

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

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Fell View
Blencarn, Penrith
Cumbria, CA10 1TX

Minute of the Meeting Held on Monday 5th July 2021 In Skirwith Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

49/21 Present

Cllrs: Caroline Richardson (Chair), Laura Wilson, Sue Smith, Pam Jago, John Watson, Andrew Clay, David Witney, Pauline Toppin (Vice Chair), County Cllr Claire Driver, District Cllr Ray Briggs and John Fleming (Parish Clerk)
Four members of the public.

50/21 Apologies

Cllr Ken Philipson,

51/21 Minutes

The Chair was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th May 2021, as a true record.
Proposed by Cllr P Jago. Seconded by Cllr S Smith.

52/21 Declaration of Interests

Agenda Item 11

Cllr C Richardson – Blencarn and Kirkland Village Hall
Cllr D Witney - Culgaith Church
Cllr L Wilson – Skirwith Village Hall

53/21 Public Participation

53.1 A Skirwith resident, along with three colleagues (The S V G Group) outlined in detail the proposals they envisaged to improve the natural habitat and recreational amenity of Skirwith Village Green.

53.2 Chair, Cllr C Richardson clarified the position by stating that any proposals agreed by the Parish Council, that evening, would be required to go out for public consultation, prior to the Parish Council giving its final endorsement of any proposals, at the September 6th meeting.

54/21 Skirwith Village Green Initiative – Councillors then discussed the proposals listed below, in detail, indicating their approval or otherwise

54.1 Wildlife Proposals

54.1.1 To install bird/ bat/squirrel boxes along the length of the Village Green; it being confirmed there was no cost envisaged to this proposal. Consultation having taken place by the S V G Group, with the Environment Agency, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and the local Squirrel Ranger
Proposal 1 on map.

Councill Decision

The Council fully supported this proposal

54.1.2. It was proposed that two areas be scythed or grazed, in order to promote meadow type flowers and grasses. (Any grazed animal would be required to be tethered and covered by 3rd Party insurance cover.) Suggested areas being on the South slope, just past the bridge, by the horse field and on the South slope, in front of Garth House. The Environmental Agency having offered to provide native flower plug plants. S V G Group envisaged no cost to the Parish Council in this respect.

Proposal 2 and 5 on the map.

Councill Decision

The Council fully supported this proposal

54.1.3 Permission sought to plant a Chestnut tree; location to be confirmed.

Councill Decision

The Council fully supported this proposal.

54.1.4 Permission sought to plant a selection of native bulbs across the Village Green, such as snowdrops, bluebells etc. There would be small cost to this initiative.

Councill Decision

The Council fully supported this proposal.

54.1.5 Permission was sought to establish vegetable/herb boxes, for the community benefit. In discussion the Clerk advised that, it was his understanding that such a construction, on a Registered Village Green, was not permitted. Management concerns were also expressed by Councillors over the proposal.

Agreed Decision

It was agreed between the parishioners' present (S V G Group) and Councillors not to proceed with this idea.

54.2 Accessibility Proposals

54.2.1 It was proposed to install three benches. See map items 2,4 and 7

Councill Decision

The Council fully supported the siting of a bench at locations 2 and 3 on the Village Green; however; advice and permission would be required from Highways in respect of the siting a bench at the top of the hill, past Skelling's entrance. The Clerk agreed to take this up with Highways.

54.2.2 Level Existing Paths.

Councill Decision

The Council were in agreement with the existing paths, across the green, being levelled, to facilitate their use. Once levelled, the paths to be reseeded with grass. It was confirmed that this work would be done by parishioners, (S V G Group), at no cost to the Parish Council.

54.2.3 It was proposed to create a 'Willow Den', to be located, off but in close proximity to the playground area, at that end of the Village Green. This proposal being created at no cost to the Parish Council.

Councill Decision

The Council fully supported this proposal

54.2.4 Excavations and Seating. A proposal was put forward to excavate a section of the green, map location 6, and to install seating. In discussion the Clerk advised that, it was his understanding that such a construction, on a Registered Village Green, was not permitted and that the Parish Council would be committing a criminal offence, should it grant permission. It had been estimated that this proposal could cost in the region of £1500.

Councill Decision.

Councillors were not comfortable with this proposal and, subject to checking the legal position, unanimously agreed that, even if they were to support the proposal, they were probably not in a position to grant permission. That said, the Council would not object to benches to be sited, on the surface of the Village Green, in this area.

54.2.5 A Levelled Play Area. - It was proposed that quite a large area of the green, at map location 3, be levelled to facilitate children playing ball games on the green. This was an enhanced recreational use of the Village Green, having the benefit of taking children, playing with a ball, away from the road. This proposal had not been costed.

Council Decision.

Councillors recognised the well-intended intention behind the proposal, however, were concerned as to whether it was permissible to undertake such a large engineering project on a Registered Village Green. The Clerk advised Councillors that, it was his firm understanding that such an engineering project, on a Registered Village Green, was not permitted and that the Council would be committing a criminal offence, should it give permission. Councillors were not comfortable with this proposal and, subject to checking the legal position, unanimously agreed that, even if they were to support the proposal, they were probably not in a position to grant permission.

(Note. Subsequent to the meeting CALC Registered Village Green specialist Solicitors 'Wellers and Hedleys' have confirmed that the works proposed under 54.2.4 and 54.2.5 is not permitted on a Registered Village Green and should the Parish Council give permission it would be committing a criminal offence)

55/21 District and County Council Reports.

55.1 District Councillors Report

Cllr Ray Briggs reported that he had been in post now for 9 weeks and, following training, he was beginning to understand the workings of the District's Departments. He would be in a better position to give a more meaningful report in September.

55.2 County Council Report – A brief report was presented to the meeting; this being summarised in the monthly report available on: - (control/click) <https://youtu.be/EQ7uP2AfaOk>

56/21 Finance (Incl.Vat)

56.1 To note the following balances as at: -

| | 26/6/21 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| | £ |
| HSBC Account | 2433.55 |
| Penrith Building Society | 25588.80 |
| NSI Account | 24.00 |
| Total Cash | <u>28046.35</u> |

56.2 Presentation of Interim Accounts from 17th May to 26th June 2021

These accounts were unanimously approved.

56.3 The Following Accounts were Ratified.

| | |
|--|--------|
| 56.3.1 J Fleming Fee May/June 2021 As per contract | |
| 56.3.2 J Fleming Office Provision May/June 2021 | 30.00 |
| 56.3.3 Zoom Fees Jan – June 2021 (6 X £14.99) | 86.34 |
| 56.3.4 Playground Inspection Co.- Inspections X 2 | 167.88 |
| 56.3.5 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting | 567.00 |
| 56.3.6 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting | 634.50 |
| 56.3.7 Angela Hartland PAYE Set up for 2021/22 | 14.00 |
| 56.3.8 Norris Fisher – Insurance | 444.34 |

56.4 The Following Account was Approved for Payment

| | |
|---|------|
| J Fleming Expenses – 17 th May – 5 th July 2021 | 7.20 |
|---|------|

The accounts listed in **55.3** and **55.4** above, were unanimously approved.
Proposed by Cllr D Witney, Seconded by Cllr C Richardson.

56.5 To Report Receipts

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|--|--------|
| 56.5.1 VAT Refund | 434.42 |
| 56.5.2 Zoom Fee Payment – LPC Jan – April 21 (4m X £6) | 24.00 |
| 55.6.3 It was unanimously agreed to cancel the ‘Zoom’ account | |

56.6 Parish Clerk’s Salary Review – To raise, as per contract and in line with the NALC recommendations for 2021/2022

Proposed by Cllr S Smith Seconded by Cllr D Witney

57/21 Planning Applications

To Report

- 21/0476 – Gregs Hut, Pennine Way. Kirkland. Penrith –Alteration of the roof profile for the porch from monopitch to dual pitch with small gable. **Supported**
- 21/0440 – Ranbeck, Kirkland, Skirwith, Penrith - Erection of agricultural building to form covered midden **Supported**
- 21/0486 – Hushwing Barn, Kirkland Road, Skirwith, Penrith – Variation of condition 2 (plans compliance) to substitute approved plans iv, v, vi and vii with drawing to approval 19/0408 **Supported**
- 21/0479 – The Old Vicarage. Skirwith. Penrith - Installation of flagpole in garden for the flying of national, county or house flag. Flagpole will be 6m in height, of which 0.8m will be inserted into sleeve sunk into ground giving height in situ of 5.2m **Supported**

58/21 Highways and Land Matters

- 58.1 30-mph Signs – Station Road, Culgaith. – Repositioning.** Actioned, however the signage had been positioned on Station Road hill and not before the entrance to the proposed Hazel dene housing development, as subsequently requested by the Parish Council.
- 58.2 Digital Speed Awareness Device –** On approach to Culgaith from Langwathby. Agreed to chase-up a date for a site visit to further discuss and to progress this initiative.
- 58.3 Road Surface from Culgaith School to War Memorial –** Awaiting budget approval before work can be sanctioned.
- 58.4 The Pruning of the Tarn Trees –** Work completed.
- 58.5 Footpath Sign – To Blencarn from Kirkland –** In hand with Cumbria County Council.

- 58.6 Skirwith Footway Lights** – Reported that the LED Light by Pear Tree House (No 8) and the one by Village Hall (No 7) were still not functioning.
Action:- To remind EDC over the problem again and to request that these lights be made to function as a matter of urgency.
- 58.7 Carriageway Flooding – By Highfield, Blencarn** - In hand with Highways.
- 58.8 Skirwith Playground** – Reported that there were low, overhanging branches, to the entrance to the playground.
Action:- Agreed to have these pruned to above head heights.
- 58.9 Skirwith Dead Pine Tree** – Reported that there was a dead Pine tree in the playground vicinity.
Action:- Agreed to have it removed.
- 58.10 Skirwith Village Green – Boundary Fence.** - Reported that the roadside boundary fence at Kirkland end of the village green, was in need of attention.
Action:- Agree to investigate in the late autumn, when foliage had died back.

59/21 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications.

The following items of correspondence were received since the last meeting.

- 59.1** 19 E Mails had been forwarded to Councillors, since the last meeting; all being filed for future reference for a twelve month period.
- 59.2 Friends of Lake District Grants** – Financial support for projects and events that celebrate, care for or enhance the landscape, environment and cultural heritage of Cumbria. These are available, up to £1000 for projects and up to £500 for events; 25% match funding being required. Projects must give a clear and positive benefit to landscape of Cumbria. There is no dead line for applications
- 59.2 A Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacon** project had been announced for the 2nd June 2022.
Action:- Agreed to liaise with Alston Parish Council regarding the building of a beacon on the top of Cross Fell.
- 59.3 The Greening Campaign** - Greening Eden Community by Community. Notice was given of this project.

60/21 Councillor Matters. An opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

- 60.1 The 30-day Road Closure - Culgaith to Langwathby Road.** – Reported that the grave concern raised by Councillors, had been conveyed to the Highways Department..
- 60.2 High Volume of Heavy Traffic passing through Culgaith** – Safety concerns were raised, especially at the Pea Top/ Black Swan junction.
Action:- To discuss the issue with Highways.
- 60.3 Staingills Junction to B6412 T Junction** – Potholes were reported.
Action:- Report to Highways.
- 60.4 The New Highways Information Asset Management System (HIAMS)** was reported. This out-lines the new systems for reporting Highway Faults.

61/21 Closure of the Meeting to the Public. – To discuss Agenda Item 13, in private. This was unanimously agreed.
 Proposed by Cllr C Richardson and Seconded by Cllr P Jago.

62/21 Grant Applications – The following were unanimously agreed, proposed by Cllr S Smith and seconded by Cllr A Clay

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| 62.1 | Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room | 250.00 |
| 62.2 | Victoria Institute Culgaith | 250.00 |
| 62.3 | Skirwith Village Hall | 250.00 |
| 62.4 | St John the Evangelist Church, Skirwith. | 200.00 |
| 62.5 | St Lawrence Church, Kirkland | 200.00 |
| 62.6 | All Saints Church, Culgaith, £200 for the churchyard upkeep. and an additional £50 to cover tree pruning. | 250.00 |
| 62.7 | Fellrunner | 235.00 |
| 62.8 | Culgaith Recreational Ground. – Contribution - new mower | <u>200.00</u> |
| | Total | <u>1835.00</u> |

63/21 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

Monday 6th September 2021– Blencarn, Village Hall
Monday 1st November 2021 – Culgaith, Victoria Institute
Monday 10th January 2022– Skirwith, Village Hall
Monday 7th March 2022 – Blencarn, Village Hall

Signed by Chairman _____

Date _____