be adopted in compliance with Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. Proposed by Cllr A Fox, seconded by Cllr Maddox. On a vote of all in favour.

**b. Resolved:** That the updated Grant Policy be approved. Proposed by Cllr Thurlow, seconded by Cllr Pearson. On a vote of all in favour.

### **C16/01/2026. Allotments**

The relevant documents had not yet been received. The Clerk requested that this item be deferred until the February meeting.

### **C17/01/2026. Banking Hub**

Cllr Perie was unavailable. The Clerk outlined the enquiry process for requesting a Banking Hub through LINK, including confirmation of whether a Cash Access Assessment for Dalton had already been triggered.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk be authorised to submit the initial request to LINK.

### **C18/01/2026. Finance**

a. The Clerk reported on the availability of a local Internal Auditor. Mrs H Thomson is a qualified Internal Auditor with experience in the local council sector.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk sign and send the letter of engagement. Proposed by Cllr Maddox, seconded by Cllr Dobson. On a vote of all in favour.

b. **Resolved:** That the Clerk commence the process of opening an additional bank account specifically for allotments, as recommended by the Finance Committee. Proposed by Cllr Dodson, seconded by Cllr A Fox. On a vote of all in favour.

c. It was noted that the bank reconciliation for November 2025 had been checked and signed by Cllr C Fox.

d. One tender was received for the grass-cutting contract, being a five-year fixed contract.

**Resolved:** That the contract be awarded. Proposed by Cllr A Fox, seconded by Cllr Maddox. On a vote of all in favour.

### **e. Payments for Approval**

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Power</b>
GoadsBarrow Landscapes Ltd	Christmas Trees	£1220.64	LGA 1972 s.144
Groundman	Mileage Nov 0.45p per mile	£14.00	LGA 1972 s111
J Slater	Cleaning Charges- Final	£136.00	LGA 1972 s111

**Resolved:** That the above payments be approved. On a vote of all in favour.

### **C19/01/2026. Planning**

There were no planning applications to consider.

### **C20/01/2026. Exempt / Confidential Business**

Councillors were informed of a legal matter relating to council property.

**Meeting Closed at 7.55pm**

Signed.....

Date.....

(Chairman)

C. Stainton

Town Clerk

6<sup>th</sup> January 2026