

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on November 1st 2010 at Skirwith Village Hall

Present: Councillors J. Hay (Vice Chairman), J. Findlay, M. Helm, J. Hindson, K. Philipson, H. Roper, J. Slann, P. Toppin.

In Attendance: No members of the Public.

Apologies from PC Taylor.

100/10 APOLOGIES

Councillors Wilson (work) and Richardson (hospital appointment). **Resolved** that the apologies be noted and the reasons approved.

101/10 MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on September 6th be signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record.

102/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

103/10 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT on matters since the previous meeting

- Councillors Richardson and Helm had attended the CALC training course on "Essentials for Local Councillors".
- The questionnaire on the "Future of Refuse and Recycling in Eden" had been returned to Eden District Council.
- The contractor had been contacted about the grass cutting at Kirkland and Councillor Philipson had spoken to one of his employees on site. To make sure there were no problems in 2011 it had been suggested to the contractor, that a site visit at the start of the season would be in order, assuming he won the contract.
- A response had been sent to Eden District Council on their draft Corporate Plan 2011-2014.

104/10 VICE CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillors had attended the following meetings:

- Churches, Housing, Rural Communities Conference
- Big Society Briefing
- Eden Police Liaison Meeting

105/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk reported that two members of the public, who were unable to attend the meeting, had raised some issues:

- Mr George Walker had offered to tidy up the Culgaith War Memorial
- Mr John Brookfield had said that some second hand benches might become available for the area by the War Memorial, it was unclear at this stage if there would be any costs associated with the offer.

The Clerk would investigate and report back to the next meeting.

106/10 PLANNING

Eden District Council had approved the following applications:

- 10/0659 Otters Holt. Amendments to application 08/0072 to change the house types to plots no 27, 28, 29
- 10/0591 Rosebank Farm, Culgaith. Change of use and alterations to existing barns to form 3 dwellings and erection of single holiday let dwelling in place of

existing scheme. (Later amended by the deletion of the single holiday let and its replacement by a double garage block)

Resolved to make no objections to the following:

- 10/0808 West View, Blencarn. Garden store for dwelling
- 10/0877 Lerual, Culgaith. Two storey extension to dwelling
- 10/0928 1-2 Church Street, Skirwith Fell Cyprus at rear of property which has outgrown its situation in Skirwith Conservation Area

United Utilities Wastewater Treatment Works Project called ‘Briggle Beck’.

The Clerk reported on the project to cease treatment of wastewater at both the Skirwith and Winskill sites and transfer the waste by pumped pipeline to Langwathby for treatment there. New pumping stations would be built at Skirwith and Winskill, and a 5km pipeline laid linking Skirwith and Winskill to Langwathby Wastewater Treatment Works. The Langwathby facilities would be upgraded to include a new outfall pipeline laid from Langwathby Wastewater Treatment Works to the River Eden. **Resolved** to make no objections to this project.

107/10 FINANCE

- **Resolved** to retain the precept for 2011/2012 at £8000.
- **Resolved** to accept the proposed budget for 2011/2012.
- Noted the assessment of the Clerk’s workload for 2011/2012.
- **Resolved** to ask Alan Kitchen to repair the Culgaith Notice Board and discuss with him better ways to protect it in future.
- Noted that a decision on the application to the Cumbria County Council Members Divisional Capital Grant was awaited.

108/10 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved to make the following payments

£475.91	Clerk’s Salary October/November
£59.64	Clerk’s expenses*
£12	Skirwith Village Hall (Room Hire April and November)
£322.38	Eden District Council (Building Control Fee for Skirwith Village Hall)
£74.03	Playsafety Ltd (Skirwith Play Inspection)
£81.08	Playsafety Ltd (Culgaith Recreation Ground Play Inspection)
£893	Mark Hill Ground Maintenance (Grass cutting)

Resolved to ratify the following payment

£72 to CALC (training)

* The Clerk’s expenses included £47.05 claimed and authorised on 10 May but never paid. The discrepancy had come to light when the half yearly bank reconciliation had been prepared. The £47.05 had been shown in the accounts since May but the cheque book confirmed that only the salary was paid rather than the salary plus expenses.

109/10 FINANCIAL REPORT

Resolved to accept the accounts of 20th October and the half yearly bank reconciliation as a true record of the Council’s finances. The balances at National Savings were £8,581.76 and at the Bank £2,035.65. There was one outstanding cheque for £6.

110/10 COUNTY, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE REPORTS

PC Taylor had reported that the Police had been running an operation on the East Fellside in the evenings. The police had also been paying attention to the anti social behaviour in Culgaith by children from the village. The occupants of a red 4 wheel drive had been seen around Blencarn with dogs and spades and there had been reports of people digging up badger sets.

111/10 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk had met with a representative of SmithsGore on October 7th to discuss the land next to Loaning Head Farm and the need for affordable housing. A number of issues had emerged:-

- The Church Commissioners' policy was to provide 30% affordable housing in any development;
- They would be willing to develop the site but would prefer to develop a larger site, which would have the advantage of providing more affordable housing. There were two options marked B or C on the map, which is added to the Minutes as Appendix 1.

Resolved to discuss the options with Eden District Council's planners, the favoured option being Option C as Option B would involve building on a steep slope with difficult access to the road.

The Clerk also reported that a copy of the National Housing Federation's leaflet on "Affordable Rural Housing: a practical guide for parish councils" had been received.

112/10 WINTER GRITTING

The Clerk reported that Cumbria CC's Cabinet had discussed the Adverse Weather Service 2010/11 at its meeting on September 16th. Amongst the recommendations accepted was that the C3028 Culgaith - Skirwith – Blencarn should be retained as a Priority 3 route as it links the villages of Skirwith and Blencarn with Langwathby. It had also been recommended that this Priority 3 route was extended to Culgaith.

Parish Salt Scheme

During the prolonged cold spell in 2009/10 Parish Councils had been offered a salt/grit mix and some local councils had taken up the offer using volunteers to spread the salt where it was most needed. The salt would need to be kept under cover, a storage facility found and volunteers recruited. **Resolved** that the most appropriate approach for the Culgaith Parish was to make sure the grit boxes were full across the parish.

Resolved that the Clerk should request an additional grit box on the corner of Aigill between Skirwith and Culgaith.

113/10 SPEED LIMITS IN BLENCARN

Cumbria Highways had responded to an initial enquiry about introducing a speed limit at Blencarn. They were in discussion with the local Police Traffic Management Officer and the Area Engineer to gain their views and organise some speed counts to be undertaken before making a recommendation to the County Council Local Committee for Eden.

114/10 RURAL BROADBAND

The Carlisle Parish Councils Association had drawn up a survey about broadband speeds which was collecting evidence for the Rural Broadband campaign led by Rory Stewart MP. The survey had been sent to Parish Councillors and other contacts in Skirwith, Culgaith, Blencarn and Kirkland to try and build up a picture within the parish. The Parish Council had also been contacted by NextGenUs who are looking at ways to provide a Superfast Community Broadband Service. The Government announced

on October 20th that Cumbria had been selected as one of the four pilot projects for the next generation access to broadband.

Resolved to ask Mr Geoff Anderson (the Parish's website manger) if he would represent the Parish at a meeting of Broadband Champions being organised by Rory Stewart on November 6th.

115/10 SKIRWITH PLAY INSPECTION

The RoSPA report on the inspection undertaken in August 2010 had been received. A copy had been sent to the Skirwith Play Committee and circulated to the Skirwith Parish Councillors.

116/10 BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW - CUMBRIA

The clerk reported that the Boundary Commission for England had started a review of electoral boundaries in Cumbria in October. The aim was to make local elections fairer by ensuring that all county councillors represented a similar number of people and that the council had the right number of councillors for effective representation.

117/10 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk briefed the Council on the routine correspondence including Cumbria Highways "Better Highways for Eden".

118/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting Parish Council meeting would be on Monday January 10th 2011 at Culgaith Victoria Institute.