

# CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

"2015/16 will be remembered for the floods that devastated the homes and businesses of so many across Cumbria and we offer our best wishes to all that were affected. The Parish Council has had another busy year and as Chair I would like to thank the Councillors and the Clerk for their help and support throughout the year."

*Caroline Richardson*  
Chair, Culgaith Parish Council

## AROUND THE COMMUNITIES

**In Culgaith** – The village was affected by the 2016 flooding and we are still witnessing a slow return to normality at the Tarn which came close to flooding neighbouring properties. We continue to work with Cumbria County Council's Highways team to help keep gullies clear and improve drainage.

Thanks are extended to John Slann who resigned as a Culgaith Councillor in January 2016 after 9 years supporting the Parish Council. Anyone interested in vacancy at Culgaith within the Parish Council should contact the Clerk.

In 2015 /16 the Parish Council considered a total of 3 planning applications for Culgaith.



**In Skirwith** – In July 2015 Electricity North West were 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.



Work was carried out by Highways to prevent the flooding on the road near Broats Farm with kind permission from Thomas Hodgson.

A number of diseased elders were removed along the Skirwith embankments and the logs were left for the community to utilise. The grass cutting specifications for 2016 were reviewed and it was determined to cut the embankment paths more regularly for ease of access and not to cut the patches on the steep sides. This will be possible without raising the anticipated costs.

In 2015 /16 the Parish Council considered a total of 4 planning applications for Skirwith.



**In Kirkland and Blencarn** – Blencarn community have a project ongoing to develop a play area for the children. This is in line

with the Community Led Plan and has the support of the Parish Council. The once blocked footpath in Blencarn has been made accessible.

In 2015 /16 the Parish Council considered a total of 3 planning applications for Kirkland and Blencarn.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS

In May 2015 the Local Elections were held. Eight Councillors were elected and the Parish remained quorate. Two previous Councillors were reappointed through co-option post election.

## FOOTWAY LIGHTING

Site visits were carried out with Eden District Council and Councillors from the Parishes. Electricity Northwest poles will be removed in due course and Eden District Council will replace, in accordance to their criteria, some of the footway lights with column lights.

## SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

In 2015/16 the Parish Council supported the following organisations with grant assistance;

Memo mid-Eden Newsletter	£65
Fellrunner	£377.40
Skirwith Village Hall	£250
Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room	£200
Culgaith All Saints Church	£254
Skirwith Childrens Play Committee	£250

## LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Eden District Planning Workshops were attended by a number of Councillors and the Parish Clerk.

The Chair and the Clerk attended Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) training on Finance for Local Councils.

CALC New and Aspiring Chairman Course was attended by the Chair.

CALC Good Councillor Training was completed post elections by most of the Councillors, at Melmerby in conjunction with Ousby Parish Council.

The Clerk is undertaking Certificate in Local Council Administration.



## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

Hellen Aitken, Development Officer (ACTION with Communities in Cumbria) Attended the Annual Parish meeting on 18 April 2016 and gave a presentation to raise awareness of community emergency planning and explained 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.

It is hoped that community members will get involved and a Community Emergency Plan can be drawn up for our Parish. Please get in touch with the Parish Clerk if you would like to assist.



## FINANCE

The Parish "precept" (The Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) for 2015/16 was £7735.

The balance carried forward at the end of the year was £9568.55.

The following is a summary of the Parish Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2016 with the previous year's figures given as a comparison.

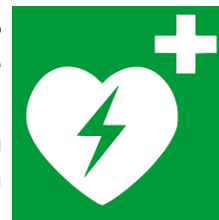
Successful Transparency Fund grant of £219 for a new printer and £80.24 to pay for our website annual costs.

Income	2014/15	2015/16
Carried forward	9129	9707
Precept	7735	7735
Grants	0	299
VAT recovered	495	599
Other income	294	415
Total receipts	8534	9049

Expenditure	2014/15	2015/16
Administration	3,827	4674
Village Greens	3,021	2660
Play areas	142	142
Donations	525	1396
Wreath	17	17
VAT	599	88
Elections	0	210
Total payments	8,054	9187

## COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS

The community of Culgaith have successfully funded and installed a defibrillator outside Culgaith Victoria Institute and Blencarn and Kirkland are in the process of getting defibrillators installed. The Parish Council would like to commend them on these achievements. Should Skirwith wish to do similar they would have the support of the Parish Council.



### PARISH COUNCILLORS 2015/16

#### Culgaith

Jill Hay (Vice Chair), 1 Chestnut Close  
Pam Jago, 17 Chestnut Close  
Pauline Toppin, Glenmara  
David Witney, Sunnyfield  
1 x Vacancy

#### Skirwith

Laura Wilson, Skirwith Hall  
Philip Hemingway, Old School House

#### Blencarn and Kirkland

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

#### Parish Clerk

Kathryn Binney, Broomedge, North Dykes,  
Great Salkeld, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 9ND  
Tel: 01768 870714  
Email: [culgaithpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:culgaithpc@yahoo.co.uk)

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](http://www.culgaith.org.uk).

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

4 July 2016 - Skirwith  
5 September 2016 - Blencarn  
7 November 2016 - Culgaith  
9 January 2017 - Skirwith  
6 March 2017 - Blencarn  
24 April 2017 Annual Parish Meeting - Blencarn  
8 May 2017 (AGM) - Culgaith

