

Dalton with Newton Town Council

The Town
Hall Station
Road Dalton in
Furness
Cumbria

Telephone 01229 464000

26th May 2026

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Dalton with Newton Town Council will be held on Monday 1st June 2026 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall, Station Road, Dalton In Furness, to transact the business set out below.

Councillors are hereby summoned to attend

Yours faithfully

Mrs C. Stainton
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To **approve** the minutes and authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of:

- a. the Council meeting held on Monday 11th May 2026
- b. the Greenspaces Committee meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026
(Members are advised that the Greenspaces Committee meeting was not quorate and therefore no business was transacted).

All draft minutes are available to view on the council website.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest (including pecuniary and non-pecuniary) in respect of items contained in this agenda.

4. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider whether to resolve, under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for any agenda item due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

5. Reports from Westmorland & Furness Councillors

To note reports from Westmorland and Furness Councillors in attendance.

6. Report from Police

To note reports from Cumbria Police.

7. Public Participation

Members of the public may make representations, ask questions or give evidence on matters relating to the work of the Council, limited to 3 minutes per person at the Chair's discretion. Please note: The Council cannot lawfully make decisions on items raised that are not on the agenda but **may** place them on a future agenda.

8. Clerk's Report (For information only)

To receive information from the Clerk.

9. Correspondence

To receive any correspondence to date which has not already been forwarded on.

10. General Reports

To receive any reports from Councillors

11. Wildlife Area

a. To consider a proposal from Cllr M Dobson for the keeping of bees on Council land and to review a draft agreement (*Appendix 1*) and policy (*Appendix 2*).

12. Railway Land

To receive an update on the progression of the licence agreement.

13. Tommy the Pigeon Signs

To consider taking on responsibility for the replacement and future maintenance of the Tommy the Pigeon signs following damage caused by antisocial behaviour. Members are advised that the existing signs have now been removed after being vandalised. Discussions have taken place with those currently responsible for the signs and agreement has been reached in principle to redesign and condense the existing information boards, with updated artwork/images, rather than replacing them on a like-for-like basis. Members are asked to consider proposed options and associated costs for a more durable and vandal-resistant replacement.

14. Cumbria in Bloom

To receive a progress update from Councillors on the Cumbria in Bloom working group.

15. Policies to review

a. To review and re-adopt an updated version of the previous Biodiversity policy.

(Appendix 3)

16. Finance

a. To resolve to approve the following payments.

Supplier	Description	Amount	Power
JRB	Dog Bags	£259.58	Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10

b. To consider and approve the Town Councils insurance premium.

c. To note that the Bank reconciliation from 1st April to 30th April 2026 had been carried out by Cllr A Thurlow who is a non-banking signatory

d. To note the Precept for 2026 – 2027 had now been received from Westmorland and Furness Council.

17. Planning

To consider planning applications received:

C. Stainton

Town Clerk

26th May 2026

Appendix 1

Draft Agreement: Beehive Placement on Council Land

THIS AGREEMENT is made on the ___ day of _____ 2026

BETWEEN:

Dalton with Newton Town Council (“the Council”)

and

Councillor Marc Dobson (“the Beekeeper”)

1. Purpose of Agreement

This agreement sets out the terms under which the Beekeeper is permitted to place and maintain a beehive on land owned by the Council, designated as a wildlife area at Goose Green Memorial Garden.

2. Permission Granted

The Council grants permission for the Beekeeper to site **one (1) beehive** within the agreed area of the wildlife site.

This permission is non-transferable and does not create any tenancy or legal interest in the land.

3. Responsibilities of the Beekeeper

The Beekeeper agrees:

- To maintain the beehive in a safe and responsible manner in accordance with all relevant legislation and recognised beekeeping standards
 - To ensure they are appropriately registered as a beekeeper and comply with any disease control requirements
 - To be fully responsible for the upkeep, inspection, and management of the hive
 - To ensure that the presence of the hive does not pose a nuisance or risk to members of the public
 - To hold appropriate insurance (if applicable/recommended)
 - To indemnify the Council against any claims, loss, or damage arising from the beehive and associated activities
-

4. Responsibilities of the Council

The Council agrees:

- To permit access to the land for the purposes of maintaining the beehive (at reasonable times)
 - To support the use of the land as a wildlife area, including the presence of pollinators such as bees
-

5. Duration and Termination

- This agreement will commence on the date above and continue until terminated by either party
 - The Beekeeper may remove the hive at any time
 - The Council reserves the right to request removal of the hive with reasonable notice (recommended: e.g. 28 days), particularly if safety or land use concerns arise
-

6. Location of Hive

The exact siting of the hive will be agreed between the Council and the Beekeeper and should be positioned to minimise disturbance to the public.

7. No Financial Arrangement

No rent, fee, or payment is associated with this agreement.

8. Conflict of Interest

The Beekeeper acknowledges their role as a Councillor and confirms that any relevant interests have been declared in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

9. General

This agreement represents a goodwill arrangement for community and environmental benefit and may be reviewed at any time by mutual agreement.

Appendix 2

Beehive Placement on Council Land Policy

Dalton with Newton Town Council

1. Purpose

Dalton Town Council recognises the environmental importance of bees and other pollinators in supporting biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

This policy sets out the Council's approach to permitting the placement of privately managed beehives on Council-owned land where this supports the Council's environmental, biodiversity, and wildlife objectives.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Council-owned land designated or managed for wildlife, biodiversity, environmental

enhancement, or community green space purposes

- Any individual seeking permission to place and manage a beehive on Council land
 - Councillors, volunteers, community groups, or members of the public entering into such arrangements with the Council
-

3. Policy Statement

The Council may permit the placement of beehives on suitable Council-owned land where:

- The arrangement supports biodiversity and pollinator activity
- The location is considered appropriate and safe
- The hive is managed by a competent and responsible beekeeper
- The arrangement does not interfere with public use of the land or create unreasonable risk or nuisance

Permission for any hive placement shall remain entirely at the discretion of the Council.

4. Requirements for Beekeepers

Any beekeeper granted permission to place a hive on Council land must:

- Be appropriately experienced or registered where required
- Maintain the hive in accordance with recognised beekeeping standards and relevant legislation
- Be solely responsible for the maintenance, inspection, welfare, and management of the hive
- Ensure appropriate measures are taken to minimise risk to the public
- Comply with any disease control requirements applicable to beekeeping
- Remove the hive promptly should the Council request this for operational, safety, or land management reasons

The beekeeper shall remain responsible for all costs associated with the hive.

5. Site Selection

The Council will consider:

- Public accessibility and safety
- Proximity to footpaths, play areas, and neighbouring properties
- Suitability of the surrounding habitat
- Potential impact on other users of the land
- Accessibility for hive maintenance

The Council reserves the right to determine the exact location of any hive.

6. Insurance and Liability

The beekeeper shall be responsible for ensuring they hold any appropriate insurance cover

considered necessary for their activities.

The Council accepts no responsibility for:

- Loss or damage to the hive or equipment
- Theft or vandalism
- Any liability arising from the management or presence of the hive

A separate agreement between the Council and the beekeeper shall set out operational responsibilities.

7. Councillor Interests

Where a Councillor is involved in any arrangement relating to a beehive on Council land:

- Relevant interests must be declared in accordance with the Council’s Code of Conduct
- The Councillor should not participate in any decision-making where a declarable interest exists

The Council shall ensure transparency in all such arrangements.

8. Termination of Permission

The Council reserves the right to withdraw permission for a hive at any time where:

- Safety concerns arise
- The arrangement no longer supports the intended use of the land
- The hive is not appropriately maintained
- Complaints or operational issues cannot reasonably be resolved

Reasonable notice should normally be given where practical.

9. Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Council and updated as required.

Appendix 3

Dalton with Newton Town Council

Town Hall
Station Road
Dalton-in-Furness
Cumbria LA15 8DT

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted:

Review Date:

Background

Under the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006*, there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Town and Parish Councils, to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy and decision making.

This duty was strengthened by the *Environment Act 2021*, which requires public authorities to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

This means a public authority must:

- Consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on that consideration
- Act to deliver those policies and achieve those objectives

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth. It is present everywhere, including in gardens, fields, hedgerows, trees, rivers and the wider countryside.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this policy is to guide Dalton with Newton Town Council's work in conserving and enhancing biodiversity within the parish.

The Council will also raise awareness of biodiversity and encourage community involvement through its website, newsletter and social media channels.

The Local Area

Dalton-in-Furness is the historic capital of Furness, located on the Furness Peninsula. The area includes a range of natural and semi-natural environments such as farmland, hedgerows, trees, watercourses (including Poaka Beck and Yarl Beck), community spaces and green areas.

There are also a number of public rights of way providing access to the surrounding countryside.

Town Council Responsibilities

The Town Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of:

- Land at Myrtle Terrace
- Land at Goose Green 'Memorial Garden'
- The Pin Fold
- Paved area at Goose Green
- Community garden at Abbey Road 'Reading Garden'
- Walled garden at Abbey Road 'Bee Garden'
- Rusland Drive seating area
- Permanent planters at various locations
- Seasonal planters at various locations
- Gateway features at two town entrances

The Council also:

- Undertakes grass cutting at Long Lane for highway safety purposes
- Carries out additional grass cutting at town entrances in partnership with the Unitary

Authority

The Town Council is not responsible for allotment sites within the parish.

The Council is, however, working towards the creation of a **community growing space** on land leased from Network Rail. This project will be supported by a dedicated working group and will be governed by its own specific policies and procedures.

What the Town Council Will Do

The Town Council will:

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in all decision-making, particularly when responding to planning applications
 - Retain standing and fallen dead wood as habitat for invertebrates where it is safe to do so
 - Manage and, where necessary, remove invasive species that are harmful to native flora and fauna
 - Protect existing trees on Council-owned land and support additional tree planting where appropriate
 - Reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides wherever possible
 - Maintain existing bird boxes, bat boxes and insect hotels
 - Explore opportunities to create biodiversity-rich areas within Council-managed land
 - Support the development of the community growing space as a means of enhancing biodiversity and community engagement
 - Establish a Council Committee or Working Group focused on biodiversity
 - Promote biodiversity through its website, newsletters and social media
-

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains effective and reflects current legislation, best practice and local priorities.