

**CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

HELD ON MONDAY 2nd July 2007 in the KIRKLAND AND BLENCARN READING ROOM

Present: Mrs Jill Hay, Mr John Hindson, Rev. Elaine Froggatt, Mr Martin Smith, Mr Howard Roper, Mr Alistair Urquhart

In Attendance: Mrs Isa Henderson (County Councillor), PC Mark Bradley (Local Community Policeman), Mrs Shelia Orchard (District Councillor), and 5 members of the public.

Apologies: Mr John Findlay, Mr Ken Philipson, Mrs Laura Wilson

44/07 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Resolved to co-opt Martin Smith and Alistair Urquhart for the Culgaith Ward. This leaves one vacancy in the Blencarn and Kirkland Ward.

45/07 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14 May 2007 be signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record.

46/07 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the Business Meeting held on 14 May 2007 be signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record.

47/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Smith and Urquhart declared an interest in the Play Partnership as they were trustees of the Culgaith Recreation Ground.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Parish Clerk reported that:

48/07 Skirwith Green – Wall Encroachment. Resolved that the Clerk should contact the developer's solicitors for an update on the Deed of Transfer.

49/07 Notice boards. These had been installed and required an Allen key to use them. Councillor Froggatt offered to look after the two in Blencarn and Kirkland, Councillor Roper the one in Skirwith, and the Clerk the one in Culgaith. **Resolved** that the notice board in Kirkland should be relocated in front of the church.

50/07 Blencarn Development and Village Signs. Resolved that the Clerk should write to Cumbria Homes about replacing the broken sign and the appearance of tarmac on the side of the village green.

51/07 Skirwith Footbridge has been partially assembled and should be erected soon.

52/07 CALC Road Show. Resolved to defer a decision on whether to participate in the CALC Roadshow until the new councillors had received training.

53/07 Dangerous trees and potential landslip The Pea, Culgaith. A copy of the letter from Cumbria Highways had been sent to Mrs Donaldson. A letter from her solicitors has confirmed that the bank is not registered with the Land Registry.

54/07 Information Packs. The leaflets are out of date and much of the data could be made available through a village website. **Resolved** to write to new residents drawing their attention to the website once it has been launched.

55/07 Pothole on the Skirwith to Langwathby road. This has been temporarily repaired but a more permanent solution is required as the road is deteriorating. **Resolved** that the Clerk should write to Cumbria Highways.

56/07 Culgaith Recycling Centre. A notice has been put up directing people to the receptacles for their dog mess. Eden District Council has confirmed that the clothes recycling should be emptied weekly. The Chairman of the Culgaith Village Hall Committee had been reminded that they were responsible for the Recycling Centre as they received the income from it.

57/07 The Flodder. The District Councillor had offered to raise this issue with the Eden District Council and we are waiting to hear the outcome of any discussions.

58/07 Promoting the Parish Council. A newsletter had been distributed with the July Memo and the CALC website updated with information about the Parish Councillors and dates of the next meetings.

59/07 POLICE, COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT REPORTS

Police Constable Bradley reported on a new phone system for prioritising calls, which allows the police to judge whether an incident requires their attendance. If the issue is serious or an offence is happening callers must stress this when making a call. There have been recent incidents of hare coursing on the edge of the parish with Langwathby.

County Councillor Mrs Henderson reported that a decision on Cumbria County Council's Unitary Authority Proposal was due from the government on July 22nd.

District Councillor Mrs Orchard reported that refuse collection days were to change in August. All the villages in the parish would have their refuse collected on a Wednesday.

PUBLIC FORUM

60/07 The Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting to give members of the public an opportunity to raise issues of concern or interest. The following matters were raised.

Tarn Several people raised concerns about the rumour circulating that the Tarn was to be sold for £2 million for affordable housing. The Vice Chairman was able to assure them that the Parish Council had not been approached and the rumour was unfounded. Concern was also expressed about the need for a management plan for the Tarn. The Vice Chairman advised them that the matter would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Flodder. Concern was expressed about a cover on the Flodder which had sunk and was causing a pothole. Councillor Smith offered to identify who it belongs to so that it can be reported. A request was made to cover the area behind the parked cars with topsoil so that it could be re-seeded. The Vice Chairman advised that the matter would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Dangerous Trees on the Pea. The Vice Chairman advised that the trees and bank were not the responsibility of the Parish Council. Further to the exchange of correspondence Mrs Donaldson's solicitor had now advised that Eden District Council should take some responsibility for the trees and bank as their arboriculturist had surveyed the site.

There were no other matters and the Vice Chairman reconvened the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

61/07 **Play Partnership Update.** The Parish Council had facilitated a meeting between Eden District Council and the Trustees of the Culgaith Recreation Ground on 13 June. The Trustees have made a proposal under the Play Partnership Scheme to replace the grass tennis courts with hard standing and erect a sports wall for football and volleyball. **Resolved** that the Parish Council should support this proposal.

62/07 **Culgaith Parish Website**
Resolved that the Parish Council should sponsor a parish website. The Parish Clerk would work with Geoff Anderson and other members of the community to develop the site and its content.

63/07 **Street Lights, Skirwith.** The Parish Council had been asked to support an application to Eden District Council to turn off the street light outside 1-2 Church St. There was concern that some residents may be adversely affected. It was **resolved** that the Clerk should write to Eden District Council to ensure that all residents are consulted before a decision is made. Another option to be considered would be to put a timer on the light.

64/07 **The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.**

Resolved to accept the following resolution

The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007

1. That Culgaith Parish Council adopts the model code of conduct contained in Statutory Instrument No. 1159 (2007), as it applies to Parish/Town Councils, with the addition of paragraph 12 (2) (a copy of which is below) as the code of conduct

which is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority in place of the existing code of conduct adopted by the council on 29th May 2002, with effect from July 2nd 2007.

2. That the Council adopt the ten General Principles as a non-enforceable annex to the Code to remind members and the public of the principles of the Code.
3. That members of the Council renew their registrations of interests in the light of the new Code and the Monitoring Officer be notified accordingly within 28 days of the adoption of the Code.
4. That the Clerk be authorised to publish a notice of the adoption of the Model Code of Conduct.

Paragraph 12(2) "Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise"

- 65/07 Parish Charter** A draft copy is currently being circulated for comment by early August. One requirement is for the Parish Council to appoint a "highwayman". **Resolved** that Councillor Hay should take on this role.

REPORTS

66/07 Parish Plan Project.

The Parish Plan had been reviewed in consultation with Councillor Hay and the comments of the Rural Social Inclusion Project. The main outstanding issues centre on the following:

- Affordable housing.
- The need for a Village Design Statement to protect existing village characteristics. It was **resolved** not to take this forward.
- Parking on the Flodder where off road parking provision had been identified as essential in the Parish Plan.
- Maintenance of the village greens.
- Long term maintenance plan for the Tarn
- The need to improve information on village activities and involve more people in the Parish Council. The new Notice Boards and Website will help to address this.
- The need for a local shop. Since the inception of the Parish Plan Hazel Dene had developed its shop and local post offices were under threat of closure. Opening a shop did not seem a viable option and it was **resolved** not to take this forward.
- Winter Gritting. **Resolved** that the clerk should write to Cumbria Highways about gritting on the Skirwith Langwathby road and up by the Culgaith School.

- 67/07 Parish Paths.** Councillor Hay had met with Cumbria C.C. and the Countryside Ranger. A new wicket gate and handrail were on order for the footpath behind the Chapel and an application would be made for a grant to cover the costs. Maps or leaflets to promote circular walks would be useful and it was **resolved** that Councillor Hay should see if funding was available for this.

The Parish Council welcomed the offer of help from Mrs Winder to walk the paths regularly and report problems.

- 68/07 Joint Meeting between Eden District Association and Cumbria CC Eden Local Area Committee June 29th.** Councillor Hay reported that the meeting had concentrated on the Unitary Authority Proposal and proposed cuts in bus services.

- 69/07 Rural Excellence Programme – Inception Meeting 29 June.** Councillor Hay and the Parish Clerk reported that the programme was providing mentoring to Eden District Council to deliver service improvements in relation to affordable housing. Culgaith is likely to be one of six parishes to be considered for a pilot project.

70/07 PLANNING

Notices of Decision have been received from EDC as follows:

Approved:

07/0251 – Wellfield, Culgaith. Conservatory to the side.

07/0256 – Otters Holt, Culgaith. Non illuminated 1200x2400mm advertising sign.

Withdrawn:

07/0406 – Ardale House Blencarn

Planning applications considered by the Parish Council:

The Parish Council had made no objections to the following:

88/1252 – Lake Meadows (Otters Holt), Culgaith. Alterations to the Footpath

07/0292 – Blackhill Lodge Stud, Blencarn, Erection of poultry housing and ancillary egg packing unit for free- range hens; removal of existing wooden building

07/0409 – Edenlea, Culgaith – Demolition of redundant stores and erection of building housing swimming pool.

07/0481 – Ardale House Blencarn, Extensions to dwelling house to provide ground floor living room and first floor bedroom.

07/0493 – 1 Crossfell View, Culgaith. Single storey side extension, new garage and driveway entrance

07/0484 – Ivy House/Cottage, Culgaith Conversion and replacement of Ivy Cottage and adjoining barn to form one five bedroom house.

07/0308 – Old Vicarage, Skirwith Use of existing coach and stables for ancillary accommodation. The Parish Council had raised some concerns and Eden District Council had noted them.

59/07 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Signatories for the Bank Account

HSBC is currently processing the mandate to change the signatories. National Savings Account has confirmed the new signatories to the investment account.

Audit Commission

The 2006/7 accounts were sent to the external auditors on 21 May.

Bank Reconciliation

Balance per bank statements as of 31 May 2007		
Current Account (HSBC Community Account)	1,880.54	
Deposit Account (National Savings)	11,799.70	
		13,680.24
Less unrepresented cheques as of 31 May 2007		(20)
Total cash and investments 31 May 2007		13,660.24

Resolved that the following payments be made:

£389.32	Clerk's Salary June/July
£24.02	Clerk's expenses
£6.00	Hire of Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Rooms
£20	AJH Gardening Services
£68.65	Viking Direct
£1000	N Preston Grass cutting)

60/07 CORRESPONDENCE BOX

The Clerk briefed the meeting on routine matters.

61/07 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Mrs Harrison, Headmistress of the School, had requested that a sign been installed by the village hall to direct people to the school. **Resolved** that the Clerk should raise the matter with the Village Hall Committee.
- A Litter Picking event is being organised for Culgaith on September 9th.

62/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be on Monday September 3rd 2007 at Culgaith Victoria Institute.