

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at Culgaith Victoria Institute, on Monday 2 November 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Caroline Richardson (Chair), Pauline Toppin, Marjorie Helm, Laura Wilson, David Witney, Philip Hemingway, Ken Phillipson, Pam Jago and John Slann.
Clerk: Kathryn Binney.

Also present Mark Binney, Grasscutting Contractor.

84/15 Apologies

Councillors: Jill Hay, Sheila Orchard

85/15 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were heard.

86/15 Minutes

To authorise the Chairman to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 7 September 2015 at 7.30 pm at Kirkland & Blencarn Recreation Room, as a true record.

87/15 Progress Reports

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

Parish Clerk's report – Community Defibrillators; The average costings for a community defibrillator is £2500. This includes which will supply the AED defibrillator and a vandal proof box. There is an ongoing commitment for maintenance and possible new pads. It is advised to allow £100 per year. An ongoing commitment to this must be appreciated.

Funding is readily available including;

Cumbria community foundation (CN group) up to £1000

Community Heartbeat – up to £500

British Heart Foundation - Various

Lauren Watson, chain of survival coordinator for the North West Ambulance Service is also exploring the use of the BT phone boxes again. Which could be explored in conjunction with the above options.

Councillors discussed these options and it is hoped that the recipient communities will engage with this project. Hopefully inspired by the success of Culgaith. The Parish Council would support but not lead in this.

Printer costings; We agreed to look into pricing of printers and ink for a more efficient way of working. It is hoped a successful application to the Transparency Fund may fund a printer with duplex capabilities to reduce costings and allow multiple page scanning. Cllr Caroline Richardson has also done some research into costings. If not successful with the funding a new printer would just be around £220 to £260. We currently have a good stock of ink so there is no urgency.

Chairs report - Since the last meeting the chairman has attended the following meetings:

1. Grass cutting meeting in Skirwith. Met with Philip Hemingway and Mark Binney to discuss the specification for the grass cutting contract.
2. 'CALC Finance for Local Councils Course' with Kathryn Binney.
3. 'CALC New and Aspiring Chairman Course'.
4. Tripartite Meeting with Jill Hay. Presentations from EDC Planning (Eden

Local Plan and Neighbourhood Planning), Cumbria Highways and Connecting Cumbria. The setting up of a Community Advisory Group, which will look into devolving of discretionary services to parish councils by EDC.

Confirmation of the completion to the work to improve the drainage on the road at Broats farm by Cumbria Highways was heard.

88/15 *Public Participation / Open session (15 mins allowed)

No public present.

89/15 County and District Councillors reports

No reports given.

90/15 Planning

One planning application received; 15/0983 - Site At Pea Foot Adj To River Bend Culgaith Penrith CA10 1QE

- Planning Services are to be contacted to allow time for due consideration by all Culgaith councillors.

91/15 Finance

A bank reconciliation statement was received and noted. Total cash and investments as of 18.10.15 £13,457.88

A cheque was released before the savings cleared causing the current account to go over drawn. Full responsibility was admitted and deeply regretted by the Clerk. As recompense for the monetary damage the Clerk has volunteered the full reimbursement of the £110.53 damages.

Current Account transactions;

- Unpresented cheques

Ousby pc	105.00
Geoff Anderson	80.24
Playsafe	170.40
Culgaith All Saint church	254.00
Memo	71.00
Royal British Legion	17.00

- Due now - schedule of payments

Chris Wakefield	50.00
Kirkland and Blencarn	210.00
RR grant	
HMRC Oct S/O	42.80
K Binney Oct S/O	171.85

- Further approved on 2.11.15

Fellrunner grant	377.40
CALC	88.50
BDO	72.00
Mark Binney	401.98
HMRC Sept cheque	42.80
K Binney Sept cheque	61.32
(171.85 -£110.53)	
K Binney Expenses	58.07

It was agreed that a further £2000 from the savings account should be drawn down.

The Budget Comparison Report was presented and discussed. The following

points were agreed in setting the 2016/17 budget;

1. Increasing the precept to £8700
2. Clerk's salary will be increased to SCP 19 (2014-2016 NALC Nat Salary Award) on 1 April 2016. (£9.551 = £2674.28 per year). (Should CiLCA be achieved this could be SCP 20, £9.900 - £2772)
3. Administration costs have been slightly increased to take into account a potential rise in insurance premiums / subscriptions and data protection.
4. Office Expenses remain at the same levels.
5. Training has increased respectively to this year and to allow consideration for CiLCA enrolment.
6. Village Green maintenance to remain the same – It was agreed more funding may be required for things such as the tree work we completed this year or weed management on the embankments.
7. Donations and grants have been kept at the same level.
8. Contingency remains at £1,000.
9. VAT is a conservative figure & assumes £350

• **Account comparisons**

A review of alternative savings accounts was made – we currently get 2.7% and it was agreed it is in our best interest to keep our savings where they are for now.

92/15 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications

In addition to emails circulated to all Councillors and other correspondence that relates to agenda items, the Parish Council received the following;

- Note from Memo regarding pricing and additional money due for larger inclusions. Clerk to resolve.
- Receipt from British Legion.
- Eden Local Plan.
- CALC Annual Report.
- Request to complete Town and Village Green Survey.
- The Parish Council also received numerous brochures and flyers.

93/15 Training

Completed activities undertaken;

1. 'CALC Finance for Local Councils Course' Caroline Richardson and Kathryn Binney.
2. 'CALC New and Aspiring Chairman Course' Caroline Richardson

Pending dates;

1. The Good Councillor Course - 10th November at Cockermouth Town Hall between 6pm and 8pm
2. CALC AGM 14.11.15
3. Pensions Enrolment Course - 17th December (Kathryn Binney attending)

94/15 *Councillor Matters

A letter to the Rt Hon Mike Pennington MP was drafted and approved by the Councillors in support of the opposition to the cuts facing Cumbria Police.

It was also felt a letter of support against the Fire Station closures should be sent. Our parish being potentially effected by Lazonby closure and the limited remaining resources it would leave.

95/15 Footpath Lighting

Councillors reviewed the reports from Chris Slater. Clarification is to be sought on the following issues;

1. Blencarn lights 3+4. It is proposed to move both these lights 4 to 5 metres away from the wall and towards the footway. The village green in Blencarn is privately

owned – what authorisation has been sought.

2. Skirwith lights 4+6. It is proposed to place new lights on the village green (this is owned by the Parish Council). At the site meeting you mentioned that siting lights on the village green may be a problem. Has this now been resolved?

3. Skirwith light 7. It is proposed to site the new light on the very narrow verge between the fence and the road. The road itself is narrow and there was some concern that this light may be damaged by passing traffic, particularly oil tankers. It was thought that it would be better to site the light on the village green on the same side of the fence as the present light.

4. Skirwith light 13 (Guilders Cottage). The opinion of the meeting was that there should be a light at this location (on a bend at the entrance to the village). If the lights in Blencarn are to be moved 4/5 metres from the original location, is it possible to find a suitable site for this light within a 5m radius of its present location. Councillors felt particularly strongly against the removal of this light due to safety concerns for the community.

96/15

Grass cutting

A proposal was made to change the specification of the cut within Skirwith – working within the existing budget. The proposal was to stop cutting the embankment patches and to cut the path ways through the embankments 6 times annually instead of 3. This is because the regrowth between the current 3 cuts was excessive and made it unpassable to walkers. Councillor Philip Hemingway had spoken with a number of residents and those who he had spoken to had been in favour of the change. The purpose and originating theory behind the patches was unclear. The councillors agreed on this proposal.

One councillor raised concern about the wilderness and spread of hog weed. It was agreed to look into this in the spring / or when the extent of this could be assessed. Possibly requiring a single treatment or cut for this purpose.

It was also noted if residents had better access via the pathways they might be inspired to do more themselves.

The list of previous people who have been provided quotes will be circulated and further interest will be invited via the notice boards, website, the Herald update and memo. The updated specifications will be circulated.

Allegation of unauthorised use of weed killer on the Tarn

It has been drawn to the attention of the Parish Council that someone has been using weed killer on the Tarn. This is prohibited and causes a range of safety implications to the users of the Tarn, including children and animals.

As this is just an allegation there is little that can be done unless we have specifics around who, when and where exactly, unless further information becomes available. The Parish Council warns against doing this and should this occur again it could lead to legal proceedings.

97/15

Date of next meeting

**To note that the next Parish Council meeting is on:
11 Jan 2016 Skirwith Village Hall at 1930hrs.**