

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Culgaith Parish Council held on
Monday 12th March 2007 in the Culgaith Victoria Institute**

Present: Mr Findlay, Mrs Hay, Mrs Winder, Mrs Blenkinship, Messrs, Hindson.

In attendance: 6 members of the public

Apologies: Messrs Morton, Lancaster, Kitchen, Rev Froggatt, Mrs Wilson, County Councillor Mrs Henderson

INTRODUCTION OF CLERK DESIGNATE The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mrs Sue Smith who would take over the role of Clerk as from 1st April.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Hay for matters relating to Fellrunner

Mr Hindson for matters relating to grass cutting contracts.

Mrs Blenkinship for matters relating to Blencarn Village hall

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Business meeting held on 8th January 2007 were accepted and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Skirwith Green – Wall Encroachment. The Clerk reported that work proceeded in conjunction with the developer's solicitor to produce the eventual legal documentation. The areas concerned had been valued and exchanged. The next stage was awaited input from DEFRA.

Notice boards. It had proved necessary to obtain highways approval – even for direct replacement. The memorandum of agreement had been approved and the meeting authorised the Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign on behalf of the council. It was agreed to install the boards ahead of the next meeting.

The Pea, Culgaith. Revised designs had been viewed by councillors with concerns raised about the associated pedestrian crossing near the junction at the top of the Pea. These concerns had been reported to EDC. The design would be further amended to incorporate street lighting.

Sewerage Leak, The Greens Culgaith. Since the last meeting further problems had been reported to EDC. The report was awaited.

War Memorial Seat. Bad weather had precluded painting of the seats.

Blencarn Development. It had been decided to await completion of the project before following up seeking any further remedial action with the developers.

Village Signs. The project would be progressed in due course.

Clerk Retirement. The vacancy had been advertised and 7 packs sent out resulted in 4 applications – one being received after the closing date and thus excluded. Three candidates were interviewed and the post offered to and accepted by Mrs Sue Smith, Briarfield, Culgaith.

Skirwith Footbridge. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had authorised the work to proceed against a quotation of £467.6 including VAT.

Grass Cutting Contracts. 4 tenders had been received and were considered later in the meeting

Local Government White Paper. The meeting noted that only one submission had been submitted – that by the County Council for a Unitary Authority. It was expected that a decision on the way ahead would be made in the near future.

Parking. A letter had been sent concerning parking of a BT vehicle near to the entry to Chestnut Close. The vehicle had been moved and no further problems had been reported.

POLICE, COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT REPORTS

County and District Council Reports No reports had been received.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Pea. Concerns were raised over dangers from falling trees and potential land slip along the left hand verge when climbing the route. Questions also surrounded ownership of the land in question and the responsibility for the trees. It was noted that some remedial work would be carried out when the new footpath was constructed. The Clerk would raise the concerns with Highways.

Culgaith Recreation Ground. Representatives updated the meeting of work undertaken to enhance safety at the ground. This included erection of temporary safety fences and an inspection carried

out by RoSPA which highlighted other problem areas. Work was now in hand to develop an action plan and then to seek funding for the work. The meeting was asked to consider providing financial help towards the cost of the fencing and inspection. This was considered later in the meeting. The Flodder. The meeting was asked to review upkeep of the area given the significant damage caused by parked vehicles and especially a tractor. It was agreed to review the matter at the May business meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Parish Council Elections. It was agreed that the Clerk and Clerk designate would attend the briefing at EDC on 14th March. It was noted that nominations had to be submitted before NOON on 4th April.

Village Garden Waste Skip Service. The meeting regretted that EDC had advised that funding for the skip service was to be terminated. The Clerk would advise EDC of the concerns.

Future of Local Government. Mrs Hay would represent the PC when the matter was next considered by EDC CALC.

Tree Warden Scheme. The meeting opted not to participate in the proposed scheme.

CALC Road Show. The meeting resolved to defer a decision on the invitation to participate in the scheme until after the May elections.

REPORTS

Parish Plan Project

The Clerk advised that there had not been significant recent developments. It was agreed that there was need to review progress and reconsider priorities after the elections in May. It was also agreed that there was need to consider production of a Village Design Statement for Culgaith as there was need to identify where potential development – especially for affordable homes – might take place. The Clerk had written to Smith Gore suggesting that the Church Commissioners consider offering the Loaning Head farm building site for affordable housing. A reply was awaited. Parish Paths. Mrs Winder and Mrs Hay briefly updated the meeting on their involvement with the new footpath initiative and anticipated work starting in the near future.

PLANNING

Notices of Decision have been received from EDC as follows:

Approved:

06/0901 – Levelling Farm yard etc – Millrigg, Culgaith – Mr Sendall – supported

06/0913 – Storage Shed – Black Swan Inn – Culgaith – Mrs Pallister

07/0005 – New Building for tractor workshop – Long Meadows, Blencarn – JK Stamper

Refused: None

Planning applications considered by the Parish Council:

88/1252 – Development at the Piggery, Eden Lea Culgaith. The PC noted the planned route of the footpath up the Pea but had reservations on the intended and indicated pedestrian crossing.

07/0005 – New Building for tractor workshop – Long Meadows, Blencarn – JK Stamper

Withdrawn

06/0872 – Wind Turbine – Rigglands, Blencarn – Mr and Mrs Firth

Reviewed

06/0137 – Replace shed with double garage – existing garage converted to sitting room.

Helmwinds, Culgaith – Mr and Mrs Pallister. In that the development did not seem to follow original plans, the Clerk was to obtain up to date drawings.

Financial Matters

Payments. The following payments were agreed:

Clerk's Salary Feb/March	£462.51
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Expenses	£64.30
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Culgaith Village Hall	£10.00
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Donations. The following donations were agreed.

Culgaith PCC	£125
Skirwith PCC	£125
Kirkland PCC	£125
Culgaith Vic Inst	£300
Blencarn Rec Room	£100
Memo	£200
Fellrunner	£300
Culgaith Rec Ground	£250

Grass Cutting Tenders. The meeting was cleared of public and Mr Hindson left the room. It was agreed and resolved that the main contract for cutting at Culgaith, Skirwith and Blencarn would be awarded to Mr Nigel Preston and the work for the Tarn to Mr Robin Wilkinson.

Clerk's Salary. It was agreed that on appointment, Mrs Smith would be paid against national scale LC1 and would start at point SCP 17. The estimated workload would be 284.32 hours to include a 4 week paid holiday entitlement. A review of salary and workload would be carried out at the end of the 6 month probationary period.

CORRESPONDENCE BOX

The Clerk briefed the meeting on routine matters.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dead Deer. A dead deer was located on the road opposite Hazeldene Nurseries. The Clerk would ask Environmental Services for help.

Elections May 2007. The Chairman thanked his colleagues for their support over the life of the council and wished them all well should they either decide to stand again or to stand down from the council.

Parish Clerk. The Chairman recorded thanks to the outgoing clerk for his work with the council and wished him well in his retirement.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the date of next meeting would be Monday 14th May 2007 at Skirwith.