

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2014/15

I would like to thank the Councillors and Clerks for their help during 2014/15. It was a quiet year for council business although as stated below Footway Lighting is being revisited again.

*Jill Hay
Chair, Culgaith Parish Council*

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

In January 2015 Hellen Aitken, Development Officer (ACTion with Communities in Cumbria) gave a presentation to raise awareness of community emergency planning. How other parishes have developed their own emergency plans and the support available. The focus was on how the local communities can make themselves more resilient. These plans can be simple and there is even a template document that can be used.

Some tips around preparing for emergencies were shared;

- Electricity North West – priority service register <http://www.enwl.co.uk/our-services/electricity-priority-service-customer>
- Cumbria Community Messaging (CCM), managed by the Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA), offers People and Communities across Cumbria the means to receive information from Agencies in the County tailored to their particular preferences for content, priority and means of communication. <https://www.cumbriacommunitymessaging.co.uk/>
- Preparation of a grab bag and keeping a hard copy of your useful phone numbers and contacts.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

A total of £377.40 has been donated to support the Fellrunner service.

Also £150.15 was donated to Skirwith Playarea Committee.

AROUND THE COMMUNITIES

In Skirwith - The footbridge over Skirwith Beck was washed away during a heavy downpour one night in May 2013. Thanks to great effort from everyone involved this was replaced by the Countryside Management students from Newton Rigg College after the Parish Council received funding from Cumbria County Council's Local Members Fund.



The Skirwith garden waste skip scheme was reintroduced with the first skip being due in April 2015. Should residents find this is getting near capacity they are advised to get in touch with the Parish Council to arrange for an early collection, outside of this Eden District Council agreed to provide one skip each month with the last skip being delivered in October.

Skirwith Children's Play Committee had new play equipment for the village green installed at the end of July 2014.

Skirwith Tree Works were completed in March 2015, including the trimming of the copper beach and removal of dead / declining Elders along the beck. The resulting logs were left for local residents to utilise.

In Culgaith - There are plans to help reduce the speed of traffic past the school and the Parish Council asks that parents park considerably during drop off and collection points to improve the safety of our community's children.

Parking issues have been reported as a problem outside of junction to chestnut close as well as around the blind corner next to the monument. All residents are asked to be considerate of each other and the safety of other road users when parking their vehicles. Development around Loaning Head has been proposed and a site visit was carried out with Smithsgore who are acting upon behalf of the Church Commissioners for England. It is hoped this will result in this area being cleared and a small scale residential development being undertaken.

In Blencarn, the blocked public footpath is now in the process of being reopened. Some issues with dog fouling were reported and it is hoping this will quickly be resolved with the erection of signage and a flyer on dog control circulated by the Parish Council.

FINANCE

The Parish “precept” (The Parish Council’s share of the Council Tax) for 2014/15 was £7735.

The balance carried forward at the end of the year was £9129. The accounts are audited externally by BDO.

The following is a summary of the Parish Council’s accounts for the year to 31 March 2015 with the previous year’s figures given as a comparison.

Income	2013/14	2014/15
Carried forward	6,556	9129
Precept	7,994	7735
Grants	1,500	0
VAT recovered	532	495
Other income	0	294
Total receipts	16,582	17,653
Expenditure	2013/14	2014/15
Administration	3,687	3,827
Village Greens	2,084	3,021
Play areas	139	142
Donations	1,113	525
Wreath	17	17
VAT	495	522
Total payments	7,535	8,054

FOOTWAY LIGHTING

This is to be reviewed again by Eden District Council in June 2015.

PLANNING

During the year the Parish Council was consulted over 27 planning applications in Culgaith, in Skirwith and in Blencarn.

PARISH COUNCILLORS 2014/15

Culgaith

Jill Hay (Chair), 1 Chestnut Close
 Pam Jago, 17 Chestnut Close
 John Slann, Elm Tree House
 Pauline Toppin, Glenmara
 David Witney, Sunnyfield (Co-opted Sept 2014)

Skirwith

Laura Wilson, Skirwith Hall
 Joe Ravetz, Gin Cottage

Blencarn and Kirkland

Marjorie Helm, Rigg End, Blencarn
 Ken Philipson, Glebe Farm, Kirkland
 Caroline Richardson (Vice Chair), Smithy House, Blencarn

Parish Clerk

Thanks are extended to Christine Callery for her work as Clerk up to July 2014.

The appointed new Clerk from August 2014 is Kathryn Binney, Broomeedge, North Dykes, Great Salkeld, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 9ND
 Tel: 01768 870714
 Email: culgaithpc@yahoo.co.uk

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

6 July 2015 - Skirwith
 7 September 2015 - Blencarn
 2 November 2015 - Culgaith
 11 January 2016 - Skirwith
 7 March 2016 - Blencarn
 9 May 2016 (AGM) - Culgaith

18 April 2016 Annual Parish Meeting – Skirwith

The meetings start at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information on the work of the Parish Council (including copies of the Minutes) is available on the village website at www.culgaith.org.uk.