

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 14TH MAY 2007 IN THE SKIRWITH SOCIAL INSTITUTE**

Present:, Mr John Findlay, Mrs Jill Hay, Mrs Laura Wilson

In Attendance: Shelia Orchard (District Councillor), Derick Cotton (out going Parish Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Mrs Isa Henderson (County Councillor)

01/07 Election of Chairman for Annual Meeting

It was proposed by Mrs Hay and seconded by Mrs Wilson that Mr Findlay take the Chair for the meeting – carried unanimously.

02/07 Chairman's Report

The Chairman began by welcoming the new Parish Clerk - Sue Smith, and the new District Councillor – Shelia Orchard. He reported that it had been a year of change with a lot of uncertainty about the proposed Unitary Authority. Nobody was sure how the Parish Council would be affected but it would mean some changes in the future. This uncertainty may be one of the reasons why a number of Parish Councillors had stood down during the year or decided not to seek re-election, resulting in the loss of over 100 years of experience. However, the main frustration over the year for all the Parish Councillors had been the lack of consultation by the Eden District Council Planning Department. There were major housing developments in Culgaith, Skirwith and Blencarn and the Parish Council felt that their views on these developments had not being taken into account. The problem was further exacerbated when the Planning Department agreed changes to plans without consulting the Parish Council. The Parish Council had met with the Planning Department last Autumn to discuss the issues and agree a way forward, but sadly problems were still occurring on a regular basis.

The Chairman thanked all those Parish Councillors, who had retired or stood down for all their contributions - Robert Jackson, John Lancaster, Andrew Morton, Barbara Blenkinsip, MaryLynne Winder and Alan Kitchen. He also expresses his thanks to Vice Chairman Jill Hay and his fellow Parish Councillors for all their hard work and support. Finally, after 14 years Derick Cotton was retiring as Culgaith Parish Clerk – he would be greatly missed.

03/07 Financial Report

The Clerk outlined the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2007. No significant queries were raised. A copy of the accounts is appended to the minute book for the record.

04/07 Public Forum

Mrs Winder raised the problem of dog mess being left in bags at the Culgaith Recycling Centre rather than deposited in dog bins. At the subsequent business meeting it was agreed to put up a notice directing people to the dog bins.

Mrs Winder also asked how often the Recycling bins at Culgaith were emptied as they seemed to be constantly overflowing. At the subsequent business meeting Mrs Hay agreed to take this up with EDC.

05/07 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next Annual Meeting would be held on Monday 8th May 2008 at 7.30 p.m. at Skirwith Social Institute.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.