

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on July 2nd 2012 at Skirwith Village Hall

Present: Councillors J. Hay, M. Helm, P. Jago, K. Philipson, J. Ravetz, C. Richardson, P. Toppin, J. Slann.

In Attendance: 1 member of the Public

Apologises: Mrs Mary Robinson (County Councillor)

Councillor Philipson was delayed and joined the meeting at item 72/12 Planning.

66/12 APOLOGIES

Councillor Wilson (Church commitments) and Councillor King (family commitments).
Resolved that the apologies be noted and the reasons approved.

67/12 MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the AGM and the Minutes of the normal business meeting of May 8th be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

68/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Helm and Richardson as Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room Committee members in 75/12 Payment of Accounts RBS Invoice Finance Ltd.

69/12 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT on matters since the previous meeting

- The Clerk had attended the General Power of Competence training course.
- A request had been made to EDC for Dog bins in Hag Wood.
- Skirwith Childrens' Play Committee had been asked to address the issues of the slippery mats under the swings.
- Parish Councils had received a letter from EDC asking them to be vigilant and report suspected breaches of planning regulations.
- The Annual Report had been distributed to every household with the June issue of the Memo.
- The Chairman had spoken to Inspector Willetts about vandalism etc. and a Crime Prevention Officer would this follow up.
- On behalf of the Community Warden leaflets about dog control orders had been distributed to Blencarn residents via the Memo.
- Alston Moor Parish Council had lit a beacon on Cross Fell to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
- On behalf of the Parish Council the Clerk had signed up to Ordnance Survey's Public Service Mapping Agreement. This allows the Parish Council to download maps free of charge under a licence agreement.
- A non-resident member of the public had raised concerns about the spraying, with herbicides, of the verges on the road down towards the railway station. The verges have since been cut by the County Council.
- A revised programme for the Better Highways Team had been received.
- A request had been made for "Slow Children Playing" signs in Skirwith.
- A new Code of Conduct and Register of Interests had been received, too late for discussion at this meeting.

70/12 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Councillors had attended the following:

- Village SOS

71/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Parish Councillors and members of the public raised a number of issues:

- The Chairman of Culgaith Victoria Institute reported that the village hall was in dispute with the owners of the lane running alongside the hall. Legal advice was

being sought.

- Concerns had been raised about the flooding in the dip at Millrigg Culgaith.
- The Ranbeck to Wythwaite road was in need of repair.
- Councillor Slann reported that EDC had offered to replace a damaged garden waste bin free of charge – a very positive outcome.
- The Guardians of Culgaith Tarn were seeking advice from the Parish Council with regard to the recently purchased gazebos. Specifically whether they should only be lent to organisations and not individuals and secondly whether those organisations should be asked to ensure they had the appropriate insurance to cover any loss or damage.

The Chairman and Clerk would look into the issues and report back to the next meeting.

72/12 PLANNING

EDC had approved the following applications

- 12/0263 Agricultural building Field Title CU 249182 Culgaith
- 12/0163 Change of use from agriculture to launching and landing of gliders; installation of a portable building, wind sock pole, and parking of glider trailers (continuation of temporary consent 08/0149) Skelling Farm Kirkland)

Resolved to make no objections to the following:

- 12/0510 Blackhill Lodge Blencarn. Variation of condition 1 attached to planning approval 11/0222 requiring the removal of a mobile home and restoration of the land by 22/6/2012.

Resolved to object to the following:

- 12/0385 Lerual Culgaith Erection of bungalow with regard to the effect on neighbouring properties.

Resolved to raise concerns about the following:

- 12/0421 Site adjacent to Highfield Blencarn. Change of use of land to equine grazing and erection of 3 wooden stables and surrounding fencing. To raise concerns with regard to the need for adequate off road parking and removal of caravan from the site.

73/12 FINANCE

- **Resolved** to approve the Review the System of Internal Control.
- BDO LLP, the external auditors, had completed the audit for 2011/12 and there were no matters which caused them concern. **Resolved** to minute that the annual return had been approved and accepted by the Parish Council.
- Noted that the Audit Commission was consulting on the appointment of external auditor for 2012/13 and future years. The proposal for Cumbria was to continue with the present auditors BDO LLP.
- Parish Council's insurance had been renewed with AON. Zurich Insurance had provided a quote too late to be considered and had been asked to supply a quote for 2012/13.
- **Resolved** to dispose of the old Parish Council laptop, originally purchased in 1995, to the Clerk for a nominal sum of £1.

74/12 QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Balmoral Bench 1.8 m with a plaque to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee had been received in late June. The cost included £25 for ground anchors and £40 for delivery. **Resolved** that the Clerk should contact AON about insurance for the bench.

75/12 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved to make the following payments.

£540.24	Clerk's Salary Jun/July
£80.66	Clerk's expenses (includes £46.80 reproduction of Annual Report and £16.41 CLP expenses – flip charts and ice-cream)
£10	Skirwith Village Hall (Room hire)
£10	CALC (Training General Power of Competence)
£464.99	RBS Invoice Finance Ltd (seat for Blencarn)
£162	BDO LLP (external audit)
£1,004.40	Mark Hill Ground Maintenance (Grasscutting & repair of Skirwith village green)

76/12 FINANCIAL REPORT

Resolved to accept the accounts of 20 June as a true record of the Council's Finances. As of 20 June the balances at National Savings were £11,217.54 and at the Bank £2,369.82.

77/12 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Robinson had sent her apologies.

78/12 COMMUNITY LED PLAN

The Clerk reported that the questionnaires had been collected and the response rate had been around 54%. They were currently being analysed. They had been a good response at the Blencarn Jubilee event particularly from the younger generation. A grant application had been submitted to ACT.

79/12 BLENCARN SPEED LIMIT

The Clerk reported that the Area Engineer Rob Lawley had made a site visit on May 22nd to look at the issue of the siting of the 30 mph signs on the Blencarn to Milburn Rd. The Speed Limit Order had been made by Cumbria County Council and this effectively ties the terminal location to where the signs are positioned. To relocate the signs the County Council would have to go through the whole of the statutory procedures again which would take many months. It was agreed that before a decision be made to commence that procedure Cumbria Highways would review the recorded accident history of the road concerned and report back to the Parish Council. Cumbria Highways did agree to cut back the hedgerow to improve the visibility of the sign.

80/12 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The Clerk reported on the general power of competence as defined by the Localism Act. This gives eligible councils the "power to do anything that individuals generally may do". There are two criteria for eligibility, two thirds of the parish councillors must be elected and the Clerk must be qualified. Currently Culgaith Parish Council meets neither criteria. **Resolved** to take no further action at this time.

81/12 BROADBAND

Councillor Ravetz reported on the discussions with Cumbria CC about the Rural Community Broadband Fund. The County had secured grants for rural areas totalling nearly £39m to make Superfast Broadband a reality across as much of Cumbria as possible. However, it will not stretch to providing a Superfast service to the whole county and some communities will only get the minimum service. There are technical challenges in the Culgaith area which means that it could quite possibly fall into the category of getting a minimum service.

There is additional funding set aside for specific areas where the cost of delivering superfast broadband is beyond the budget of the main project and the County intend to bid for funding for the Culgaith area to overcome this problem. To support this bid

an initial random telephone survey was undertaken in June. If the analysis of the results shows an interest from the community in superfast broadband a more comprehensive survey will be undertaken.

Councillor Hay reported that there had also been some discussion about a pilot scheme to upgrade the telephone exchanges at Shap and Culgaith.

82/12 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk briefed the Council on routine correspondence.

83/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that there would be a special meeting on Monday July 16th at Culgaith Victoria Institute to consider the new Code of Conduct.

Resolved that the next normal business meeting of the Parish Council would be on Monday September 3rd at Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room.