

**CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Held on January 7th 2008 at 7.30 pm at the Kirkland and Blencarn Reading Rooms

Present:

Councillor J. Findlay (Chairman)

Councillors, E. Froggatt, K. Philipson, M. Smith, H. Roper, L. Wilson

In Attendance: 3 members of the public.

01/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Hay, Hindson and Urquhart

02/08 MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th November 2007 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

03/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

04/08 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

- **Skirwith Green – Wall Encroachment.** Nothing had been heard from the developer's solicitors since July 2007 when they were trying to register the land as village green. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact them for an update.
- **Notice boards.** Having investigated it appears that without specialist equipment the new Kirkland Notice Board cannot be located by the church wall. Cumbria CC have agreed that it can be re-erected next to the old one.
- **Blencarn Village Sign.** Signpost Restoration reported in mid November that they had dismantled the post and it had been painted with 2 coats of primer base coat.
- **Street Light, Skirwith** The residents and Eden District Council have been notified that the Council will not support the application to have the light turned off in Church St.
- **The Fellrunner** has been notified that the Parish Council will continue to donate above the funding model level. They have replied to say how much they appreciate the Parish Council's continued support.
- **The Play Area Safety Inspection Report.** The Skirwith Play Committee has verbally confirmed that they are addressing the issues raised in the report.
- **Phone Box at Kirkland.** The cleanliness problem has been reported to BT who have logged it as a fault. They confirmed there are no plans to remove this box.
- **Trees in Kirkland.** Some of the cages which were causing damage to the trees have been removed and the remainder will be taken down in the coming weeks.
- **The missing road sign on the Pea** warning that the road was unsuitable for heavy vehicles has been reinstalled.
- **Fidelity Insurance Cover.** The Insurers have issued a new schedule taking effect from November 12th to cover the increase in fidelity insurance cover from £6K to £9K and the extension to cover councillors.

05/08 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow electors present an opportunity to raise issues of concern or interest. The following matters were raised:

- A bed had been fly tipped down the Back Lane, Councillor Smith offered to move it.
- A villager asked if squirrel ropes could be erected down the Pea with associated Red Squirrel signs. The Chairman asked the Clerk to investigate and report back

to the March meeting.

- A villager enquired about the the proposed reseeding of the Flodder and the tidying up of the parking area. The chairman advised her that it would be discussed at the next meeting.
- Concern was expressed about the untidy state of the Culgaith Recycling Centre and the Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall Committee, who receive the income from the site.
- A number of concerns were expressed about the potholes on the Skirwith Langwithby Road, empty salt bins between Blencarn and Kirkland, and road sweeping in Blencarn. The Chairman asked the clerk to report these to the Cumbria Highways Hotline.

There were no other matters and the Chairman reconvened the meeting.

06/08 PLANNING

Notices of Decision have been received from EDC as follows:

- 07/0757 Culgaith School Extension to side and rear of the building to accommodate resource teaching area and stores. (Granted)
- 07/0842 2 Station Rd. Culgaith Change of use of agricultural land to provide extended amenity space to existing dwelling. (Granted)
- 07/0863 Land at Peafoot, Culgaith Architectural reclamation salvage yard (Granted)
- 07/0292 Blackhill Lodge Stud, Blencarn. Erection of Poultry Housing and Ancillary Egg Packing Unit for Free Range Hens. (Acceptance of a modest amendment to the proposed scheme)

Planning applications considered by the Parish Council:

Resolved to ratify the decision to make no objections to the following planning application which has now by granted by Eden District Council .

07/0960 Plot 25 Lake Meadows, Culgaith. Amendment to house type (no objection)

07/08 FINANCE

Resolved that the Clerk should seek tenders for Grass cutting in 2008 based on the following requirements:

- Culgaith. 10 cuts of the Flodder, War Memorial and part of the Tarn between the fence and road
- Skirwith 10 cuts of the green area on the Village Green, plus other areas every other month
- Blencarn. 10 cuts of the village green
- Kirkland. 4 cuts of the village green between Post Box and Ranbeck
- The Tarn field would be subject to a separate contract after discussions on the future management plan were resolved.

08/08 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved to make the following payments

£407.29	Clerk's Salary	December/January
£ 34.69	Clerk's expenses	
£ 6	Hire of Kirkland & Blencarn Reading Rooms	
£ 46.49	Viking Direct	

09/08 FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank Reconciliation

Balance per bank statements as of 25 November 2007

Current Account (HSBC Community Account) 903.81

Deposit Account (National Savings) 9,299.70

10,203.51

**Total cash and investments 25 November
2007**

10,203.51

10/08 POLICE, COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT REPORTS

No reports were available.

11/08 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Eden District Council's Principal Housing Officer was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. The Clerk briefed the meeting on some of the outcomes from the consultation process on Eden District Council's draft Development Plan on Housing and the Rural Excellence Strategic Housing Programme, on "Developing more Affordable Housing for the Rural Parishes of Eden District Council".

5 potential sites had been identified in Culgaith village for affordable housing. The next step is for the District Council to set out criteria for assessing and prioritising the sites. Around Easter the Parish Council and local communities will be consulted with final decisions on which sites will go forward in the Autumn.

A prerequisite for affordable housing is that a need has to be identified in the parish. Eden District Council have agreed to work with the Parish Council to undertake a housing survey. **Resolved** to invite the Principal Housing Officer to the March meeting to brief the Parish Council on the process of conducting a housing survey.

12/08 VILLAGE GREENS

- The Land Registry have confirmed the Tarn, the Flodder, Skirwith Village Green and Kirkland Village Green are unregistered. **Resolved** that the Clerk should discuss the process of registering ownership of the greens with the Rural Greens Project.
- The Chairman and Clerk met with the Eden District Council's Arboriculturist to review the trees on the Skirwith Green. A management plan was agreed which will include removing or trimming some of the self seeded trees, removing the bracken by the stream and coppicing some of the larger trees. **Resolved** that the Clerk should seek formal notification from Eden District Council that the current "Notice of Decision" can be extended from January 2008. The trees on Church St close to power lines were reported to United Utilities on December 4th.
- The Advisory Committee met on November 26th and a copy of the notes from the meeting was circulated. All Culgaith villagers have been invited to a workshop on January 17th facilitated by the Rural Greens Project to review the options for a long term management plan for the Tarn. **Resolved** that the Parish Council pay for the hire of the village hall and refreshments for the evening.

13/08 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on two letters received from Cumbrian Highways about flooding on the C3208 on the bend southwest of Culgaith School and the extension of the 30 mph limit in Culgaith.

The Clerk briefed the meeting on the other routine correspondence.

14/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday March 3rd 2008 at Culgaith Victoria Institute.

