

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2010/11

The Parish Council has been involved in a number of activities over the past year and this annual report reflects on some of them.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Every year the Parish Council gives grants to local groups. Skirwith Village Hall Committee has been working hard to upgrade and refurbish the hall. The Parish Council has been able to provide financial support and on behalf of the Village Hall Committee applied for planning permission for the installation of 3 boreholes to serve a new ground source heat pump. This helped to keep the planning fees to a minimum.

At the Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room funding has been given towards the general upkeep of the hall.

The Parish Council continues to support Culgaith Recreation Ground and the Skirwith Play Area by paying for the annual play inspections.

Another new initiative, which started in April 2011 is Culgaith Walk and Talk. The project's main aim is to get more people out walking for the benefit of their health and well-being. The project, which is supported by the GP Surgery in Temple Sowerby, has 11 local volunteer Walk Leaders who are organising weekly walks in Culgaith and surrounding villages. The Parish Council is providing support by publishing posters and promotional leaflets.

DONATIONS

The Parish Council gave a total of £1,399 to local organisations. £100 was given to Culgaith PCC, £359 to Skirwith Village Hall, £250 to the Kirkland and Blencarn Reading Rooms, £225 to the Memo, £465 to the Fellrunner.

It also received £1,400 from the County Council's Members Divisional Grant. £250 was passed to the VIC Community Café for a hot water dispenser, £175 to Culgaith Victoria Institute towards a carpet, £175 to Culgaith

Recreation Ground towards improving the pavilion, £700 to Skirwith Village Hall towards Phase 2a of the hall refurbishment, and £100 to Guardians of Culgaith Tarn towards a tree seat.

HOUSING

The results from the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust's housing survey were published in July 2010. 38% of parishioners responded to the survey and 9 households were identified as needing affordable housing. These were mainly young people, small families and adult children. The survey also identified two other groups who were in unsuitable housing – adult children living with parents and older people living in larger houses.

Since July the Parish Council has been in consultation with the Church Commissioners about the site next to Loaning Head Farm. The next step is due this summer when Eden District Council will publish a list of potential housing sites in the parish.

BROADBAND and the BIG SOCIETY

Both these projects have been high on the agenda, particularly in the Eden Valley. Whilst Culgaith Parish is not directly involved in the Big Society initiative Parish Councillors have attended a number of meetings to learn more about the project. On Broadband the Parish Council has joined the Broadband Cumbria Campaign and in April organised a presentation by NextGenUs at Blencarn.

ROADS

The Council continues to report potholes on a regular basis to the Cumbria Highways Hotline. Amongst issues reported this year were the problem of Kirkland Beck encroaching on to the road at Kirkland, a broken down wall between Skirwith and Langwathby. The dip in the road by Millrigg in Culgaith was resurfaced. The bridge over Crowdundle Beck between Wythwaite and Milburn has been replaced, making it possible

to walk between Skirwith and Milburn without getting wet feet!

FINANCE

The Parish "precept" (The Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) was £8,000 for 2010/11. The balance carried forward at the year end was £6,410. The accounts are audited externally by BDO.

The following is a summary of the Parish Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2011 with the previous year's figures given as a comparison. The main difference which affected both income and expenditure was that the County Councillors Divisional Grant for 2010/11 was not received until May 2011 and so will appear in the 2011/12 accounts.

Income	2009/10	2010/11
Carried Forward	5,274	5,878
Precept	8,000	8,000
Grants	1,714	0
VAT recovered	179	282
Other income	41	38
Total Receipts	15,208	14,198
Expenditure		
Administration	4,071	4,206
Village Greens	1,260	1,520
Play areas	148	148
Repairs (Notice Board and walls)	230	39
Donations	3,339	1,399
VAT	282	475
Total payments	9,330	7,787

PLANNING

During the year the Parish Council was consulted over 12 planning applications in Culgaith, 6 in Skirwith, 4 in Blencarn and 1 in Kirkland. The Council has worked closely with United Utilities over the plans to build a new pumping station in Skirwith and lay a new pipeline from Skirwith to an upgraded waste water treatment works at Langwathby.

PARISH COUNCILLORS 2010/11

Culgaith

John Findlay, Jill Hay, John Hindson, John Slann, and Pauline Toppin.

Skirwith

Laura Wilson and Howard Roper.

Blencarn and Kirkland

Marjorie Helm, Ken Philipson, and Caroline Richardson.

PARISH COUNCILLORS 2011/12

Culgaith

Jill Hay (Chairman), 1 Chestnut Close
Pam Jago, 17 Chestnut Close
John Slann, Elm Tree House
Pauline Toppin, Glenmara

Skirwith

Laura Wilson, Skirwith Hall
Joe Ravetz, Gin Cottage.

Blencarn and Kirkland

Marjorie Helm, Rigg End Blencarn,
Ken Philipson, Glebe Farm Kirkland
Caroline Richardson (Vice Chairman), Smithy House Blencarn

Parish Clerk

Sue Smith, Briarfield, Culgaith, CA10 1QL
Tel 01768 879006.
email: culgaithpc@btinternet.com

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

July 4th 2011 - Skirwith
September 5th 2011 - Blencarn
November 7th 2011 - Culgaith
January 9th 2012 - Skirwith
March 5th 2012 - Blencarn
May 8th 2012 (AGM) Culgaith
April 23rd 2012 - Annual Parish Meeting
Culgaith

The meetings start at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information on the work of the Parish Council including copies of the Minutes are available on the village website at www.culgaith.org.uk.