

Dalton with Newton Town Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th September 2026 in the Town
Hall, Station Road, Dalton in Furness at 7pm

Present: Cllr A Thurlow, B Solari, W Maddox, N McDougall, C Fox, A Fox, N Perie, D Pearson, M Dobson & M Green.

In attendance: Mrs. C. Stainton (Town Clerk), Cllr Tony Callister (Westmorland & Furness Council) and Mark Hammond (Highways Network Manager).

Meeting Opened at 7.00pm

C1/09/2026. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies to receive.

C2/09/2026. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

- a. the Council meeting held on Monday 6th July 2026
- b. the Greenspaces Committee meeting held on Monday 13th July 2026

C3/09/2026. Declarations of Interest

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

C4/09/2026. Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved: That there were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

C5/09/2026. Reports from Westmorland & Furness Councillors

Cllr Tony Callister provided an update on matters relating to Westmorland & Furness Council. He reported on progress with the Borderlands programme and provided updates regarding ongoing issues with bin collections and grass cutting. He advised that improvements in both areas were expected to be seen shortly.

Cllr Thurlow raised concerns regarding invasive plant species on Littlefields. Cllr Callister agreed to look into the matter and report back as appropriate.

Mark Hammond, Highways Network Manager for the area, also attended the meeting and provided an update on recent and forthcoming road resurfacing works.

Mr Hammond also provided an update regarding the yellow lines on Station Road, which had been reinstated following the recent resurfacing works. He advised that the yellow lines had been reinstated in accordance with the relevant Traffic Regulation Order.

C6/09/2026. Report from the Police

No representative from Cumbria Police was in attendance. A written report containing the policing statistics for August 2026 had been provided to the Council and was noted by Members.

C7/09/2026. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

C8/09/2026. Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported on the response received from the Co-op regarding the service provided in-store. The correspondence had been circulated to Members and was noted.

The Town Clerk also reported on a recent meeting with representatives from the National Trust and the Friends of Dalton Castle. The meeting had been positive, with the National Trust expressing its thanks to the Town Council for its ongoing support in maintaining the grounds of Dalton Castle. It was agreed that there were opportunities for the organisations to continue working together and supporting each other in the future.

The Town Clerk also informed Members of correspondence received from the Mayor of Dalton, Pennsylvania. The potential for establishing a connection between Dalton, Cumbria and Dalton, Pennsylvania was discussed, with Members welcoming the opportunity to explore links between the two communities.

C9/09/2026. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to note.

C10/09/2026. General Reports

Cllr C. Fox reported that the flags displayed at the town gateways were due to be removed shortly. He requested that consideration be given to sourcing higher-quality flags for display next year.

C11/09/2026. Co-option to Fill Town Council Vacancy

Two applications had been received for the current Town Council vacancy.

Mr Christopher Coward was considered as the first candidate but did not receive a proposer or seconder.

Mr Michael Green was proposed by Cllr W. Maddox and seconded by Cllr N. Perie. All Members voted in favour of his co-option to the Town Council.

Resolved: Mr Green was therefore duly co-opted as a Councillor for Dalton with Newton Town Council. He was invited to join Members at the Council table and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

C12/09/2026. External Audit – Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

a. Members received and **noted** the External Auditor Report and Certificate following completion of the external audit for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Members of the Finance Committee confirmed that the Internal Auditor appointed for the 2025/26

financial year was not the Responsible Financial Officer during the period under review.

b. Members noted that the external audit had been concluded and that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit, together with the completed AGAR and External Auditor Report and Certificate, had been published in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

c. Members noted the Clerk's advice regarding the transfer of responsibility for the Responsible Financial Officer role and that supporting documentation had been provided to the External Auditor during the audit process.

C13/09/2026. Annual Tree Inspection and Remedial Works

Members **noted and ratified** the Town Clerk's instruction to proceed with the removal of the three trees in the Memorial Garden and approved the expenditure of £1,480.00.

Members also noted the position regarding the two trees in the Reading Garden and **agreed** that the tree surgeon should proceed with the necessary applications to Westmorland and Furness Council and, subject to the required consents being obtained, undertake the necessary works.

C14/09/2026. Railway Land Community Allotment

The Town Clerk provided an update on the progress of the Railway Land community allotment project. Members were advised that the land had now been cleared by the Town Council's Groundsman.

The Clerk reported that an ongoing issue remained regarding contractors working on the site on behalf of Network Rail. The community allotment project could not progress further until the contractors had vacated the site. The Clerk would continue to liaise regarding the matter and provide further updates to Members.

C15/09/2026. Events and Community Activities

a. Members considered the proposal to hold an Open Poetry Day in the Reading Garden and **agreed** that the event should proceed on Saturday 3 October 2026.

An allocation of up to £200.00 for refreshments and associated costs was approved. Members noted that this amount may not be sufficient and agreed that the RFO be given discretion to increase the allocation, should this be necessary, subject to available budget provision.

b. Members considered the proposal to hire a temporary pump track for use during the October half-term and agreed that the track should be hired for two days.

A number of potential locations were discussed. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries regarding availability for the October half-term, liaise with the proposed sites to establish their willingness to participate, and, subject to availability, suitability and the necessary permissions and arrangements being in place, proceed with the booking.

C16/09/2026. Goose Green

The Town Clerk reported that the new artwork had been forwarded to the suppliers by Cando FM. The Council is currently awaiting delivery of the completed signs.

C17/09/2026. Cigarette Bin – Happy to Chat Area

Members **noted** that the cigarette bin had now been installed in the Happy to Chat area and was already being used.

C18/09/2026 Community Assets – Potential Asset Transfers and Surplus Land

a. Members considered the potential transfer of responsibility for bus shelters, benches and planters and **agreed** that the Town Council should proceed with pursuing the transfer of these assets.

The Clerk was instructed to make enquiries with Westmorland and Furness Council regarding the transfer process, including the associated procedures, responsibilities and costs.

b. Members considered the parcel of land identified by Westmorland and Furness Council as potentially surplus to requirements. Members agreed to visit the site and consider the matter further at the next Council meeting in October.

C19/09/2026 Community Plaques – Proposed Recipients

Members considered the proposal and agreed on eight community groups/associations to receive the refurbished plaques bearing the Town Crest.

Resolved: The Clerk was instructed to contact the selected organisations to confirm whether they would accept a plaque and, where agreed, arrange the presentation by the Mayor and installation if required.

Cllr Green volunteered to assist with the installation of the plaques where necessary.

C20/09/2026 Borderlands Funding – Policies and Supporting Documents

a. Members reviewed and **approved** all of the policies and supporting documents presented in connection with the Borderlands-funded project.

b. Members **agreed** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk/RFO to make any minor amendments, additions or alterations to the approved documents where specifically required or recommended by Borderlands, provided that such amendments do not materially alter the substance or purpose of the documents.

C21/09/2026. Finance

a. Members **approved** the payments as presented.

b. Members **noted** that the bank reconciliation up to 31 July 2026 had been completed by Cllr Thurlow prior to the meeting.

c. Members **noted** that the Council's accounting records had been converted from Receipts & Payments to Income & Expenditure, and that future financial reports and the AGAR would reflect this change.

d. Members **noted** the confirmed 3.3% NJC pay award for 2026/27, effective from 1 April 2026.

e. Members considered and **approved** the quotation for the provision and installation of the Christmas lights for the 2026 Christmas period.

f. Members considered and **approved** the quotation for the Christmas trees.

g. Members considered a grant application from Furness PathFix, who had originally requested a grant of £250 towards a project with total costs of £500. Members **agreed** to increase the grant award to £500, to cover the full cost of the project.

C22/09/2026. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

Meeting Closed at 9.06pm

Signed.....
(Chairman)

Date.....

C. Stainton
Town Clerk

8th September 2026