

# CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

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Fell View  
Blencarn, Penrith  
Cumbria, CA10 1TX

## Minute of the Meeting Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 In Blencarn Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

**Unapproved.**

### 66/23 Present

Cllrs Caroline Richardson (Chair), Sue Smith, Andrew Clay, David Witney, Nick Mason, Pauline Toppin (Vice Chair), Ken Philipson

WAFC Cllr Michael Handley and John Fleming (Parish Clerk)  
There were two members of the public present.

### 67/23 Apologies

Cllr, John Watson, WAFC Cllr Mary Robindon.

### 68/23 Minutes

The Chair was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023, as a true record.  
Proposed by Cllr S Smith Seconded by Cllr A Clay

### 69/23 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

### 70/23 Public Participation

**70.1** The Secretary of the Victoria Institute, Culgaith reported to the meeting that the Victoria Institute had a new and active committee. Plans had been drawn up to include some of the following improvements: - To upgrade the insulation of the building, including the installation of double glazing, to install a lift and to improve the disabled access; the total projected cost being in the region of £90,000.

Advice was sought for possible sources of funding.

The meeting suggested that 'ACT' be contacted, they being specialists in advising Village Hall where to apply for grant funding; the contact being Hellen Aitkin.

Contact:- [info@cumbriaaction.org.uk](mailto:info@cumbriaaction.org.uk) Tel 017684 25646/25666  
Office Q, Skirsgill Business Park, Penrith, CA11 0FA

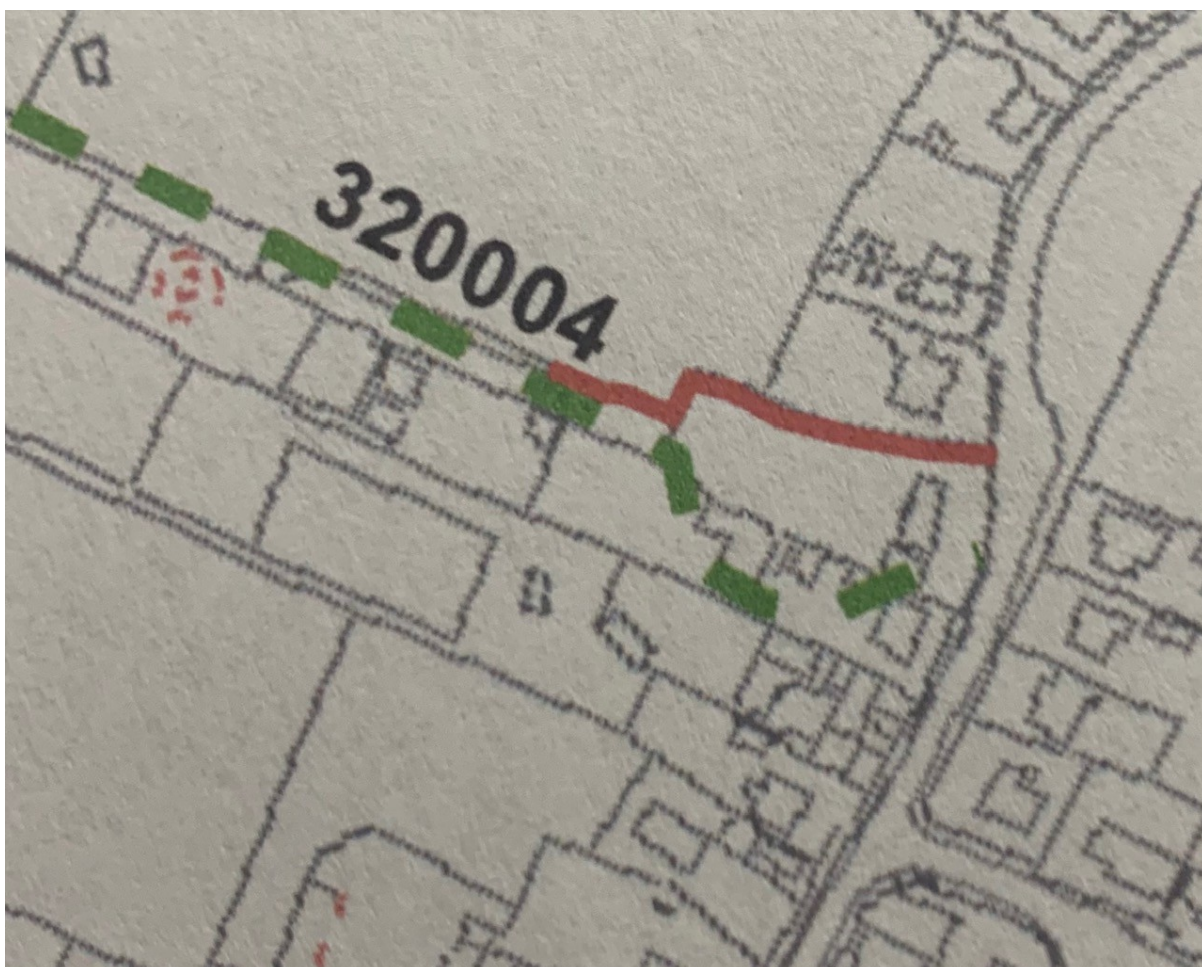
It was also suggested that sound advice could be the secretary of Skirwith Village Hall.

Contact:- Committee member Susie Ramsden 01768 88276

**70.2** A Parishioner raise the issue of there being no footpath sign by 'Tarn Villa'. The meeting reported that the Council had been in correspondence with, formally Cumbria County Council, Highways Department over this matter for the last three years, and latterly with Westmorland and Furness Council.

The formal position of the registered the path had recently been confirmed by Westmorland and Furness Council. This 'Registered Right of Way' (green) is routed

very near to dwellings and an unofficial route (red) has been created across fields, nearby to avoid inconveniencing properties. This revised route has been used for a number of years without objection. (See map below)



Westmoreland and Furness Council have confirmed they can only signpost the Registered Path, which is currently not in use, and cannot signpost the unofficial diversion. To erect an official Registered Footpath sign would, therefore, point in a different direction to the currently used, unofficial, path and would be in an inappropriate location. To do otherwise would lead to people wrongly assuming the diversion at this end of this path is a Registered Public Footpath; this is not a problem at the other end of the path adjoining the 'Back Road'.

A pragmatic way forward would be for the landowners, over whose land the unofficial diversion passes, to formalise this route as a 'Permissive Path'. This then could be signposted accordingly.

**Action:** - Councillors unanimously agreed to investigate what was required, including the legal and insurance implications, to formalise this unofficial diversion as a 'Permissive Path'.

#### 71/23 Westmorland and Furness Councillor's Reports

Cllr Michael Hanley presented a report to the meeting.

Full reports are available on [www.culgaith.org.uk](http://www.culgaith.org.uk)

**72/23 Finance (Incl.Vat)**

<b>72.1 To note the following balances as at: -</b>	<b>25/8/2023</b>
	<b>£</b>
HSBC Account	1180.23
Penrith Building Society	22315.12
NSI Account	<u>24.00</u>
Total Cash	<u>23519.35</u>

**72.2 Presentation of Interim Accounts from 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

These accounts were unanimously approved.

Proposer Cllr A Clay

Seconder Cllr C Richardson.

**72.3 The Following Accounts were Ratified.**

72.1 J Fleming Fee June/July 2023	As per contract
72.2 J Fleming Office Provision June/July 2023	40.00
72.3 HSBC Charges 15/6/23	5.00
72.4 HSBC Charges 16/7/23	5.00
72.5 HSBC Charges 18/5/23	5.00
72.6 Copy Paper – Amazon	26.98
72.7 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting	346.50
72.8 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting	382.50
72.9 Mark Binney – Skirwith Foot Bridge Repair	58.00
72.10 Grant – PCC Skirwith	240.00
72.11 Grant – PCC Kirkland	240.00
72.12 Grant – PCC Culgaith	240.00
72.13 Grant – Blencarn Village Hall	300.00
72.14 Grant – Skirwith Village Hall	300.00
72.15 Grant – Culgaith Victoria Institute.	300.00
72.16 Honorarium - Geoff Anderson – Website Management	110.00
72.17 Memo – Sponsorship £65/Charges £70	135.00
72.18 Defibrillator Pads - Blencarn Village Hall	71.94
72.19 Web Domain Registration – 2 years <sup>342</sup>	28.78
72.20 D. Willetts – Tree Pruning – Black Swan Corner, Culgaith	170.00
72.21 ICO – Data Protection Fee	35.00
72.22 CALC – Good Councilors Guide	5.50
72.23 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting	355.50
72.24 DTec Computers – SS Drive/ Microsoft Office	303.00

**72.4 To Approve the Following Accounts for Payment**

J Fleming Expenses – 3 <sup>rd</sup> July to 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	28.52
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**72.5 Fellrunner Grant 2023**

This year the financial guidance for support, from the Fellrunner Committee, had been raised from 35p per person/journey to £1.00 per person/journey. Based on this revised figure the financial support they were asking for in 2023 was £414.00, being £154 above the 2022 figure.

**Action:-** Agreed to pay a grant of £414 and to build a similar figure into the 2024/25 budget.

**72.6 72.3, 72.4 and 72.5 were unanimously approved.**

Proposer Cllr A Clay. Seconder Cllr P Toppin

<b>72.7 Transfer – From PBS to Current Account</b>	<b>3000.00</b>
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**73/23 Planning**

To Report.

**23/0518 – Helmwinds, Culgaith.** - Part retrospective change of use of agricultural land to mixed agriculture/horticulture use, alongside the formation of a lunging arena and a dressage arena, formation of an access track and erection of a stable block and hardstanding.

**Supported**

**74/23 Highways and Land Matters.****74.1 Foot path sign – By Tarn Villa**

Minuted under 70.2

**74.2 Skirwith Footway Light – Non-Functioning –** The matter was still in hand.**74.3 Beck Cottage, Skirwith – Revised Driveway Deed of Grant.**

The matter was still in hand with the land Registry.

**74.4 Electricity NW – Tree Maintenance in Church Street Skirwith.**

The matter was still in hand.

**74.5 Road Safety Markings – Culgaith Entrance Roads**

The matter was still in hand.

**74.6 HGV and Coach Traffic from Station Road to ‘Black Swan’ Junction.**

The matter was still in hand.

**74.7 Skirwith Bus Shelter - Enhancement.**

It was reported that the external mural had been completed and that the planters were now in place; Councilors were very complimentary and commented on how well the site now looked, it was a great credit to all involved.

**74.8 Skirwith – Church St. Roadside Concrete Post and Rail Fence**

This repair work had been reported to WAFC Highways.

**74.9 Skirwith Village Green. Path off road by Beck Cottage.**

The work is in hand.

**74.10 Flooding Issue**

The Pea to A6412 Junction – Drainage issue.

This flooding issue had been reported to Highways again.

**74.11 Culgaith Tarn Boundary. – Not Stock Proof.**

It was reported that the Parish Council was now in possession of the contact details in respect of the the Land Agent managing the adjoining field and the person grazing the land. Both had been notified of the problem being experienced with sheep escaping onto the Tarn Field, with a request made that steps be taken to avoid it happening in the future.

It had been confirmed that this boundary wall was not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

**74.12 Staingills/Off Back Road, Culgaith – Erection of New Farm building.**

It had been confirmed by WAFC Planning Services that no permission was required to erect this new agricultural building. It relates to Prior Notification Application 23/0153.

This was a Prior Notification application type, the applicant being required to notifying Planning Services that they wished to carry out the development under permitted development legislation -Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q.

As such Planning Services were not required to consult with the Parish Council. Had the planning officer refused the application and deemed that the application did not fall within permitted development, then they would

have requested that a full application be submitted and the normal consultations for this type of application would then have been carried out.

350

**74.13 Skirwith Bridge Area – Sapling growth.**

Reported that the matter had been attended to.

**74.14 Culgaith Drove Road – Demolished Bench**

It was reported that this bench had been hit by a vehicle and had been irreparably damaged.

The bench had not originally been provided by the Parish Council, nor was it on Parish land. That said Councillors were minded to finance a replacement as it was a community asset, well used by those walking the Culgaith Back Lane; if so done, a replacement bench could be added to the Parish Council's Asset Register and covered by insurance.

The estimated cost of a replacement recycled plastic bench, 1.5m long, being approximately £360 + Vat, plus fitting costs.

**Action:-** Unanimously agreed to replace the bench providing there was no objection from the land owner, this being assumed to be WAFC Highways.

**74.15 Blencarn Green – Silver Birch on Village Green** by Cobblestone Barn

Concern had been raised by two parishioners over the height that this tree had grown to. A quote to prune had been received of £250.

**Action:-** Unanimously agreed to prune, to lower the height, at the quoted price of £250, subject to Blencarn Hall being in agreement.

**75/23 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications.**

**75.1 25 E Mails** had been forwarded to Councillors since the July meeting; these being kept on file for twelve months.

**75.2 Thanks** had been received from the village halls and parochial church councils for the grants awarded.

**75.3 A CALC Special General Meeting** was held on 22 July 2023; to propose that CALC becomes Private Company Limited By Guarantee.

**75.4 Skirwith Playground Litter Bin**

The problem with the bin locking mechanism has been resolved and it is now being emptied regularly.

**75.5 County of Cumbria & D -Day 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

**75.6 CALC Annual General Meeting on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September commencing at 10.00.**

**75.7 20mph Speed Restriction Through Culgaith.**

Further to the Council's request for a 20mph speed limit through Culgaith village. The matter is ongoing, with Westmorland and Furness Authority producing a 20mph speed limit/zone policy, Culgaith's request has been noted.

**75.8 Westmorland and Furness Climate and Nature Partnership Grant.**

Details available on:-

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-08/WF%20Climate%20and%20Nature%20Partnership%20fund%20-%20guidance%20Final.pdf>)

**75.9 Geoff Anderson – A thank you for receipt of the honorarium received.**

**76/23 Councillor Matters.** An opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

**76.1 A Defective Storm Drain Cover** – by the entrance to Pea Top Farm was reported; this being considered a public hazard in its current condition. The issue had been previously reported to Highways and they had responded that it was not on Highways property and consequently it was not their responsibility but that of the landowner.

**Action:** - Unanimously agreed to alert the owner of the Pea Top Farm entrance drive of the hazard.

**76.2 Skirwith Beech Tree** – Permission was requested for it to be adorned with Christmas lights. Councillors were sympathetic to the idea and agreed to discuss again at the November meeting, when more information would be available on what was planned.

**77/23 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings**

All on a Monday commencing at 7.30pm.

6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Culgaith,

8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Skirwith.

4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Blencarn,

13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Culgaith

(Annual Parish Meeting/AGM/May meeting)

The Chair thanked Councillors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.20

Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_