

**CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held 12 January 2015 at Skirwith Village Hall**

Present: Councillors Jill Hay (Chair) - JH, Pam Jago - PJ, Pauline Toppin - PT, Marjorie Helm - MH, Ken Phillipson - KP, Joe Ravetz - JR, Laura Wilson - LW, David Witney – DW, Kathryn Binney (Clerk) – KB.

Also In Attendance: Several residents and Hellen Aitken, Development Officer (ACTion with Communities in Cumbria)

1/15 APOLOGIES

Councillor, Caroline Richardson (Vice Chair) and Councillor, John Slann, apologies accepted.

2/15 *Declarations of interest

Councillors – none heard.

Although the Parish Clerk is not held under the same regulations as the Councillors (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Regulations 2012), Kathryn Binney would like it noted that there is the potential that when advertised, her husband who has his own landscaping business may wish to submit a tender for the grass cutting. Therefore to ensure all fairness and honesty it is proposed that all requests for tender information will receive a letter confirming their interest from the Parish Council and that all grass cutting tenders are submitted to the Chair in sealed envelopes entitled 'Culgaith Parish Grass Cutting Tenders'.

3/15 Minutes

To authorise the Chairman to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2014 as a true record. Also resigned was the September minutes as one of the councillors had suggested clarification of the playground wall that was discussed, being the one in Culgaith.

4/15 Progress Reports

To receive for information and/or determine action, as appropriate, on the items in the following reports;

Parish Clerk's report

Brought forward from 3rd November meeting - Tree work requirements for Skirwith.

The trees have been identified and marked up. Quotes have been sought and the necessary permissions have been progressed. A discussion took place around the following;

1. The resulting wood – There will be a significant amount of wood – (Unless wanted by the contractor). It is recommended not to leave in lengths as there is inherent risk that would encourage untrained / suitably qualified persons to try to do it themselves. It proposed this is best left logged (As EDC does).

2. The waste chippings - could be used to assist in weed control. It was proposed to let them spread along the grassy paths where possible – and generally spread the rest to allow it to rot naturally. Question was raised about the potential spread of disease through the chippings. The Clerk is to ascertain if this is likely and if so, seek alternative solutions.

The councillors were happy with the lowest quote submitted, Chris Wakefield Tree Services and this is to be taken up, subject to satisfactory outcome of planning permissions and the issue with waste chippings.

A further copper beach was brought to the attention of the council. Requiring just trimming it could be added to the specification of work at a later point.

The Clerk advised that the production of the papers and other documentation is using a lot of ink. Verification was made about the stationary account held by the Parish Council and that there was discount available for buying multiple ink packs.

Chairs report

Jill advised that she attended the Eden Community Conference 2014 - Shaping Eden's Future on 22 November 2014. This was an opportunity for parish councils and community groups to come forward and debate how our services can help address issues in their communities over the next four years. A very informative programme was held including:

- Economic challenges and opportunities for Eden - overview by Adam Wellings, Economic Development Consultant
- A community response to economic challenges and opportunities - Anne Fowler, Ravenbridge Stores community shop, Kirkoswald
- Environmental challenges and opportunities for Eden - overview by Simon Johnson, Eden Rivers Trust
- A community response to environmental challenges and opportunities, Roe Baker, Sustain Eden Project - Alston Moor
- Social challenges and opportunities for Eden - overview by Rachel Preston, GP Lead for Eden and Sally Jenkins Commissioner
- A community response to social challenges and opportunities - Paul Saager, Culgaith Vic community café

It was hoped to get a speed indicator, this is now with Highways, contact being David Spence. Although it has been proposed that Culgaith School may get flashing warning lights and a 20 MPH advisory during access / egress times. This proposal will be going forward 24th March 2015 to the Local Area Committee.

A number of millennium mugs have been brought forward and it was agreed that these should be donated to the halls to use.

5/15 Public Participation / Open session (15 mins allowed)

A problem with Moles on and around the play area of Skirwith was raised. Some enquires are to be made by a resident who may be able to assist free of charge.

Street lighting was reported as a problem. In particular one at Webster Place, Skirwith and one in Culgaith was removed and not replaced.

Skirwith Garden Refuge Skips – Query was raised as to whether residents would get the same green bin privileges as neighbouring villages in the future. This will be explored. The difficulties with the current skip contract were highlighted. Residents were advised that when the skips get full, we can request emptying as required. Residents also advised that they need a skip over the winter months for the winter clippings.

6/15 County and District Councillors reports

Mary Robinson was present and gave an update from EDC.

7/15 Community Emergency Planning

Hellen Aitken, Development Officer (ACTion with Communities in Cumbria) gave a presentation to raise awareness of community emergency planning. How other parishes have developed their own emergency plans and the support available. The focus was on how the local communities can make themselves more resilient.

A number of photographs were shared given examples of the types of incidents and the impacts these can have on individuals. It was highlighted how multiple impacts can effect communities and that this can have greater consequences. Having a communications plan can help to keep people informed and not isolated. The Cumbria Local Resilience Forum, (<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/cumbrialocalresilienceforum/default.asp>) are keen to encourage communities to develop their Community Emergency Plans. These plans can be simple and there is even a template document that can be used.

Some tips around preparing for emergencies were shared;

- Electricity North West – priority service register <http://www.enwl.co.uk/our-services/electricity-priority-service-customer>
- Cumbria Community Messaging (CCM), managed by the Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA), offers People and Communities across Cumbria the means

to receive information from Agencies in the County tailored to their particular preferences for content, priority and means of communication.

<https://www.cumbriacommunitymessaging.co.uk/>

- Preparation of a grab bag and keeping a hard copy of your useful phone numbers and contacts.

Hellen Aitken advised that she had approached a few of our community groups and that there was funding available for assistance in completion of the plan.

8/15 **Planning**

To decide on new planning applications and report on planning decisions made since the last meeting.

Current Applications:

14/1016	4 PARK VIEW CULGAITH PENRITH CA10 1QL
14/1098	ST JOHNS COTTAGE CHURCH STREET SKIRWITH PENRITH CA10 1RQ
14/1099	OLD SCHOOL HOUSE CHURCH STREET SKIRWITH PENRITH CA10 1RQ
15/0012	THE DURBERVILLES KIRKLAND ROAD SKIRWITH PENRITH

No objections were heard.

In addition to this we have received a letter from Smithgore asking for comments in support of the potential development site at Loaning Head. The Councillors would like to agree to meet with the planners to discuss this further. A meeting will be facilitated.

9/15 **Finance**

The PC current account is £712.78.

Monthly SO's – Clerks wages £164.95 and HMRC £41.20

Cheque also required for Memo £6, The hire of Hall £10, Clerks expenses £50.30 (see separate break down). Re-issue of Mark Hills payment required once savings transfer complete.

- As of 26th June the balances at National Savings were £12,029.50. It is presumed this is the correct amount. A transfer request to the PC current account of £2000 has been made.

10/15 **Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications**

To note items of correspondence received since the last meeting.

Date	Name (Items of note or requiring action in bold)	Action / Comment
3.11.14	Poppy Appeal - Official receipt	Add to next expense claim
10.11.14	ACT Gazette	nil
14.11.14	Smithgore - potential development site	Add to next agenda - under other planning applications
18.11.14	NS&I - Change of signatories	Advise them only address change needed.
20.11.14	Receipt from Memo for Sept & Nov inclusions	file
20.11.14	Internet Banking details	Verify ok
24.11.14	HSBC - Standing Order Query	Resend SO + date amendment letter. Cheque outstanding amounts due and get cheque signed.
25.11.14	HSBC Statement	Update financial figs to actuals

25.11.14	EDC - Planning application format changes	FIO
26.11.14	Fellrunner - letter of thanks / receipt £377.40	file
17.12.14	HSBC - Cleared funds	Cheque outstanding - transfer urgent funds and re-issue chq 100961
19.12.14	Cheque from Electricity NW £22.10. Asset location rent	Banked
25.12.14	HSBC Statement	Cheque outstanding - transfer urgent funds and re-issue chq 100961

11/15 Culgaith Parish Grass Cutting

The previous Grass Cutting Specification was discussed. The old maps had been improved. A number of residents advised they were not happy with the cutting. The cost implication was discussed however clarification was made that they did not want more areas cut and they would be happy if the actual areas and number of cuts on the specification were fulfilled. Following the best practice guides from CALC and benchmarking of neighbouring parishes, it was agreed that should the specification not be fulfilled the agreement can be cancelled and the contractor can be made liable for the cost of re-advertising. Skirwith embankments. – Philip Grant is unable to give an update at the meeting. The recommendation would be to top the areas possible 4 times per year during the growth season. Costing to be sought just to provide an understanding of the price going forward if discussions take place again.

12/15 Councillor Matters

It was reported that there were significant pot holes on the Skirwith road from Langwathby, near beck mill. Also on the road to the village hall. Jill Hay to report. At Culgaith School it was reported that despite the lines outside parents are parking up on the pavements, resulting in pedestrians walking in the road. It was suggested that the School should request that the parents park considerately. Speeding from Langwathby into Culgaith was reported as an issue again. It was recalled that we agreed to revisit the Temple Sowerby medical practice issues (115/14). Nothing further was noted. Patients reported that they understand the priority lead service and that the overall service is still considerably better than some other practices. It was not felt that the Parish Council can do anything further. It was noted that the Blencarn Mill – wooden bridge was in poor repair but as it is not on a public footpath it is not an issue for the Parish Council.

13/15 Date of next meeting

To note that the next Parish Council meeting is on:
Monday March 2nd 2015 at Kirkland & Blencarn Recreation Room