

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 6 July 2015 at 7.30 pm at Skirwith Village Hall

Present: Councillors:, Jill Hay, Pauline Toppin, Marjorie Helm, Laura Wilson, David Witney, Philip Hemingway.
Clerk: Kathryn Binney.

In Attendance: John Slann, Ken Phillipson, Skirwith Resident

55/15 Apologies

Pam Jago, Mary Robinson, Caroline Richardson

56/15 Declarations of interest

It was recorded that David Witney and Philip Hemingway made declarations of interest in relation to item 63/15, the grant funding applications.

57/15 Minutes

With the revision of the spelling of Hemingway, the Chairman signed as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held at Culgaith Victoria Institute, on Monday 11th May 2015, as a true record.

Also signed were the corrected minutes of the meeting held Monday March 2nd 2015 at Kirkland & Blencarn Recreation Room with one amendment to minute 28/15 – ‘Broats Farm’.

58/15 Parish Council Vacancies

John Slann was co-opted to fill the vacancy at Culgaith ward and Ken Phillipson was co-opted to fill the vacancy at Blencarn and Kirkland Ward.

The clerk had received no other interest in regards to these vacancies.

59/15 Progress Reports

To receive for information and/or determine action, as appropriate, on the items in the following reports;

Parish Clerk’s report: Electricity North West have been in contact regarding trimming trees in Skirwith. It was agreed this was necessary work and that we are happy for them to dress the problem Beech tree that has previously had its crown removed as best they can, hoping that it will look better the following year. If not the offer of new trees to be planted elsewhere will be taken up.

The Clerk attended the EDC planning meeting with Chair Caroline Richardson. Details of this are in the chairs report below.

Chairs report:

1/6/15 Site meeting with John Banks of Cumbria County Council Highways to discuss flooding on the road close to the entrance of Broats Farm on the Blencarn – Skirwith road. Also in attendance Thomas Hodgson (Broats), Caroline Richardson and Marjorie Helm (Culgaith PC).

Outcome: Thomas Hodgson agreed to the floodwater from the road being drained into an existing soak away in the adjacent field, providing that there are no public liability implications for Broats. This was agreed with CCC Highways. Work will take place in Autumn 2015.

18/6/15 Site meeting with Chris Slater of Eden District Council to discuss footway lighting in Culgaith, Skirwith and Blencarn. Also in attendance Caroline Richardson, Jill Hay, David Witney and Philip Hemingway (Culgaith PC).

Chris Slater explained that all lights on Electricity Northwest poles will be removed in due course. EDC will replace some of these by column lights. Each of the lights in Culgaith, Skirwith and Blencarn was visited and assessed according to the EDC criteria. Chris Slater’s report is available for discussion at the next PC meeting.

23/6/15 EALC meeting. Presentations by Highways England and The East Fellside

Landscape Partnership. Information about the new audit regime for Parish Councils indicated that current arrangements can remain in place until the end of the 16/17 financial year and that the new regime is likely to apply only to councils with a turnover exceeding £25000.

24/6/15 EDC Planning Meeting (Morland). An interesting presentation by EDC Planning Department about the planning process, including how and when parish councils can voice concerns and objections. Further meetings are to be held in the Autumn and may be of interest to other councillors.

60/15 Public Participation / Open session

Resident of Skirwith raised a problem with the grating next to the phone box; it has not been cleared. Jill Hay took the action to discover if highways or UU responsibility and to try to get this rectified.

A further cluster of diseased elders have been identified in Skirwith now that the leaves are present. It was agreed to ask the previous service provider to finish this job and ask about Ash die back as a number of trees are presenting symptoms.

The green waste skip was discussed and again communicated the dates are not made public knowledge but it is expected for the last skip to be removed sometime in October.

61/15 County and District Councillors reports

Sheila Orchard mentioned the EDC Planning Meetings and how useful they are. It is important that observations contain material considerations. Also reported were the following points;

- As we have a new council now and there are plenty of training opportunities coming up.
- The Eden Local Plan consultation will be coming out and it is important that we provide our views. The previous one is 9 years old.
- The feelings around the green waste skips are known and are matched in other communities that receive this type of service. We are not on our own.

62/15 Planning

No new planning applications requiring consultation by the Parish Council have been received.

63/15 Finance

- To approve payments detailed in the schedule
 - Information commissioner £35.00
 - Viking Direct £193.02
 - Clerks expenses £46.80
 - Skirwith Village Hall £10.00
 - Mark Binney – Grass cutting £668.01
- To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement
 - Total cash and investments at 30 June 2015 - £9579.48
- To consider the Budget Comparison Report
 - Income anticipated to be better than budget – 8543.05 as good VAT return
 - Clerks salary as expected
 - Office expenses are under budget but we have stocked up on ink and paper as detailed above with Viking
 - The budgeted £1300 for grants is to be decided below and we have carried forward a sum from last year.
- Compliance with Audit process for 2014/15
 - Evidence for one point has been requested as the income was £62 pounds in our favour against the records. This was made clear at the time that this was due to the Savings Interest statement not being available. Once this is supplied this will complete the audit. All other points were satisfactory.
- To consider applications from the community, for grant support
 - Skirwith Play area – Approved £250
 - All Saint Church, Culgaith – Approved £250
 - Skirwith Village Hall – Approved £250
 - Culgaith Guides Switzerland trip – Rejected as outside section 137 of the local

government Act 1972.

64/15 Footpath Lighting

The reports from Chris Slater, Footway Lighting Project Officer, Eden District Council, following his visits on 18.6.15, were circulated and discussed. Culgaith and Blencarn lighting proposals were agreed. (Confirmation on the underground electric supplies is to be made by EDC). Skirwith; Some clarity is needed around the ownership of land (described as Light 7) and concern was raised around the removal of light 13 – as it was felt this compromised the safety at the town head.

65/15 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications

Available for viewing were the following correspondences:
Society of Local Council Clerks – news letter
A number of suppliers catalogues / flyers
LCR magazine – available in future from CALC at a price (agreed not to take up at this time)
Bathurst Estates – Residential Development Project, NA
ACT gazette issue 21
Clerks and councils direct
Langwathby Neighbourhood Plan – deadline for comments 10 August 2015

66/15 Data Protection

Update from the Clerk that compliance has now been fulfilled and we are registered with the Information Commissioners Office. Cheque required, see 63/15.

67/15 Pensions

Update from the Clerk; We have a requirement to offer a work placed pension for all employees. Even if they do not wish to take part we will be required by law to have a policy and scheme in place. Initial deadlines have been met about the point of contact and the rollout and time bound actions will need completing as necessary to ensure we have this in place.

68/15 Training

Dates to be circulated ASAP on the next EDC planning meetings.
New Councillor training at Melmerby is suggested a positive to all who can attend (7 councillors booked).
It was proposed that a calendar of dates be scheduled for meetings and training events. Should councillors hear about opportunities that have not been circulated please forward details of the event to the Clerk. This is to allow others to take up opportunities to develop greater understanding and resilience through the council. Bookings and attendance at these events should be recorded by the Clerk. This will create better resilience in the team as well as hopefully managing to collectively attend more events.

69/15 Councillor Matters

Disappointment was noted around the BT phone box proposal to house the defibrillators. Action is to be taken by the Clerk to make enquires around the pricing and other opportunities in which we could get achieve getting these into our communities. The road subsidence on the Skirwith road is still poor. Jill Hay is to progress this with highways.

70/15 Date of next meeting

To note that the next Parish Council meeting is on:
7 Sept 2015, Kirkland & Blencarn Recreation Room at 1930hrs.