

**CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Held on Monday 3rd September 2007 at the Culgaith Victoria Institute

Present: Mr John Findlay, Mrs Jill Hay, Mr Ken Philipson, Mr Martin Smith, Mr Howard Roper, Mrs Laura Wilson

In Attendance:, 20 members of the public.

Apologies: Mr John Hindson, Rev. Elaine Froggatt, Mr Alistair Urquhart, Mrs Isa Henderson (County Councillor)

63/07 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd July 2007 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

64/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Smith declared an interest in the Play Partnership as he is a Trustee of the Culgaith Recreation Ground. Councillor Wilson declared an interest in the Skirwith Village Hall planning issue as she is on the Hall Committee.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Parish Clerk reported:

65/07 Skirwith Green – Wall Encroachment. The developer's solicitors had confirmed that the Council's title to the land had been registered on 31 May 2007. They are currently in correspondence with Cumbria CC about registering the land as village green.

66/07 Notice boards. **Resolved** that the Clerk should check the location agreed with Cumbria CC for the Kirkland notice board.

67/07 Blencarn Development and Village Signs. Cumbrian Homes have provided £1500 to cover the cost of restoring the signpost at Blencarn. **Resolved** that the Clerk should contact Signpost Restoration and arrange for work to be done.

68/07 Skirwith Footbridge had been replaced with a new structure in mid July.

69/07 CALC Effective Councils Road Show. **Resolved** to take no action on the Road show as two of the Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk were attending training courses this Autumn.

70/07 Pothole on the Skirwith to Langwathby road and winter gritting. No response yet from the Eden District Area Engineer. **Resolved** that the Clerk should write again.

71/07 The Flodder. The District Councillor had offered to raise this issue with the Eden District Council and the PC is waiting to hear the outcome of any discussions.

72/07 Street Lights, Skirwith. **Resolved** that the Clerk should canvas opinion from Skirwith residents most directly affected before a decision is made about supporting the request to turn off the light in Church Street.

73/07 School sign. The Clerk has written to the Village Hall Committee about erecting a sign by the village hall to direct people to the school. The Village Hall Committee and the School will take this forward.

74/07 POLICE, COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT REPORTS

There were no reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and local policeman.

75/07 PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to give members of the public an opportunity to raise issues of concern or interest.

The following matter was raised with regard to the Tarn. In relation to developing a long term management plan for the Tarn, Richard Cooper of Silverband Falconry explained the importance of rough grassland and the role that the Tarn could play in support of wildlife.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- 76/07 Affordable Housing Proposal for Blencarn.** The proposal from Eden Housing Association to build 6 units of which 5 would be affordable in Blencarn was considered. **Resolved** that the Clerk should write for more information about the scheme.
- 77/07 Tarn** The Clerk had reviewed a number of aspects associated with the Tarn including:
- Past proposals for the Tarn which had included a water based reserve rejected because of a lack of a natural spring, planting schemes rejected because of the problems associated with their long term sustainability, and returning it to grazing rejected because it is a registered village green.
 - The Tarn was registered as a village green in 1968. A village green is an area of land for local people to indulge in lawful sports and pastimes. To deregister the Tarn the PC would have to find another piece of land of equivalent size to register as a village green. **Resolved** not to apply for deregistration of the Tarn as a village green.
 - Over 30% of the precept is spent on grass cutting and the PC needs to consider viable alternatives. **Resolved** that the Clerk should contact Richard Cooper as part of the information gathering on the long term options for the Tarn.
 - **Resolved** that Councillor Hay should attend the Workshop for Green Space Managers at Temple Sowerby September 20th which will cover different management options and planning.
 - **Resolved** that Councillor Hay should chair a subcommittee to review the options for consideration by the full Parish Council.
 - A request had been received to use the Tarn for the Culgaith Residents Archery Club. **Resolved** that the Clerk should contact the organisers to say that the PC had no objections to the Tarn being used for this purpose.
- 78/07 Flodder.** A request had been received to cover the area behind the parked cars with topsoil so that it could be re-seeded. **Resolved** it should be reseeded and Councillor Findlay will take this forward.
- 79/07 B6412 Use by Heavy Goods Vehicles.** An e-mail from a resident concerned about the use by Heavy Vehicles of the B6412 and the impact on the Eden Bridge was considered. It was thought that the bridge design was such as to be able to withstand heavy loads and some heavy lorries had to use the road to serve the local businesses. The opening of the Temple Sowerby Bypass this Autumn may reduce some of the traffic and there was less likely to be diversions because of accidents on the A66 through the village once it was a dual carriage way. The closure of the Pea for 6 weeks from mid September may increase the traffic temporarily. **Resolved** to monitor the situation once the Pea has reopened.

REPORTS

- 80/07 Culgaith Parish Website** is now up at <http://www.culgaith.org.uk>. More information will be added as it becomes available. **Resolved** that it should be promoted through the Memo and Herald to encourage its use.
- 81/07 The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.** The Standards Board for England and the Monitoring Officer of Eden District Council had been notified that the Parish Council had adopted the new code including Paragraph 12 (2). New Register of Interests had been sent to the Monitoring Officer. **Resolved** to place an advert in the Herald as part of a CALC composite advert to announce the PC acceptance of the new code.

The Culgaith Parish Council Standing Orders had been updated to include the new Model Code of Conduct. **Resolved** to amend the Standing Orders following suggestions from CALC as follows:

- Clause 41. To ensure that the minutes are available to the public as soon as possible after the meeting the clause will be amended from “Minutes should be distributed to the public only after approval and the day after the meeting” to “Minutes should be available to the public reasonably soon after the meeting marked Draft – subject to approval at the next meeting”
- Clause 74. The agenda for an extraordinary meeting should also include the approval of minutes from the last meeting.
- Clause 149. “Other documents may be made available at the discretion of the Council” should be deleted. Since the Freedom of Information Act data held must be made available on request unless there is a specific exemption within the FOI or Data Protection Act which would permit it to be withheld.

82/07 Play Partnership Update. The EDC had been notified of the Parish Council’s support for the Culgaith Recreation Ground’s proposal to replace the grass tennis courts with hard standing and erect a sports wall for football and volleyball. Eden District Council had confirmed that the Culgaith proposal had been selected as one of 10 being submitted to the Lottery. The Trustees will take this forward as the lead organisation.

83/07 Parish Paths. A new wicket gate and handrail have been installed on the path by the Culgaith Chapel. A grant had been received from Cumbria County Council to cover the costs as part of the Parish Paths Initiative. The PC had been supplied with a definitive map and updated information. Some of the paths need to be clearly marked with way markers. **Resolved** that Councillor Hay would discuss this with the ranger. Circular walks were being prepared for the new website by a local resident, Mike Graham.

84/07 Training

The Clerk reported that Councillors Smith and Urquhart are booked on an “Effective Councillor” course. Councillors Findlay, Hay and Wilson and the Parish Clerk were attending the Model Code of Conduct Training. The Parish Clerk was attending Parish Clerk Induction Course Module 2

Resolved to fund the Parish Clerk to do the Certificate in Local Council Administration. Total cost is in the region of £315 but grants are available which would cover most of the costs.

PLANNING

85/07 Notices of Decision have been received from EDC as follows:

Approved:

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

07/0308 – Old Vicarage, Skirwith Use of existing coach and stables for ancillary accommodation.

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.

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

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

07/0572 Hazel Dene, Culgaith Erection of new two storey rear extension and new porch to replace existing

86/07 Planning applications considered by the Parish Council:

The Parish Council has raised no objections to the following:

07/0593 – Ravensknowle, Station Rd, Culgaith. Change of use from agricultural land to domestic curtilage

87/07 Closure of the Pea

The Pea will be closed from 17 September for 6 weeks to allow the construction of a footpath by Cumbria Homes.

88/07 Planning request received

Resolved to submit the planning application on behalf of Skirwith Village Hall for a small extension for storage purposes as this will reduce the planning fees.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

89/07 Signatories for the Bank Account

HSBC had confirmed the new signatories to the current account

90/07 Audit Commission

The Audit Commission had completed the audit for the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2007 and there are no matters of concern. As required a notice to this effect has been displayed on the Culgaith Parish Council notice board for 14 days.

The Audit Commission had draw attention to the fidelity insurance. “The fidelity insurance cover is not adequate and should be extended to include councillors. Cover equivalent to the year end balance plus 50% of the precept is a guideline”. Advice from CALC was that this might be unnecessary. **Resolved** to ask the Insurers what the implications were for changing the policy.

91/07 Bank Reconciliation

Balance per bank statements as of 25 July 2007			
Current Account (HSBC Community Account)	1,365.30		
Deposit Account (National Savings)	10,299.70		
			11,665
Less unpresented cheques as of 25 July 2007			(12)
Total cash and investments 25 July 2007			11,653
Grants received			
Cumbrian Homes on 24 August £1,500			
Cumbria County Council on 4 September £882.81			

Resolved that the following payments be made:

£389.92	Clerk’s Salary August/September
£ 45.68	Clerk’s expenses
£10.00	Hire of Culgaith Victoria Institute
£43.99	Viking Direct
£15	CALC – composite advert for the Model Code of Conduct
£158.63	Audit Commission (2006-7 Audit Fee)
£780	Cumbria Walling (Phase 2 Parish Paths Initiative)
£102.81	Hayhurst and Taylor (Phase 2 Parish Paths Initiative)

Resolved to endorse retrospectively the following payments

£467.65	Alan Kitchen for new bridge over Skirwith Beck
£30	CALC – Effective Councillor Training

92/07 CORRESPONDENCE BOX

The Clerk briefed the meeting on routine matters

93/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday November 5th at Skirwith Village Hall.