

**CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Held on Monday 5th November 2007 at the Skirwith Village Hall**

Present: Mr John Findlay, Mrs Jill Hay, Rev. Elaine Froggatt, Mr John Hindson, Mr Ken Philipson, Mr Martin Smith, Mr Howard Roper, Mr Alistair Urquhart, Mrs Laura Wilson

In Attendance:, 9 members of the public.

Apologies: Mrs Isa Henderson (County Councillor), Mrs Sheila Orchard (District Councillor), PC Mark Bradley

A Affordable Housing Blencarn. Before the start of the meeting Lynne McKenzie of Eden Housing Association briefed the Parish Council on the proposal and answered questions from Councillors and members of the public.

94/07 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd September 2007 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

95/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hay declared an interest in the Fellrunner. Councillors Smith and Urquhart in the Culgaith Recreation Ground.

96/07 PUBLIC FORUM

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

- The Parish Council endorsed a request to thank Mrs Jenny Davies for installing and maintaining the hanging baskets and pots around Culgaith Village Hall during the summer.
- The Parish Council was asked to seek the advice from the Tree Preservation Officer about the trees on Skirwith Village Green which were becoming tall and overgrown.

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

97/07 POLICE, COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT REPORTS

- The District Councillor had sent a copy of a report by the Chief Executive of Eden District Council's clarifying the Council's approach to the Appleby Horse Fair.
- P.C. Bradley had sent a report highlighting an increase in the theft of tools, quad bikes etc. There was also concern about the amount of drink driving and he urged the public to report dangerous and inconsiderate driving and hazards on the roads.

98/07 PLANNING

Notices of Decision have been received from EDC as follows:

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

Planning applications considered by the Parish Council:

The Parish Council ratified the decisions to make no objections to the following:

- 07/0757 Culgaith School Extension to side and rear of the building to accommodate resource teaching area and stores.
- 07/0842 2 Station Rd. Culgaith Change of use of agricultural land to provide extended amenity space to existing dwelling.
- Street Lights for the Pea Parish Councillors had been consulted about the proposed 5m high street lights and on the grounds of public safety had accepted the proposal.
- Blencarn Village Green As Lord of the Manor Mr J.K. Stamper had applied to the Land Registry to register ownership of the Blencarn Village Green. The Parish

Council had never disputed ownership and had made no objections.

New Application

Resolved not to raise any objections to:

07/0863 Land at Peafoot, Culgaith Architectural reclamation salvage yard

99/07 FINANCE

- **Precept 2008/09. Resolved** that the precept should remain at the current level of £7,500. **Resolved** that donations should be increased by £25 per organisation. The 2007/8 budget was reviewed. Noted the interim bank reconciliation, a copy of which will be kept in the Minute book.
- **Fidelity Insurance Cover. Resolved** to accept the Audit Commission recommendation that the fidelity insurance cover be increased from £6K to £9 and extended to include councillors. On advice from the insurers this will increase the premium by £20.79 in June 2008.
- **Culgaith Recreation Ground. Resolved** to pay the inspection fee of around £70.50 for the Culgaith Recreation Ground.
- **Parish Clerk's salary. Resolved** to confirm the appointment of Sue Smith as Parish Clerk following the completion of a 6 month probationary period, and increase the clerk's salary by one spine point. **Resolved** that the clerk should be paid for the additional 34 hours worked during this period.

100/07 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved that the following payments be made:

£723.23	Clerk's Salary	October/November (plus extra 34 hours)
£30.18	Clerk's expenses	
£ 6	Hire of Skirwith Village Hall	
£ 46.38	Viking Direct	
£159.98	GC Anderson (web development + 1 years maintenance)	
£70.50	RoSPA Inspection of Skirwith Village Play Facilities	
£200	Cumbrian Walling (Cutting of the Tarn)	
£1000	N Preston (Grasscutting)	

Resolved to endorse retrospectively the following payments

£50	CALC training Course for CiLCA
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101/07 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT on matters since the previous meeting

- **Skirwith Green – Wall Encroachment.** Awaiting news about registering the land as village green.
- **Notice boards.** The agreement between the PC and Cumbria CC shows the Kirkland Notice board should be situation against the wall by the church entrance. **Resolved** that Councillors Roper, Smith and Urquhart would relocate the board.
- **Blencarn Development and Village Signs.** An order has been placed with Signpost Restoration for the restoration of the sign. It may be ready at the end of the year. The cost has increased to £1453 + VAT but they are looking at ways to reduce costs.
- **The Flodder.** The District Councillor had reported back to the local resident concerned about the Flodder.
- **Culgaith Parish Website** had been promoted through the Memo and Herald and useful feedback received.
- **The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.** Notification that the Parish Council had adopted the revised code appeared in the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald on 20 October. The Culgaith Parish Council Standing Orders had been updated in line with recommendations from CALC.

- **Training.** Councillors Smith and Urquhart had attended an “Effective Councillor” course. Councillors Findlay, Hay and Wilson and the Parish Clerk attended the Model Code of Conduct Training. The Parish Clerk had attended Parish Clerk Induction Course Module 2 and had been accepted on the Certificate in Local Council Administration Course.
- **Trees on the Tarn** Complaints had been received about trees planted on the Tarn. The Clerk had written to one resident about two trees and these have been removed although he did not plant them. He has since been thanked for his help.

102/07 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- The meeting considered the presentation by Eden Housing Association on the Blencarn proposal. Any houses built would be for local occupancy and the proposal is at a very early stage. There is a need for affordable housing in the parish but perhaps not for 5 houses in Blencarn.
- Councillor Hay and the Clerk had attended the second workshop in the Rural Excellence Strategic Housing Programme, on “Developing more Affordable Housing for the Rural Parishes of Eden District Council”. The next workshop on November 21st will consider locations in each pilot parish and the way forward. It is thought that the Loaning Head Farm site in Culgaith has been nominated.
- Any proposal for affordable housing will only be successful if it meets the needs of the local community and the first step is to identify those needs within the parish. **Resolved** that the Parish Council should work with Eden District Council and the Eden Housing Association to identify that need. **Resolved** to make the local community aware of the need to register interest in local affordable housing.

103/07 VILLAGE GREENS

- **Resolved** to establish with the Land Registry if the Parish Council was registered as the owners of the village greens with a view to registering ownership if they were not. The greens involved are the Tarn, the Flodder, Skirwith Village Green and Kirkland Village Green. The cost would be £6 per green.
- **Resolved** to accept the proposed action plan from the Rural Greens Project to develop a management plan for the Tarn which meets the wishes of the majority of Culgaith residents.
- Noted the request from Culgaith Residents Archery Club to remove or modified the barbed wire fence as it was a potential hazard. **Resolved** to considered as part of the proposed management plan.
- **Resolved** to undertake a maintenance programme on the Flodder in Spring 2008 to include reseeding areas and erecting a barrier to ensure that parking does not encroach further onto the Flodder.

104/07 STREET LIGHTS, SKIRWITH

Residents between the Church and the top of Church St, and Beck Cottage had been consulted about the proposal to turn off the street light outside 1/2 Church Street. **Resolved**, by an unanimous vote, not to support the application to have the light turned off. The Parish Council having considered the responses from the consultation process.

105/07 HIGHWAYS

The meeting considered the response from Capita on the pothole repairs on the Skirwith to Langwathby road and winter gritting as poor and was concerned that these repairs are ineffective and uneconomic in the long run. It was noted that the road is programmed for surface dressing in 2008 and that a section adjacent to the wood has been added to the Eden Area Priority Assessment List for Capital Funding to undertake a road widening and haunching scheme, hopefully in 2008. Councillor

Hay will invite the Area Engineer to a future Parish Council.

The new trial of Area Highways Teams was noted. The Team will visit the Culgaith Parish area on 25 February 2008 for five days and 18 August for 4 days.

106/07 CORRESPONDENCE

- The Fellrunner had requested feedback on their funding model of 20p per passenger journey, which for the Culgaith Parish would mean a contribution of £260 p.a. The Parish Council makes a contribution above this level and was planning to do so in future.
- The Play Area Safety Inspection Report for the Skirwith Village Play Area had been received from ROSPRA and a copy passed to the Skirwith Play Committee. A response was awaited from the Committee on the actions to be taken to address the issues raised.
- The Greg's Hut Association had requested that the Parish Council should lobby BT about the state of the Kirkland phone box. Councillor Philipson reported that the new style phone box was unable to cope with the Helm wind.

The Clerk briefed the meeting on other routine matters

107/07 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chairman welcomed the opening of the Temple Sowerby Bypass on October 18th
- The cages surrounding trees in Kirkland are beginning to cause damage to the trees as they grow and need removing.
- The sign on the Pea warning that the road was unsuitable for heavy vehicles had been taken down during the recent building of the footpath and needed to be replaced.

108/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday January 7th 2008 at Kirkland and Blencarn Reading Rooms.