

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

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Blencarn, Penrith
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Minute of the Meeting Held on Monday 6th September 2021 In Culgaith Victoria Institute, Culgaith. commencing at 7.30pm

Unapproved.

64/21 Present

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

65/21 Apologies

County Cllr Claire Driver, District Cllr Ray Briggs and Cllr Ken Philipson,

66/21 Minutes

The Chair was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5th July 2021, as a true record.
Proposed by Cllr P Toppin
Seconded by Cllr P Jago.

67/21 Declaration of Interests

There were none

68/21 Public Participation

- 68.1 Regarding the Skirwith Village Green Proposals, there was none
- 68.2 Church Street, Skirwith – Reported that Kerbside water is running down Church Street into the playground entrance.

69/21 Skirwith Village Green Proposals

69.1 Opening Comment by the Chair, Cllr C Richardson.

“May I thank Susie Ramsden and her group for attending the meeting this evening.

We will now move on to Agenda item 4, ‘Skirwith Village Green Proposals.’ This is for discussion by Councillors, and will be followed by a vote on the proposals.

Skirwith Village Green is a registered Village Green. Culgaith Parish Council as the owners of the Freehold, are solely responsible for decisions regarding the management and upkeep of the Green. In making these decisions the Parish Council must follow the relevant legislation, however, our guiding principle is that a Village Green is for the benefit and recreation of the whole parish.

Having overseen the successful Orchard Project, last year, Suzie Ramsden and her group were approached by a number of Skirwith residents asking if more could be done to enhance Skirwith Village Green. Having consulted with Skirwith residents, the group came to the Parish Council with proposals to increase biodiversity and improve access to the Green. These proposals were then discussed at the July Parish Council meeting, in Skirwith, where they were provisionally agreed by Councillors, subject to a public consultation, according to official Parish Council procedure.

In the light of the responses to the Consultation, the proposals have been further modified. The document to be put to the Parish Council tonight tries to strike a balance between maintaining the natural habitat of the Green, while improving access and recreational opportunities for residents.'

Cllr C Richardson.

69.2 The Modified Skirwith Village Green Proposals, listed below, were then put to the meeting,

Wildlife Proposals

69.2.1 To install bird/ bat/squirrel boxes along the length of the Village Green; **Map reference 1.**

This proposal does not incur the Parish Council with any cost.

69.2.2 One area to be strimmed twice yearly, in March and Mid July, in order to promote meadow type flowers and grasses. The area being on the south slope, in front of Garth House. **Map reference 2**

The Parish Council to cover the cost within its annual mowing contract.

69.2.3 Map reference 5; Area Cleared Towards Beck. To **refrain** from clearing this area, by the Beck, until further advice is taken from Natural England, with reference to the Beck being an SSSI; however, to possibly reconsider this decision in the future.

69.2.4 To Plant a Chestnut Tree. This should benefit Red Squirrels. To be planted just below the 30mph sign, a few metres east of Croft View Terrace - about 3m down the banking from the roadside. This location does not appear to be directly in front of a property. This site is the opposite end of the village to where the large Beech tree is and replaces a dead tree recently removed from this area.

This proposal does not incur the Parish Council with any cost.

69.2.5 To Plant a Selection of Native Bulbs across the Village Green, such as snowdrops, bluebells etc, taking the professional advice offered by Liz Dawson, from the Environment Agency, who has flora and fauna expertise.

This proposal does not incur the Parish Council with any cost.

Accessibility Proposals

69.2.6 To install Two Benches. one at **Map reference 2** and the other at **Map reference 4.** The benches proposed are not obtrusive and will be of benefit, especially to the less mobile. The bench at **Map reference 4** being located adjacent to the Beck, near the bridge.

This proposal does not incur the Parish Council with any cost.

69.2.7 To install a Bench at Map reference 7, at the top of the hill, past the Skelling's entrance, on the Kirkland Road, subject to Highway's approval.

This is not part of Village Green.

This proposal does not incur the Parish Council with any cost.

69.2.8 Existing Paths Across the Village Green be flattened, eliminating any camber, where necessary, (so one foot is not higher than another,) leaving any natural undulations and to be reseeded with a Meadow Grass seed mixture.

This will facilitate walking the Village Green, by those Parishioners who are less agile. This proposal does not incur the Parish Council with any cost.

69.2.9 To create a 'Willow Den', located, off, but in close proximity to the playground area, at that end of the Village Green. This decision can be reviewed at a future date, if necessary.

This proposal does not incur the Parish Council with any cost

69.2.10 Seating Area at Map reference 6

It was considered that this proposal will result in too many benches being installed on the Village Green; the proposal also prompting some reservations from the Consultation responses.

Agreed not to proceed with this proposal at this time but, to reconsider the decision in the future, should there be demand.

69.2.11 To regularly Mow throughout the season, an area 15m X 15m, at **Map reference 3**, to facilitate children playing ball games; this decision to be reviewed in 12 months' time

The Parish Council to cover the cost within its annual mowing contract.

69.2.12 All the above, clauses 69.2.1 to 69.2.11 were unanimously agreed.

Proposed by Cllr C Richardson

Seconded by Cllr. J Watson.

69.2.13 Notes associated with Skirwith Village Green..

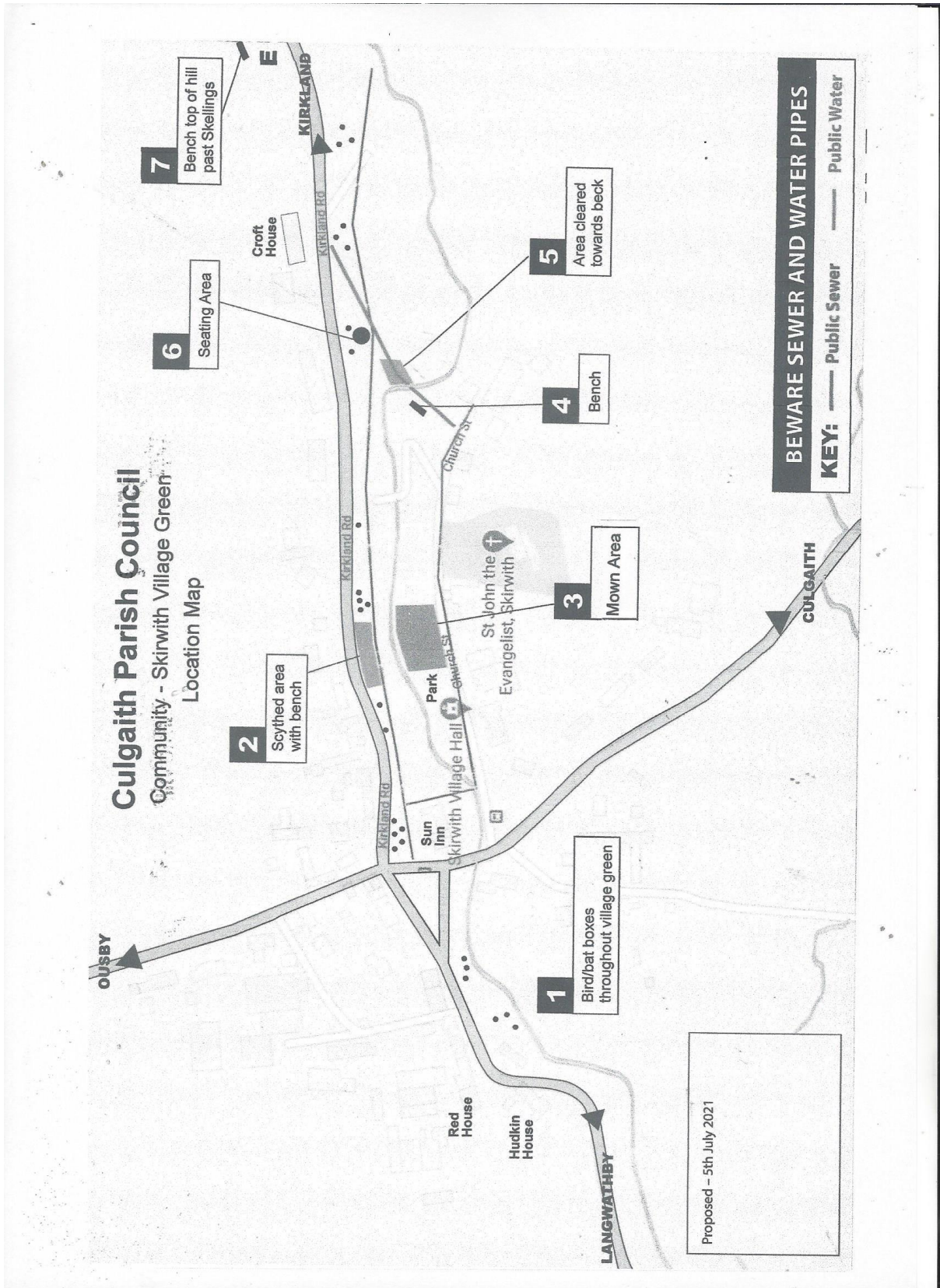
- A) The SSSI on Skirwith Village Green only relates to the Beck and no other area. The Beck is defined as from the top of the one bank to top of the opposite bank. Such an SSSI being administered and managed by Natural England.
- B) Skirwith Village Green is designated solely as a 'Registered Village Green'. It is not registered as a 'Common', with property owners having grazing rights listed on their property deeds.

This registration status has been confirmed by the Commons Registrations Office, in Carlisle.

69.2.14 The Chair thanked Susie Ramsden for all the time and hard work that she and her group had put in, on this initiative, in the interest of all parishioners using and enjoying Skirwith Village Green. Susie Ramsden and her group were also thanked for agreeing to action the agreed proposals.

It was also mentioned that should any unexpected expenditure be incurred in implementing these proposals, a request for financial support should be made to the Parish Council, for Councillor's consideration.

69.2.15 Map of the Proposals



70/21 District and County Council Reports.
There were none.

71/21 Finance (Incl.Vat)

71.1 To note the following balances as at: -	28/8/21
	£
HSBC Account	1622.73
Penrith Building Society	23128.56
NSI Account	<u>24.00</u>
Total Cash	<u>24775.29</u>

71.2 Presentation of Interim Accounts from 26th June to 28th August 2021

These accounts were unanimously approved.

Proposed Cllr P Toppin

Seconded Cllr C Richardson.

71.3 The Following Accounts were Ratified.

J Fleming Fee July/Aug 2021	As per contract
J Fleming Office Provision July/Aug 2021	30.00
ICO. Data Protection	35.00
David Willetts – Tarn Trees	225.00
Mark Binney – Grass Cutting	607.50
Geoff Anderson. Web Domain July 2021 – July 2023. (2 Years)	28.78

71.4 To Approve the Following Accounts for Payment

J Fleming Expenses – 5 th July – 6 th Sept 2021	10.35
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To approve 71.3 and 71.4

Proposer Cllr S Smith

Seconder Cllr A Clay

71.5 To Report the Following Receipt

Transfer from PBS to Current account	2500.00
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71.6 Change of Bank.

It was reported that as from 1st November 2021 HSBC were charging Community Accounts.

Action – Unanimously agreed to move the Community Account to Barclays, who were still offering free banking.

72/21 Planning Applications

21/0652 – 5 South Esk. Culgaith. Penrith - Extensions to form additional domestic accommodation	Supported
21/0670 – Helmwinds. Culgaith - Siting of ground-mounted solar panels	Supported
21/0694 – High Croft. Culgaith. Penrith - Proposed single storey dwelling.	Supported
21/0703 – Midtown Farm. Blencarn Penrith - Proposed conversion of former leisure suite and garages to a self-contained annexe.	Supported
20/0717 – Granary, Skirwith. Removal of larch tree	Supported

Planning Appeal. APP/H0928/W/21/3275716 – In respect of the Planning Refusal of 21/0095 – Rose Cottage Blencarn. Penrith – Outline application for erection of a dwelling with all matters reserved. Appeal Consultation closes 22nd September 2021
Action: - Agreed to submit, to the Appeal's office, the Parish Council's original objection with, further, additional comments over safety concerns regarding the access and the overall unsuitability of the site for this development, citing, again, the issues raised under Policy Dev 5.

73/21 Highways and Land Matters

73.1 **73.1.1 Digital Speed Awareness Device – Approach to Culgaith from Langwathby.**

Following a site visit from Highways, it was agreed, by those attending, that there was not an obvious, ideal site to position such a Digital Sign, either due to the positioning of trees, existing street furniture or the location of nearby properties.

73.1.2 The long-term effectiveness of such a sign was also questioned by those present.

73.1.3 Action: - A suggestion was made by Highways, that, in the first instance, they revise the road signage for the whole of Culgaith village, with traffic speed and road safety being at the forefront of any recommendations; the problem of the high volume of heavy traffic, passing through the village, being addressed at the same time.

A revised signage proposal being put to the Council, for their consideration, in due course.

If, after these changes were implemented, it was still considered that a Digital Sign would be of benefit, then the Digital Sign issue could be revisited.

73.1.4 Road Markings. Culgaith – Coming out of the above discussions, it was noted that road markings in Culgaith were becoming worn and faded, with implications for road safety.

Action: - To request that Highways arrange for these road marking be repainted.

73.2 **Footpath Sign – To Blencarn from Kirkland.**

It was reported that the order for the replacement of this sign had been placed with the County Council's contractors.

Action: - The Clerk to request a date for installation.

73.3 **Skirwith Footway Lights.**

There was apparently an unresolved wayleave issue over the LED light by Pear Tree House (No 8). The matter was in hand with EDC.

The repair of the light by Village Hall (No 7) was in hand with EDC.

73.4 **Carriageway Flooding – By Highfield, Blencarn -** In hand with Highways.

73.5 **Skirwith Playground** – Low, overhanging branches at entrance. Work done

73.6 **Skirwith Dead Pine Tree** – Playground vicinity. To be felled shortly.

73.7 **Skirwith Village Green – Roadside Boundary Fence.**

The Council would investigate this issue later in the Autumn.

73.8 **A Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacon 2022 – On Cross Fell.** Reported that the Parish Council is working with Alston Parish Council, on this project.

73.9 **Staingills Junction to B6412 T Junction** – Potholes. Work partially completed, however some more had appeared.

Action: - Further report to Highways.

74/21 Co-option of Councillors to Culgaith and Skirwith Wards.

Pam Jago was unanimously co-opted as a Culgaith Ward Councillor.

Proposed Cllr C Richardson Seconded Cllr S Smith.

No Parishioners had shown interest in being co-opted to the Skirwith Ward.

75/21 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications.

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

75.1 40 E Mails forwarded to Councillors since July meeting,

75.2 Voneus – Kirkland. Parishioner correspondence in relation to poor internet reception service.

75.3 Eden Rivers Trust's 25th Anniversary Supporters' Event, 11th September 2021, Lowther

75.4 'Contain Outbreak Management Fund'. Building Grants – To encourage residents to enjoy their local area and attract new visitors away from the 'honey pot' areas and to insure that facilities and community venues re-open to the public in a COVID safe way

75.5 Guardians of Tarn – A 'thank you' in respect of funding tree felling.

75.6 Eden Runners – Acorn Bank 10k – 26th September. - reminder.

75.7 A Culgaith Parishioner, concerned over the, regrettable need to fell the two trees on the Tarn, was reassured that consideration, by the Guardians of the Tarn, was being given to their replacement, in due course. Reassurance was also given that a replacement for the missing footpath sign, by Tarn Villa, was in hand.

76/21 Councillor Matters. An opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

76.1 Footpath Signs.

There are still some alignment issues with the Tarn Villa path, that are being looking into by Cumbria County Council, for the time being the sign at the northern end of this path, is awaiting erection by contractors, as is the Kirkland/Blencarn sign.

76.2 Top of Pea – Running water reported.

Action: - To report to United Utilities.

76.3 Culgaith Show – Councillors expressed their delight at the success of the recent Culgaith Show and were very grateful for all the hard work and enthusiasm that had gone into making it such a memorable event.

Concern, however, was expressed over the placing of advertising material, for the event, on the Culgaith War Memorial. The Clerk was asked to contact the organisers to request, in respect of those remembered on the memorial, that this did not happen again.

76.4 Website Update. A request was made that the website be edited to remove any businesses listed that had ceased trading in the Parish.

77/21 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

Monday 1st November 2021 – Blencarn Village Hall

Monday 10th January 2022– Skirwith, Village Hall

Monday 7th March 2022 – Blencarn, Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.50.

Signed by Chairman _____

Date _____