

**CULGAITH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Held on April 26th 2010 at Skirwith Village Hall**

Present: Councillors J. Hay (Vice Chairman), J. Hindson, J. Slann, P. Toppin, L. Wilson (Chairman)

In Attendance: Mrs M. Robinson (County Councillor), Mrs S. Orchard (District Councillor) and 4 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Findlay and Roper.

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including the representatives from Culgaith Victoria Institute, The VIC Community Café, and Skirwith Village Hall.

3. MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 27th 2009 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. REPORTS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL PROJECTS

Culgaith Victoria Institute

Mrs Joanna Donaldson reported that over the past 2 years the Hall Committee had sought funding to refurbish the hall and to date they had or were promised £9,500. The first phase, costing between £30,000 and £40,000, involved amongst other things insulating the roof space, creating a new disabled toilet, creating a new fire escape from the first floor, upgrading the existing kitchen, and fitting insulation boards to the walls. Architect's plans had been drawn up and most of the work would not require planning permission, the exception being the Disabled Toilets. Immediate plans are to put in a fire alarm system and clean the floor and it is hoped that this time next year work will have started on Phase 1.

VIC Community Café

Mr Paul Saager reported that inspiration for the VIC had come from the last Annual Parish Meeting when Derick Cotton had talked about the Bolton Exchange. The VIC had started in August 2009 and was regularly getting in excess of 30 people across the age range. As well as the regular Thursday afternoon sessions the Trustees had organised Theme Days such as Carol Concert by Culgaith School, Men Only Day, Litter Picks, running for the Sport Relief Mile, and local history event. The Signposts Organisation had arranged for Cumbria Fire and Rescue to come along to give advice on fire safety and over 16 homes had taken up the offer to have the houses checked and fire alarms installed.

The Parish Council and County Council had supplied funding to buy new crockery, a freezer and microwave. The ceiling had been painted with a grant from Neighbourhood Forum. Working with the Hall and with funding again from the Parish Council and the County Council and their own resources new tables and chairs were on order.

The VIC was being publicised through the Memo, the village website, and the Herald. A recent article on Culgaith in Cumbria Life had promoted the VIC and it has been shortlisted for an Eden Local Heroes Award.

Skirwith Village Hall

Mrs Kathryn Thompson and Mr Philip Hemingway presented a Project Development Report, a copy of which will be included in the Minute Book. The project involves improving the structure of the hall, installing energy usage improvement measures, and adding a hall storage annex. The main focus is currently on Phase 1 the Structural Renovation Project which will stabilise the hall roof structure at a cost of £31,000. Funding has come from a variety of sources including

the County Council and the Parish Council and it is hoped that work will start in July and be finished by September 2010.

Phase 2a involves installing solar PV Panels and a heat pump. Phase 2b involves improving the Insulation and heating in the hall and work continues to find funding for these proposals.

Mrs Robinson (County Councillor), Mrs Orchard (District Councillor) were able to offer additional suggestions for possible funding.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Concern was expressed about the amount of litter in the Parish particularly between Culgaith and Skirwith. The Parish Council was asked if it would organise a litter pick. The Chairman responded by saying that the Parish Council would look at this at the next meeting on May 10th 2010.
- The winter of 2009/2010 was particularly severe with heavy snow and icy conditions for many weeks. The Chairman thanked Mrs M. Robinson (County Councillor) for all her hard work to try and get the roads gritted in the parish during this period. Since then the Parish Council had lobbied the County Council, the Local MP, and the Chief Constable. Mrs Robinson reported that at a recent meeting of Cumbria County Council Local Committee for Eden it had recommended to the County's Cabinet that the school bus and taxi routes between Blencarn and Skirwith and Skirwith and Culgaith are upgraded to Priority 2 so they would be gritted on a regular basis.
- Mrs Wilson (Chairman) invited members of the local community to get in touch with their Parish Councillors if they had any concerns, as the Parish Council could not help unless it knew what people were worried about. Both the County Councillor and District Councillor also expressed their willingness to help.

6. HOUSING SURVEY

Cumbria Rural Housing Trust was currently undertaking a housing survey in the parish which would give some indication of housing needs and identify if affordable housing was needed. To date the response rate was 32% with another two weeks before the closing date.

7. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The next Annual Parish Meeting is provisionally set for April 11th 2011 at Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room.

ADDENDUM

After the meeting Mrs Barbara Blenkinsip of the Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room contacted the Clerk and apologised for missing the Annual Parish Meeting. She reported that thanks to grants from the County Council and Parish Council they had managed to raise enough money for the safety matting for the play equipment area. It was hoped to install it this summer.