

Approved 7th March 2016

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at Skirwith Village Hall, on Monday 11 January 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Caroline Richardson (Chair), Pauline Toppin, Marjorie Helm, Laura Wilson, David Witney, Philip Hemingway, Ken Phillipson, Pam Jago, Jill Hay, Mary Robinson.

Clerk: Kathryn Binney.

Also present: Residents Becky Foster, Stephen Wales and Denise Kerridge

1/16 Apologies

Councillor Sheila Orchard.

2/16 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were heard.

3/16 Minutes

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the Minutes of the meeting held 2 November at 7.30 pm at Culgaith Victoria Institute, as a true record.

4/16 Progress Reports

Parish Clerk's report

Printer costings - Successful Transparency Fund grant of £219 for a new printer and £80.24 to pay for our website.

Several printer comparisons were made - it was resolved to purchase the Brother DCP-9020CDW which would allow for internal printing of the Annual Report. The costings per page remain approximately the same but we hope we get nearer to the suggested number of pages per toner with a laser printer. The enhanced capabilities will make a big difference with efficiencies, such as back to back printing and scanning, reduction in preparation time for Councillor documentation and improvements in transparency being added positive improvements.

Playground Inspections - To be added to the next agenda to review provider. Inspections are due 7th August 2016. Quotes to be sought will include the provider for Langwathby Parish and it is hoped to explore a possible discount if inspections occur at the same time.

Vacancy Culgaith Councillor - Following John Slann's resignation, EDC have been informed. Notices circulated on boards and on web page. Should EDC hear nothing by 15th January we can co-opt any willing, suitable candidate.

Over drawn refund - HSBC graciously returned £80 following the clerical error which lead to the account been overdrawn back in October. However the full cost of this mistake was not accounted for at that time and so the Clerk volunteered a further deduction of £16.40 to ensure this has in no way cost the Parish Council any financial damage.

Chairs report

The Chair reported that Councillor John Slann has stepped down from the Council

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for personal reasons and thanked Councillor Slann for his valuable contribution over the years.

It was believed that Culgaith Parish managed to escape the December Flooding. Should anyone know of anyone affected please refer to EDC for support.

It was recorded at the previous meeting that a meeting with the Guardians of Tarn should be facilitated regarding reports of weed killer being used on the Tarn. This meeting did not go ahead, but the Parish Council propose to include reference within the reports for the Memo and the Herald and to provide a notice on Tarn to make clear it is not permitted.

5/16 Public Participation / Open session

No comments were raised.

6/16 County and District Councillors reports

Mary Robinson – Apologies for not attending previous meetings, due to clash with Alston Parish Council Meetings where there have been several issues requiring her attention.

Reservations were highlighted in regards to the budget cuts. It was acknowledged that support was given to the campaign to save the Fire Stations, especially Lazonby, as it will have a devastating effect to our rural response times.

Figures submitted in support of the proposal were proved wrong, however they have made clear that no correction will be made. Thanks were given to the number of parishes that have written in, including Culgaith Parish Council.

In the end we will see very difficult decisions made in respect to the savings that have to be made.

The Council were informed that there still are several grant opportunities available and we can make enquiries where appropriate to Cumbria County Council (contacts Tracy Murraine & Amy Firth).

Amongst others there is a grant for;

- Fitness / weight loss
- Neighbourhood grant
- 0 to 19 grant

Culgaith Parish Councillors reported to Mary, that the road in Culgaith has seen a significant increase to the damage throughout the village - due to the extra transport due to road closures and the number of HGVs following the diversions, and the severe and prolonged bad weather. Mary agreed to escalate this.

7/16 Planning

It was reported that no new planning applications have been received.

It was noted that 15/0983 - Site At Pea Foot Adj To River Bend Culgaith Penrith CA10 1QE had been refused on the grounds that it is outside the limit of Culgaith and therefore in open countryside.

It was noted that comments collated by the Parish Council regarding 15/1037 Agricultural Workers Dwelling, Blencarn were forwarded and that this application was going before the Planning Committee on Thursday 21 January 2016. (POST meeting note; Mr S Wales requested a copy of the comments made and it was agreed to share these observations)

8/16 Finance

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- To approve payments detailed in the schedule;

9.1.16	Memo	Inclusions (6 thirds)	£36
11.1.16	Culgaith Vic	Room hire	£10
11.1.16	Skirwith VH	Room hire	£10
11.1.16	EDC	Elections	£210
11.1.16	CALC	Training (New Chair Course)	£25.50
11.1.16	Memo	Feb Inclusion (size tbc) £6 or £12 as necessary	£6 or £12
11.1.16	K Binney	Expenses £38.16 less 16.40 deduction	£21.76

- To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement
Net Balances at 25 December 2015 £11,071.86
- To consider the Budget Comparison Report
An error on the previous year (2014/15) was noted and a corrected version is to be circulated post meeting.
This years figures and the revised budget for 2016/17 were reviewed.
- A refund of £80 was received from HSBC regarding the over drawn fees.
However an additional £16.40 in charges was made and the Clerk volunteered this sum so that the Parish Council did not have any financial loss due to this error.

9/16 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications

Acknowledgement of our correspondence regarding the Police Cuts and the Fire Service cuts were received.

Continued correspondence on the Eden Local Plan consultation process has been received.

Other general correspondence's all shared with the Councillors via email as applicable.

10/16 Training

Summary of completed activities undertaken, pending training dates and identification of new training needs / opportunities.

- It was resolved that the Clerk should seek to attend the following;
 1. A Clerks Forum
 2. CiLCA, Pensions Workshop and General Power of Competence (These were previously agreed but cancelled)
 3. Website & Social Media
- Councillors all agreed that a Business Planning Course would be very useful but that we should review our plans first. A date is to be programmed at a later time when appropriate.

11/16 Councillor Matters

Kirkland – there has been a request for flags to be laid to the church gate as it is very boggy. Enquiries to be made regarding the ownership of land and permissions around what we are allowed to do.

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It was resolved that a note should go to thank Cumbria Highways for the work carried out at Broats Farm – even with the inclement weather this patch of road avoided flooding.

Footpath lighting – update just as per Chris Slaters last report. No time scales are known as yet. All footpath lights that are faulty should be escalated for repair.

On 18th January 2016 there is a Rural Network Meeting – Connecting Cumbria. Inc Lonsdale Net. (<http://www.connectingcumbria.org.uk/digital-inclusion>)

Unofficial notice board in Skirwith has been lost. Parish Council notices must take priority on the remaining board, where necessary over other advertisements.

Annual Parish Council Meeting – It was resolved to adopt Community Emergency Planning as the theme for this year.

13/16 Grass cutting

The grass cutting applications for tender 2016/17 were considered. Four applications were received and it was resolved to award this to Mark Binney, Landscaping and Stonework, as this was the lowest quote.

14/16 Review of the Community Plan

A review of actions and ongoing goals were discussed. With the following observations noted it was agreed that we are making continued good progress. Broadband – great progress has been made and within the next 12mths it is thought that this will be fully accessible throughout the Parish.

Acknowledgment and thanks were extended to Joe Ravetz on his work with this. Play areas have seen significant developments and Blencarn have a project running to improve their area. (It was suggested to refer the lead of this project to Hunsonby Parish Clerk as they have been carrying out a similar project and to also consider some of the grants that are available at the moment). Support is to be given.

Continued good working practices with the Local Authorities.

15/16 External Audit

The Audit Commission ceased to exist on the 1 April 2015 and a new company – Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd - has been created to take over the appointment of external auditors and the setting of audit fees for smaller authorities from 2017.

This company will formally appoint external auditors on behalf of the Parish - much like the Audit Commission did previously, for a five year period from the financial year 2017/18. This will happen automatically unless we decide to opt out and set up an independent Audit Panel to procure external audit itself.

The deadline for those wishing to take a decision to opt out is 31 March 2016. It was resolved to wait until the next meeting when it is hoped more information will be available to inform the Parish Councils decision.

14/16 Date of next meeting

To note that the next Parish Council meeting is on:

7 March 2016 - Kirkland & Blencarn Recreation Room at 1930hrs

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