

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Culgaith Parish Council held on
Monday 8th January 2007 in the Blencarn Village Hall**

Present: Mrs Hay, Rev Froggatt, Mrs Winder, Mrs Blenkinship, Mrs Wilson, Messrs, Lancaster, Hindson, Kitchen.

In attendance: County Councillor Mrs Henderson and 4 members of the public

Apologies: Messrs Morton, Findlay

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Business meeting held on 6th November 2006 were accepted and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Skirwith Green – Wall Encroachment. The Clerk reported that work proceeded in conjunction with the developer's solicitor to produce the eventual legal documentation. The next stage was awaited input from DEFRA.

Notice boards. It was noted that the boards had arrived since the last meeting and were stored safely courtesy of the Chairman. The following locations were agreed:

- Culgaith – outside the Victoria Institute to replace the existing board.
- Blencarn – outside the Blencarn and Kirkland Recreation rooms to replace the existing board.
- Kirkland – outside the Church and near to the seat.
- Skirwith – near to the bus shelter – but subject to agreement by Skirwith Councillors.

The Pea, Culgaith. Mr Lancaster advised that revised designs had been prepared and would be available for comment shortly.

Planning Application Process. A meeting had been held with the LPA and both sides had agreed that there was significant benefit from the exchange of views. Mrs Hay noted that planning applications were no longer meeting consultation deadlines. It was agreed to revert to previous procedures where non contentious plans were first sent to the Chairman and then only to councillors in the village/ward concerned.

Sewerage Leak, The Greens Culgaith. No further problems had been reported.

us weeds adjacent to neighbours gardens. It was agreed that volunteers could cut walkways.

War Memorial Seat. Bad weather had precluded painting of the seats.

Blencarn Development. It had been decided to await completion of the project before following up seeking any further remedial action with the developers.

Village Signs. Highways had examined the project and had suggested various potential funding sources. The project would be progressed in due course.

Clerk Retirement. No successor had yet been identified despite advertising the vacancy in the CALC and the Parish Council newsletters. It was agreed to advertise in the Herald and members were encouraged to try to speak directly to potential candidates.

Skirwith Footbridge. Mr Kitchen undertook to progress provision of a work estimate. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk were authorised to consider approval of the work in advance of the next meeting.

Grass Cutting Contracts. It was decided not to reduce the cutting areas at either of the village greens. Instead it was felt that it could be possible to increase the number of cuts to 10 over the season and to maintain costs within available budgets. The Clerk was to seek tenders for the work – the contract being for a one year period. For the Tarn, Culgaith it was agreed to seek tenders for cutting the whole field 4 times in the year.

Skirwith Play facilities. The meeting noted an enquiry from the play committee re responsibilities for the facilities and confirmed that the PC responsibility was limited to insurance and the annual inspection costs.

POLICE, COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT REPORTS

County and District Council Reports Both Councillors wished to comment on the Government White Paper on the reorganisation of Local Government and noted that it was to be discussed later in the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Tarn, Culgaith. It was noted that the field had been flooded and discussion considered drainage problems but no solution was identified. Concern had been received re the killing of nettles and the consequent reduction in the number of butterflies. It was agreed to continue to remove the nettles.

NEW BUSINESS

Local Government White Paper. The meeting noted the receipt of various briefing papers and regretted the short timescale for consultation. Mrs Henderson and Mr Lancaster provided brief updates on the positions seemingly being taken by the County and District Councils respectively albeit neither authority had as yet taken any firm decisions. It was noted that both the County Council and the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (representing parish councils) favoured introduction of a Unitary Authority, whereas the District Councils favoured ways and means of enhancing two tier working. Mrs Hay and Mrs Blenkinship undertook to represent the PC at a CALC seminar on 3rd February.

District Council Core Strategy Document. The meeting regretted the short consultation period provided for considering such an important set of policies. The Clerk was instructed to submit comments on based on the ensuing discussion.

Skirwith Children's Play Facilities. The meeting noted receipt of a letter from the Chair of the Play Committee and reconfirmed the policy that the PC would fund insurance and inspection costs with all other responsibility falling to the Play Committee.

REPORTS

Parish Plan Project

The Clerk advised that there had not been significant recent developments. It was agreed that there was need to review progress and reconsider priorities later in the year. It was also agreed that there was need to consider production of a Village Design Statement for Culgaith as there was need to identify where potential development – especially for affordable homes – might take place.

Parish Paths. Mrs Winder and Mrs Hay briefly updated the meeting on their involvement with the new footpath initiative and anticipated receiving work estimates in the near future.

PLANNING

Notices of Decision have been received from EDC as follows:

Approved:

06/0759 Single Storey Extension – Glen Cottage, Blencarn, Mr A stones

06/0818 – General purpose shed – Crowdundle Park Farm – Mr Cleasby

06/0779 – 11 houses – phase 2 – Lake Meadows, Culgaith, Cumbrian Homes

06/0796 – Bungalow – Beck Farm – Skirwith – Mr Braithwaite

Refused: None

Planning applications considered by the Parish Council:

06/0901 – Levelling Farm yard etc – Millrigg, culgaith – Mr Sendall – supported

06/0913 – Storage Shed – Black Swan Inn – Culgaith – Mrs Pallister

06/0872 – Wind Turbine – Rigglands, Blencarn – Mr and Mrs Firth

ACCOUNTS

National Savings. The Clerk reported confirmed that £5000 had been transferred to the HSBC current Account.

Income. The Clerk reported receipt of the Way leave of £19.44

Payments. The following payments were agreed:

Clerk's Salary Dec/Jan	£462.51
Expenses	none submitted
Blencarn Village Hall	£10.00 (hire for 2 events)

Village and Urban (notice boards) £3,478.00

CORRESPONDENCE BOX

The Clerk briefed the meeting on routine matters.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Parking. Concern had been received re parking of a BT vehicle near to the entry to Chestnut Close. The Clerk would write to the driver and ask for the vehicle to be parked more safely.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the date of next meeting would be Monday 12th March 2007 at Culgaith.