

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on May 16th 2011 at Skirwith Village Hall

Present: Councillors J. Hay (Chairman), M. Helm, P. Jago, K. Philipson, C. Richardson, P. Toppin, J. Slann, L. Wilson

In Attendance: No members of the public.

Apologises: Mrs Robinson (County Councillor and Mrs Orchard (District Councillor)

50/11 APOLOGIES

Councillor Ravetz (holiday). **Resolved** that the apology be noted and the reason approved.

51/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Richardson as planning applicant under Item 55/11 Planning. Councillors Hay and Slann as Trustees of the VIC in Item 57/11 Payment of Accounts. Councillor Jago as Trustee of the VIC and Committee Member of Culgaith Victoria Institute in Item 57/11 Payment of Accounts. Councillors Helm and Philipson as Commoners in Item 61/11 Skirwith and Blencarn Commons. The Clerk, as Chair of the School Governors, in Item 52/11 Parish Clerk's report on update on Culgaith School.

52/11 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT on matters since the previous meeting

- Potholes between Cross Hows and Newbiggin, and the Skirwith to Kirkland road by Skelling Lane End had been reported to Cumbria Highways and the County Councillor.
- Cumbria Highways had checked the retaining wall near the bridge on the Skirwith Road which had fallen down into the verge. It had coned off the area and planned to fix it sometime after April.
- Cumbria Highways had repainted the road sign outside Blencarn.
- A response had been made on behalf of the Parish Council on the Eden District Council 2011/12 scrutiny work plan.
- The Culgaith to Langwathby road had been added to EDC's litter picking schedule in March. No litter had been found between Cross Hows and Newbiggin probably because the road was cleaned up on February 24th by the Culgaith Litter Pick.
- The issue of dog dirt on the road between Skirwith and Kirkland had been highlighted in the report of the meeting in the Memo.
- Blencarn speed limit. The Area Engineer had confirmed a proposed speed limit for Blencarn will be progressed during the current financial year. The Parish Council should receive a formal consultation letter. It is expected that the County Council should be in a position to introduce a limit this autumn provided there are not any significant objections.
- A new Parish Council laptop had been purchased in March.
- The Boundary Commission had started a consultation on division patterns for Cumbria. It is minded to recommend 84 elected members to Cumbria County Council (the same number as at present). The review aims to make sure that every councillor represents the same number of electors.
- Councillor Wilson (Chairman of the Parish Council 2010/11) had written to the County Council in support of Culgaith School becoming an all through primary school from September 2011. The Governors have published a Statutory Declaration of Intent at the end of April. The final decision will be made by the County Council's Cabinet on July 7th.

53/11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Councillors had attended the following:

- EALC meeting

54/11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillors raised a number of issues related to highways

- There were a number of potholes on the road between Blencarn and Skirwith.
- A pothole on the Kirkland to Skirwith road near the entrance to Bank Hall Farm.
- A drain under the Kirkland to Skirwith road near Scale Gill.
- The road edges on the Skirwith to Langwathby road have eroded leaving deep potholes.
- The road sign in Kirkland has white words on a white background.
- The road sign on the A686 at Langwathby pointing to Skirwith and Blencarn is rusted.

The Chairman and Clerk agreed to look into the issues and report back.

55/11 PLANNING

Eden District Council had approved the following application:

- 10/0983 Culgaith C of E Primary School. Installation of a 12 metre radio pole. (This was approved by the Planning Committee on 17 March)
- 11/0153 Highfield Blencarn. Change of use of land to private keeping of horses and erection of stable block in association with Highfield. (decision made by the Clerk under delegated powers)

Eden District Council had refused the following application

- 10/1030 1 Newtown Skirwith. Retrospective application for residential caravan for use by agricultural worker. Reasons for refusal – 1) The proposed development would result in the provision of a dwelling in an unsustainable location, without any proven need, contrary to the aims of Policies NE1 and HS7 of the Eden Local Plan and Policies CS1, CS2, CS3 and CS7 of the Eden Core Strategy. 2) The proposed development in such a location would constitute an alien form of back land development contrary to the primary form of development in the area, resulting in a loss of privacy and amenity that residents of adjacent properties could reasonably be expected to enjoy in their rear garden as a result of overlooking that would inevitably arise.

Resolved to make no objections to the following:

- 11/0260 Lingfield Bungalow, Culgaith. Erection of dwelling house and garage (revised application of 10/0425)
- 11/0334 Smithy House, Blencarn Replacement of existing porch and additional window in the South West (Gable) elevation

Resolved to object to the following:

- 11/0222 Blackhill Lodge Stud, Blencarn. Variation of condition 2 on planning 98/0627 retention of mobile home for a further 3 years

Management of Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document

Noted that the final document had been approved by Eden District Council on 24 March 2011.

56/11 FINANCE

- **Resolved** that the accounts for 2010/11 be certified as correct and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- **Resolved** to approve Section 2 the Annual Governance Statement for the Annual Audit for the year ending March 31st 2011.
- **Resolved** to appoint John Fleming as the Internal Auditor for 2011/12.
- **Resolved** that the following should be signatories to the HSBC bank account and National Savings account – Jill Hay, Caroline Richardson, Laura Wilson, and John Slann.
- Noted that the Cumbria County Council Members Divisional Capital Grant (£1,400) for 2010/11 had been received on May 9th.

PAYE

HM Revenue and Customs had confirmed for a second time that as the Clerk has no other salary or pension and the Parish Clerk's annual salary is below tax and NI thresholds the Parish Council does not need to register as an employee for PAYE purposes. This situation would change if the Clerk (or future Clerk) received income from another job or a pension. HMRC recommended that a P46 is completed and this had been done for the year ending March 31st 2011.

Cumbria County Council Members Divisional Capital Grant for 2011/12

Mrs Robinson had confirmed that there will be a grant for 2011/12. This time it will also be appropriate to spend on revenue items not just capital ones. The one drawback is that it will not be possible to spend on small sums. Whilst no limit has been set it has been agreed that fewer larger grants will be considered rather than small bids.

Resolved that the Clerk should seek costed proposals from community groups for consideration at the July meeting.

Training

Resolved that Pam Jago, Pauline Toppin and Joe Ravetz should attend the CALC's "Essentials for Local Councillors Training Course" on June 15th at Shap.

57/11 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved to make the following payments

£424.42	Clerk's Salary April/May
£31.25	Clerk's expenses
£6	Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room (Room Hire for Annual Parish Meeting)
£6	Skirwith Village Hall (Room Hire)
£159.50	CALC (annual subscription)
£20	Cumbria Playing Fields Association (annual subscription)
£25	John Fleming (Internal auditor)
£450	AON Limited (Insurance)
£88.15	Viking Direct (stationery)

Resolved to make the following payments under the Cumbria County Council Members Divisional Capital Grant

£175	- Culgaith Victoria Institute (towards new carpet)
£250	- The VIC Cafe (water heater)
£175	- Culgaith Recreation Ground (towards updating facilities in the pavilion)
£700	- Skirwith Village Hall (towards Phase 2a of the hall refurbishment)
£100	- Guardians of Culgaith Tarn (towards a seat for the Tarn)

Resolved to ratify the following payment made in March 2010

£471.95 to S.P. Smith (new laptop, software and blank CD-ROMS. The cost was £393.29 + £78.66 VAT – the VAT has been reclaimed)

58/11 FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 9 May the balances at National Savings were £5,799.36 and at the Bank £10,485.43. A full copy of the accounts will be available at the July meeting. **Resolved** to transfer £5,500 from the Bank account to National Savings.

The Precept of £8,000 had been received on 27 April and a VAT refund of £474.74 for the year ending March 31st 2011 on 18 April. The Divisional Members Grant of £1,400 had been received on May 9th.

59/11 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Mrs Robinson and Mrs Orchard had both sent their apologies and written reports. Amongst the issues raised were:

- Cumbria County Council Members Divisional Capital Grant for 2011/12.
- Eden District Council are in the early stages of work on a rural development plan. The proposal is that there will be a fund of £250,000 for the rural areas. Parish Councils are being encouraged to develop a community plan so that their priorities can be included.

60/11 BROADBAND

Councillor Richardson briefed the Council on the presentation given by NextGenUs to the Annual Parish Meeting on April 11th at Blencarn. CALC's April Broadband Bulletin had explained the current position in Cumbria and offered suggestions of how CALC can work with parish councils to develop the project further. **Resolved** that the Clerk should continue to monitor the situation.

61/11 SKIRWITH AND BLENCARN COMMONS

Resolved to support the proposal to develop new woodland planting on the lower slopes of Skirwith and Blencarn Commons with associated fencing. **Resolved** to support a second proposal for a temporary fence on Skirwith Common to prevent sheep moving over the common and down into Skirwith and Blencarn.

62/11 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that the County Council were looking at 8 options for additional community transport projects. The Parish Council had been asked to consider the options by the end of May. The Clerk briefed the Council on other routine correspondence.

63/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday July 4th at Skirwith Village Hall.