

# CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

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Cumbria, CA10 1TX

## **Minute of the Meeting Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the Victoria Institute, Culgaith. commencing at 7.30pm**

**Revised**

**Unapproved.**

### **76/24 Present**

Cllrs Caroline Richardson (Chair), Ken Philipson, Sue Smith, Nick Mason, Andrew Clay, David Witney, John Fleming, Parish Clerk and three members of the public.

### **77/24 Apologies**

Cllrs Pauline Toppin and Ian Stowers.  
Westmorland and Furness Cllrs Mary Robinson and Michael Hanley

### **78/24 Minutes**

The Chair was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 as a true record.  
Proposed by Cllr S Smith  
Seconded by Cllr D Witney

### **79/24 Declaration of Interests**

There were none.

### **80/24 Public Participation**

**80.1 Parish Council Grants** - A Parishioner raised a query regarding the application for and granting of, a Parish Council grant. It was clarified that any application should be submitted to the Parish Clerk in time for consideration by Councilors at the July 2025 meeting.

#### **80.1 'Fibrus' FFTP Overhead Installation – Culgaith.**

A Parishioner expressed concern over the proposed erection of 17 poles in Culgaith Village to carry FFTP 'Fibrus' overhead cable to Culgaith properties. The following points were made during discussion; -

- 1) There already was a fibre infrastructure in place to most properties in Culgaith, installed, underground, by Voneus, this duplication was a serious waste of public money.
- 2) Why could not 'Fibrus' make use of the 'Voneus' underground ducting to carry their cables.
- 3) There was already an acceptable BT – Openreach, internet speed, available to residents of Culgaith. Fibre, infrastructure installation companies, should prioritize those areas with a very poor internet connection, such as Blencarn and Kirkland before considering the introduction of a fast fibre connection to an area already acceptably provided for.

**Action:** - Agreed to take the issue up with our MP and with Fibrus.

### **81/24 Westmorland and Furness Councillor Reports**

There were none

**82/24 Finance (Incl.Vat)****82.1 To Note the following balances as at:-****28/10/2024**

	£
HSBC Account	2354.60
Penrith Building Society	18191.30
NSI Account	<u>24.21</u>
Total Cash	<u>20570.11</u>

**82.2 Presentation of Interim Accounts from 2nd Sept to 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024**

These accounts were unanimously approved  
 Proposer Cllr D Witney  
 Seconder Cllr C Richardson.

**82.3 The Following Accounts Were Ratified**

82.3.1 J Fleming Fee Aug/Sept/Oct 2024	As per contract
82.3.2 J Fleming Office Provision Aug/Sept/Oct 2024	60.00
82.3.3 Cartridge People – Toner - Black	57.80
82.3.4 HSBC Charges 15/9/24	5.00
82.3.5 HSBC Charges 16/10/24	5.00
82.3.6 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting	408.25
82.3.7 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting	345.00
82.3.8 Wel Medical Defibrillator Pads – Kirkland	71.94
82.3.9 Community Heartbeat Trust – Skirwith Defibrillator	72.00
82.3.10 Bridgeview Law – Title Deed – Postage	8.35
82.3.11 RBL – Wreath	24.49
82.3.12 Fellrunner – Grant 2024/25	540.00

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

J Fleming Expenses – 2nd Sept– 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024	9.90
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**82.5 To Approve 82.3 and 82.4**

These were unanimously approved  
 Proposer Cllr S Smith  
 Seconder Cllr A Clay

**82.6 Budget 2025 – 2026**

A budget for the forthcoming year was tabled and unanimously adopted. A copy being on file.

Proposed by Cllr C Richardson  
 Seconded by. Cllr A Clay

**82.7 Precept 2025 – 2026.**

It was formally agreed to raise the Precept to £15000, a £2000 increase, to cover inflationary increases and to minimize the budgetary deficit to approximately £400. This will result in the Council Tax on a D Band property increasing by approximate £4.92 in the year.

Proposed by Cllr N Mason  
 Seconded by Cllr S Smith.

The importance of highlighting, to Parishioners, the work the Parish Council does within the community was stressed; this being documented in the Annual Report.

### **83/24 Planning**

To Report.

2024 -c1357 - FPA Gilderwath Kirkland Road Skirwith. Proposed front and rear extensions.

**Supported with comment**

2024/1811/TCA. Brook View, Skirwith, Sycamore - lop few lower branches on south side of tree, remove 3 of the lowest branches.

**Supported with comment**

2024/1674/FPA Meadow House Culgaith. Erection of first floor extension over existing garage.

**Supported**

2024/1823/FPA Plots 42 - 53 Lake Meadow, Culgaith. Variation of condition 2 (plans compliance) to change the design and layout of Plot 52, attached to approval 08/0823.

**Supported**

### **84/24 Willan Living – The Gift of Two Parcels of Land at Otters Holt.**

**84.1** It was reported that the Land Registry Deed of Transfer had now been signed; a completion date was now awaited.

**84.2** A Councillor asked if the Parish Council had been formally notified, with a 'Client Care' letter informing the Council that this conveyance, originally placed with Butterworth Solicitors, had been taken over by Bridge View Law Solicitors. The answer to this query being, 'no'.

### **85/24 Two Parcels of Land at Otters Holt – Maintenance**

It was reported that Mark Binney had been asked to undertake an initial tidying up of the site, by pruning the shrubs and weeding the borders, following completion. A more detailed management plan for the area to be discussed at the January meeting.

It had previously been suggested that a Parish Council notice board be erected on the site. A quote of approximately £1400 was tabled. It was agreed to obtain further quotes, for consideration in January, including one from a local joiner.

### **86/24 Highways and Land Matters**

#### **86.1 Pedestrian Hazard - Black Swan Junction, Culgaith.**

Concern was raised regarding the danger to pedestrians walking on the pavement at this corner. The road is narrow and large HGV's can mount the pavement causing a potential serious incident. These safety concerns had, already, been reported to Highways, asking for their suggestions on what action could be taken to alleviate the problem, a response being awaited. The Community Police Officer had also been contacted, again a response was awaited.

#### **86.2 Skirwith Damaged Finger Post Sign**

To be replaced by Highways

#### **86.3 Skirwith – Damage to Roadside Verge and Drain By HGV.**

The incident had been reported to both Highways and to the company owning the offending vehicle. No response had been received from either.

#### **86.4 Traffic Issue in Culgaith.**

The reported conclusion of WAFC Highways investigation regarding the concerns raised by Parishioners in respect of HGV's passing through Culgaith village and the HGV and Coach traffic using the 'Pea', is as follows: -

As a basic principle, WAFC try to ensure that all the Authorities roads are open and available to all traffic, wherever possible. However, it is appreciated that there are some circumstances in which weight restrictions need to be imposed on the movement of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).

The B6412, through Culgaith, is an unrestricted section of highway, the rail crossing has a capacity for vehicles up to 40 tonnes and whilst there is a sharp bend along the route, there are no recorded accidents to highlight any cause for concern, nor are there any reportable incidents of damage to properties or highway services. The data which WAFC have gathered does not highlight a concern in respect of the excessive use of this road by HGVs.

To clarify, weight restrictions fall into 2 categories - Environmental and Structural. It is a legal control on a specified vehicle weight or width, mainly on lorries, on certain roads and routes. A 7.5Ton Environmental weight restriction is already in force from the B6412, via the 'Pea,' to the Black Swn Junction;

It must be noted that this weight restriction does displace the problem on to the B6412 through Culgaith village.

It's important to stress that such an Environmental weight restriction will nearly always **include exemptions** for: -

1. Vehicles making deliveries or collections at premises within the restriction
2. Vehicles working on or near the roads in question
3. Emergency service and military vehicles
4. Buses, coaches and other public service vehicles

This means that vehicles requiring legitimate access within the area covered by the weight limit are permitted.

WAFC have stated that they do not have the powers to enforce the above listed exemptions, this would be the responsibility of the police. (To report an infringement of the 7.5 Ton restriction, the Police should be contacted on the 101 phone number, stating date and time of the infringement and the registration number of the vehicle.)

From information gathered there is data showing a reduction in HGVs from 11% in 2012 to 4% in 2024.in the road network in question.

WAFC do not believe that the percentages of HGVs through Culgaith via the B6412 cause sufficient concern for restrictions to be introduced; however, the concerns of Parishioner regarding potential hazards have been noted and appreciated.

As a consequence, WAFC Highways are recommending improved warning signage through the village, with a full review being undertaken to ensure that a consistent message is conveyed to motorists.

(The above text has been verified by WAFC Highways Dept)

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

Work to be undertaken when funding permits.

**86.6 Drainage issue - The Pea to A6412 Junction**

In hand with Highways

**86.7 Flooding Skirwith**

: The surface water flooding in two distinct areas on the road between the edge of Skirwith and the junction where the road splits in the directions of Blencarn and Culgaith has been reported to Highways.

**86.8 Broken Manhole Cover**

A hazardous, broken manhole cover, on the grass verge, along the Skirwith to Langwathby Road, has been reported to Highways.

**87/24 Revised Emergency Plan**

A revised Emergency Plan was tabled.

In discussion it was asked to remove the Chairs Land-line phone number and to remove reference to call a 'First Responder' in a number of instances, which was considered inappropriate. With these amendments being made, the document was unanimously approved.

**88/24 The Kings Portrait**

The Parish Council had been donated a framed Portrait of the King. The question arose as to where the most appropriate location was for it to be hung; there being three village halls in the Parish and a school. Following a discussion, it was suggested that the Portrait be offered to the school.

**Action:** - Unanimously agreed to ask the Headmistress if the school would like to accept it.

**89/24 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications.**

**89.1 Forwarded E Mails** – 20 since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept meeting. Kept on file for 12 months.

**89.2 'Fibrus' Internet Connection – Culgaith.**

See Clause 80.1 above.

**89.3 CALC Subscription 2025/2026 – Notified.**

**89.4 Penrith Ramblers** – Had sought clarification regarding the newly established 'Permissive Path by Tarn Villa.

**90/24 Councillor Matters**

An opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

*Note: no decisions can be made on these matters, but they may be placed on a future agenda of the Council*

**90.1 Mill Cottage, Blencarn** – A drainage problem was reported.

**Action:** - To report to Highways.

**90.2 Memo** – Serious concern was expressed over the staffing problems being experienced by this greatly valued village publication. Councillors very much hoped that the issue could be resolved

**91/24 Date and Venue of Next Meeting.**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in Skirwith Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

The Chair thanked Councillors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.45

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_