

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on September 3rd 2012 at Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Rooms

Present: Councillors J. Hay, M. Helm, P. Jago, A. King, K. Philipson, J. Ravetz, J. Slann, L. Wilson

In Attendance: None

87/12 APOLOGIES

Councillor Richardson (holiday) and Councillor Toppin (illness). **Resolved** that the apologies be noted and the reasons approved.

88/12 MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the meetings of July 2nd and July 16th be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

89/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

90/12 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT on matters since the previous meeting

- Members of the Blencarn community had written to the Parish Council to thank it for the new bench at Blencarn. The bench had been added to the Parish Council's insurance policy at a cost of £11.82 and the Asset Register updated.
- A problem with the gate post by 1 The Greens, Culgaith on Footpath 32002 had been reported to the Countryside Ranger.
- The Boundary Commission are recommending that the number of county councillors remained unchanged at 84.
- £1 has been deducted from the Clerk's expenses to cover the cost of the old laptop.
- Mary Robinson had confirmed that the Councillors grant for the County Council is earmarked this year to support installing traffic lights on the bridge between Lazonby and Kirkoswald but the decision on the way forward will not be made until a community consultation has taken place.
- The Play Inspections reports had been received from Playsafety for both Culgaith and Skirwith. Copies had been sent to the appropriate Committees.
- The Audit Commission had confirmed that BDO LLP will continue to be the external auditors for the next 5 years, commencing September 2012.

91/12 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Councillors had attended the following:

- Community Health and Wellbeing Programme

92/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public had raised a number of issues by email.

- Howrigg Lane, which runs from Howrigg Farm across fields to Rigglands on the Blencarn to Milburn road, had become very overgrown. The track had been used for many years as part of a circular walk. [The Clerk reported that this it is not shown as a public footpath on the definitive map and the Ordnance Survey map shows it to be a farm track.]
- A short track across Blencarn village green is becoming very rutted and difficult to navigate. Apparently in the past the Parish Council had financed its repair. [The Clerk reported that Blencarn village green is owned by the Lord of the Manor and not the Parish Council]

Other issues raised by Councillors included:

- A pothole outside Abbey Farm on the Skirwith to Langwathby Road.
- A sign for the Kirkhill development in Blencarn which is obscuring visibility on the Blencarn to Milburn road.

The Clerk and Chairman will investigate and report back to the meeting.

93/12 PLANNING

EDC had refused the following:

- 12/0385 Lerual Culgaith Erection of bungalow

Awaiting a decision

- 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 make no objections to the following:

- 12/0649 Moorside Culgaith. Erection of cubical shed
- 12/0664 Ivy Cottage Culgaith. Demolition of existing barn and erection of 2 dwellings.

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. Amended plans had been received to include a tack room. The Council was still concerned about the off road parking and the need to remove of caravan from the site.

Resolved to object to the following:

- 12/0655 Pea Foot Culgaith. Retrospective application for change of use from general storage to timber processing and general storage. The Council was concerned about the impact on the local community and access to the site.

94/12 FINANCE

Guardians of Culgaith Tarn

The Guardians of Culgaith Tarn had sought advice from the Parish Council with regard to the recently purchased gazebos. **Resolved** to ratify comments made under Public Participation at the July meeting that the gazebos should only be lent to organisations and that those organisations should be asked to ensure they had the appropriate insurance to cover any loss or damage.

Cheque payments

Noted that the Government was consulting on the proposal to remove the statutory requirements around cheque payments i.e. the requirement to have two signatories.

95/12 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved to make the following payments

£540.24	Clerk's Salary Aug/Sep
£11.80	Clerk's expenses
£10	Culgaith Victoria Institute (Room hire for July 16th)
£16	Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room (Room Hire) ¹
£73.39	Viking Direct (ink and paper)
£60	GC Anderson (Community Led Plan Survey)
£162	Playsafety Ltd (Play inspections)

Resolved to ratify the following payment.

£11.82 Aon UK Ltd (Insurance for Blencarn Bench)

¹Covers Sept 2011 and Sept 2012. The cheque for Sept 2011 for £6 was lost and eventually cancelled

96/12 FINANCIAL REPORT

Resolved to accept the accounts of 20 August as a true record of the Council's finances. As of 20 August the balances at National Savings were £10,117.54 and at the Bank £1,185.71.

97/12 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

None

98/12 COMMUNITY LED PLAN

Councillor King reported that the questionnaires had been analysed and the data collated into a brief report. This would be discussed by the Steering Group in early September as part of the development of the Action Plan. Geoff Anderson and Sue Smith were thanked for their work on this stage of the Community Led Plan.

99/12 CODE OF CONDUCT

- EDC had been informed that the Parish Council had adopted the new Code of Conduct.
- An announcement had been displayed on the Culgaith Notice Board and in the September Memo.
- Copies of the Register of Interests had been sent to EDC before the July 28th deadline and receipt had been acknowledged.
- Copies of the Register of Interests had been put up on the village website.
- CALC had issued Guidance of Dispensations for Parish Council Clerks and a copy had been circulated to Councillors. As all councillors own/rent property in the parish all need to apply for a dispensation when setting a precept.
- Eden District Council had decided to abolish its Standards Committee, and handle Code of Conduct issues in their Accounts and Governance Committee. A recruitment pack for parish representatives had been circulated.

100/12 HIGHWAYS

Blencarn Speed Limit

Noted that all speed limit signs have now been installed at Blencarn after a 4 month delay. They were no traffic accidents recorded by the Police on the approach into the village from the Milburn direction in the past 5 years. Therefore, Cumbria Highways is reluctant to recommend an extension of the speed limit further along the Blencarn road.

Millrigg and Ranbeck

Cumbria Highways had looked into the flooding at Millrigg and the state of the road at Ranbeck

- The blockage at Millrigg is in the field. The watercourse is classified as ordinary watercourse and under Land Drainage Law each landowner is responsible for his own section (Riparian owner). Cumbria Highways are working with the landowner to investigate the problems and clear the blockage.
- Cumbria Highways have confirmed that the Ranbeck road is adopted and it will take a look at this and see what is realistically achievable within its budgetary constraints.

Winter Gritting

Noted that HMRC are currently consulting on a proposed change to the law to allow the use of red diesel in tractors for gritting as and when conditions demand it.

Signs at Skirwith

The Parish Council had investigated the request for signs to warn drivers of the Skirwith Playground. Cumbria Highways believes that these type of signs do little to alter driver behaviour particularly as the playground is located some distance from the road so drivers cannot see why they are being asked to slow down. Although the parish could fund the installation Cumbria Highways would not give permission and any such signs would be deemed an illegal obstruction in the highway.

101/12 CUMBRIA ARCHIVE SERVICE

Resolved to deposit the following Parish Council papers with Cumbria County Council Archive Service:

- Minute Books 1961-1988, 1988-1998
- Treasurers Receipt and Payment Book 1895-1936
- Treasurers Receipt and Payment Book 1937-1988
- Receipts and Payments Book 1976-1988
- Receipts and Payments Book 1989-2001

102/12 OUSBY OIL SYNDICATE

Councillor King reported that an Oil Syndicate had been set up at Ousby. The results of the recent questionnaire showed that many people in the parish would be interested in such a scheme. It will be considered as part of the development of the Action Plan.

103/12 RECYCLING

Household waste

The Clerk reported that under the old scheme glass, cans and paper were collected from the doorstep at Blencarn, Culgaith and Skirwith. Only paper was collected at Kirkland. Plastic was only collected at the Culgaith Village Recycling Centre. The new Kerbside Recycling Bag and Box Scheme started in July 2012, collecting glass, cans paper and plastics from all 4 villages. The major concern was the lack of facilities to dispose of plastics bags and wrappings through either the doorstep collection or at the Culgaith Village Recycling Centre.

Garden Waste

Culgaith is the only village to have green wheelie bins for garden waste. Concerns had been expressed as the contractor repeatedly failed to collect the green bins on the designated day.

Skirwith has a village skip operated by Hilltop Organics of Ivegill but this will cease at the end of September with no alternative put in place.

The Chairman had contacted Mary Robinson (County Councillor) about all the issues raised and a response was awaited from Councillor Tonkin the Eden District Council Environment Portfolio Holder.

104/12 REMOTE CINEMA

Councillor Ravetz reported that Skirwith Village Hall had organised two performances from the Remote Cinema project later this year. Councillor King reported that it will be considered as part of the development of the Action Plan

105/12 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk briefed the Council on routine correspondence.

106/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting would be on Monday November 12th at Culgaith Victoria Institute. [Please note new date]