

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

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Fell View
Blencarn, Penrith
Cumbria, CA10 1TX

Minute of the Meeting Held on Monday 3rd November 2025 in the Victoria Institute, Culgaith. commencing at 7.30pm

Unapproved.

75/25 Present

Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Ken Philipson, Pauline Toppin, Ian Stowers, Nick Mason, Andrew Clay, David Witney, WAF Cllr Michael Hanley and John Fleming, Parish Clerk There were no members of the public present.

76/25 Apologies

Cllr Caroline Richardson and WAF Cllr Mary Robinson

77/25 Minutes

The Chair was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1st September 2025, as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr A Clay

Seconded by Cllr D Witney

78/25 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

79/25 Public Participation

There was none.

80/25 Westmorland and Furness Councillor Reports

80.1 Warm Homes Grant Teams Meeting 13.10.25. there was £11.8 million fund over three years. £4.9 million this year, depending on Energy Performance Certificate for your dwelling. If EPF is D or less then you may be eligible. £15k limit per property to fund solar panels, insulation and air-source heat pumps. In WAFC area: contactor is Procast.. For more information contact WAFC via Better Homes or phone 0300 373 3300. Full WAF

80.2 Council Meeting 9.10.25

(a) Questions from members: A Connell asked about dispute between ICB and GPs. Some surgeries are not taking blood for tests ordered by hospitals: post discharge, cancer patients etc.

(b) Mayoral Combined Authority: All voted for this except several Conservatives, all Independents and the one 'Green' councillor.

(c) SEND funding: WAFC has a £10 million deficit, largely due to SEND funding. Motion to appeal to the Government to reform the SEND funding.

81/25 Rural Housing Survey – An update from the Chair.

It was reported that 410 survey forms were distributed in the Parish and 159 were returned. (39%). In total 209 surveys had been returned digitally from the Eden area. The survey results are expected in early December.

The Chair thanked all those Councillors and volunteers who had assisted in the distribution and collection of the forms; their assistance had been greatly appreciated.

82/25 Finance (Incl.Vat)**82.1 The following balances were noted as at:-****22/10/2025****£**

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| HSBC Account | 549.02 |
| Penrith Building Society | 20299.65 |
| NSI Account | <u>24.45</u> |
| Total Cash | <u>20873.12</u> |

82.2 Presentation of Interim Accounts from 1st Sept to 3rd Nov 2025

These accounts were unanimously approved
 Proposer Cllr S Smith - Seconder Cllr P Toppin

82.3 The Following Accounts Were Ratified

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 82.3.1 J Fleming Fee Aug/Sept 2025 | As per contract |
| 82.3.2 J Fleming Office Provision Aug/Sept 2025 | 52.00 |
| 82.3.3 ICO Data Protection | 47.00 |
| 82.3.4 HSBC Charges - 15/8/25 | 5.00 |
| 82.3.5. HSBC Charges - 15/9/25 | 0.80 |
| 82.3.6 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting | 1035.00 |
| 82.3.7 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting | 805.00 |
| 82.3.8 Vision ICT Web Design | 936.00 |
| 82.3.9 Solway Direct – Bench Otters Hol | 456.00 |
| 82.3.10 Mail Order Trees – 4 Trees + Posts. Otters Holt | 256.32 |
| 82.3.11 RBL – Wreath | 19.99 |
| 82.3.12 Blencarn Village Hall – Room Hire. 1/9/25 | 25.00 |
| 82.3.13 Skirwith Village Hall - Room Hire. 7/7/25 | 16.00 |
| 82.3.14 Skirwith Village Hall Award | 310.00 |
| 82.3.15 Kirkland and Blencarn Village Hall Award | 310.00 |
| 82.3.16 Culgaith Village Hall Award | 310.00 |
| 82.3.17 Kirkland Church PCC Award | 245.00 |
| 82.3.18 Skirwith Church PCC Award | 245.00 |
| 82.3.19 Culgaith Church PCC Award | 245.00 |
| 82.3.20 Culgaith Recreation Ground Award | 100.00 |
| 82.3.21 Culgaith Show Award | 50.00 |
| 82.4 Transfer – PBS to Current Account | 3000.00 |

82.5 To Approve the Following Accounts for Payment

J Fleming Expenses – 1st Sept– 3rd Nov 2025 9.90

82.6 To Approve 82.3 and 82.5

These were unanimously approved
 Proposer Cllr N Mason - Seconder Cllr I Stowers

82.7 Review of Clerk Salary - resulting from extra website work on the new site.
 Unanimously agreed to increase the Clerks hours by one hour per week from
 1st December 2025; additionally, to review the extra work undertaken by the
 Clerk in the setting up and design of the new site at the 12th January 2025
 meeting.

83/25 Budget 2026 – 2027 and to Set 2026/2027 Precept.

A budget for the forthcoming financial year was tabled and unanimously adopted. A copy being on file. It was formally agreed to raise the Precept to £15500, a £500 increase, to cover inflationary increases and to minimize the budgetary deficit to under £200. This will result in the Council Tax on a D Band property increasing by approximate £1.23 in the year. The importance of highlighting, to Parishioners, the work the Parish Council does within the community, was stressed; this being documented in the Annual Report.

Proposed by Cllr N Mason. Seconded by Cllr P Toppin

84/25 Planning

To Report.

2025/1867/FHOU Ravensknowle, Station Road, Culgaith. Solar PV Supported.
2025/0854/FPA. Eden Bank Culgaith. Change of use of former dairy barn to form ancillary annexe accommodation to main dwelling. Demolish dilapidated former dwelling and erection of new garden room and workshop in lieu, and erection of new car garage. Supported.

85/25 Highways and Land Matters

85.1 Otters Holt – Inner Piece of Community Land.

Purchase of bench and 4 trees had been actioned. The bench will be installed and the trees planted, shortly.

85.2 Kirkland Finger Post Sign

Highways had agreed to renovate and it was reported that the work had been now completed.

85.3 Skirwith Hedgehog Road Signs.

It was reported that hedgehog awareness signs could only be attached to highways signage or onto highways verges following a wildlife survey being completed, which established a need to avoid any further road kill. It was also noted that only a highways approved signage could be erected.

It was further reported that a hedgehog wildlife survey was under way in Skirwith and would be completed shortly, thus enabling a signage application being forwarded to highways.

85.4 Pruning Beech - Village Green by Skirwith Junction

It had been confirmed, with our insurers, that a person who had been an 'officially appointed volunteer', by the Council, would be covered by the Councils insurance.

Cllr N Mason volunteered to undertake the pruning of the lower canopy on behalf of the Council. This was unanimously approved and Cllr Mason was thanked for his community spirit.

Items in Hand

85.5 Pedestrian Hazard - Black Swan Junction, Culgaith.

In hand with Highways

85.6 Skirwith – Church St - Concrete Post and Rail Fence Repair.

Work to be completed when funding is available.

85.7 Drainage issue - The Pea to A6412 Junction

In hand with Highways

85.8 Near Beck Mill Junction – Pothole,

In the middle of the recently resurfaced carriageway.

In hand with Highways.

85.9 Worn Junction Road Markings Across the Parish

In hand with Highways.

Action:- Agreed to ask Highways to attend to the work at their earliest opportunity.

85.10 Bridge Parapet over Briggles Beck adjacent to Smithy Cottage -Skirwith.

In hand with Highways.

85.11 Uneven Pavement in Culgaith – By Rose Walk.

In hand with Highways.

86/25 New Website Design

The design of the new website was unanimously approved. A request was made that the site included a photograph of each village.

Proposed Cllr N Mason

Seconded Cllr P Toppin.

87/25 Revised Emergency Plan

An updated Emergency Plan was tabled and approved. The revised edition would include the 'Gov.UK' Councillor E Mail addresses and the address of the new website.

Proposed Cllr S Smith

Seconded Cllr D Witney

88/25 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications.

88.1 Forwarded E Mails – 18 since the 1st Sept meeting. Kept on file for 12 months.

88.2 'PLACE Action Group' – Current Issues being Discussed

88.2.1 Affordable Housing Grants

88.2.2 Rural Housing Needs Survey

88.2.3 Electric Car Club Feasibility Study

88.3 WAFC - Grant Funding for Organisations Supporting the Voluntary Sector

It was reported that organisations can apply for over £379,000 that will offer financial support across a three-year period

88.4 Healthwatch Westmorland and Furness - Transport Project

It was reported that WAFC had launched a new project at Healthwatch Westmorland and Furness to increase understand of the challenges people face getting to health appointments.

89/25 Councillor Matters

An opportunity for Councilors 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

89.1 Community Generator Funding

Agreed to investigate the possible funding available to finance community generators.

89.2 Road Sign Skirwith.

It was reported that whilst the road sign at the junction by the Defibrillator had been repaired the finger post pointing to Culgaith was missing.

Action:- to report to Highways.

89.3 Roadside Ditch – Kirkland to Skirwith Road

Reported that the ditch from the Bank Hall Farm entrance up to and past the entrance to Skelling Farm was in need of cleaning out.

Action:- To report to Highways

89.4 Cast Iron Road Sign – Black Swan Junction

Reported that the cast iron road sign at this junction was in a bad state of repair.

Action:- Report to Highways

89.5 Otters Holt – Road Side Flower and Shrub Border

Concern that this border was untidy and some shrubs were in need of pruning

Action:- To discuss with Mark Binney.

90/25 Date and Venue of Next Meeting.

Monday 12th 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
