

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: John Fleming
Telephone 07768 468 634
E-mail: culgaithpc@yahoo.co.uk

Fell View
Blencarn, Penrith
Cumbria, CA10 1TX

Minute of the 'Virtual' Meeting Held on Monday 2nd November 2020 commencing at 7.30pm

Unapproved.

68/20 Present

Cllrs: Caroline Richardson (Chair), Laura Wilson, Sue Smith, Andrew Clay, David Witney, Ken Philipson, Lesley Benton, Pam Jago and Pauline Toppin (Vice Chair)
County Cllr Claire Driver. Locum District Councillor Doug Banks and John Fleming (Parish Clerk)

69/20 Apologies

Cllr J Watson

70/20 Tribute to the late District Councillor, Rob Orchard.

The Chair, sadly delivered a warm tribute to Rob Orchard, the Council's District Councillor, who had recently passed away, after bravely struggling with ill health. Rob had served the Council very conscientiously and diligently, always having the best interests of Parishioners at heart. His contributions to meetings in the future will be sadly missed.

71/20 Locum District Councillor – Cllr Doug Banks

The Chair welcomed Cllr Doug Banks to the meeting and thanked him for kindly agreeing to stand-in as the Parish's District Councillor, until an election can take place, hopefully, in 2021.

72/20 Minutes

The Chair was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th September 2020, as a true record.
Proposed by Cllr P Toppin. Seconded by Cllr D Witney

73/20 Declaration of Interests

To receive any declarations of interest, by members of the Council, in respect of items on this agenda. There were none.

74/20 Public Participation

There was none.

75/20 District Councillors Report

Cllr D Banks reported that the move towards a Unitary Authority was dominating District Council business. There were many schemes being considered, with no clear decision having been made on what was the best way forward. There were concerns that this course of action would be detrimental to 'Localism'. There was also a strong feeling that, being in the depths of a pandemic, was not the time to be spending a lot of time and effort considering such a complex, important and far reaching administrative restructure.

Cllr D Banks also drew attention to Eden District Council's 'Green Homes Grant Scheme'.

76/20 County Council Report

A report was presented to the meeting; this being summarised in the monthly report available on www.culgaith.org.uk - (control/click) <https://youtu.be/EQ7uP2AfaOk>

77/20 Finance (Incl.Vat)**77.1 The Following Balances were Noted as at:-****28/11/2020**

	£
HSBC Account	2689.20
Penrith Building Society	19041.20
NSI Account	23.83
Vat to be claimed	<u>33.50</u>
Total Cash	<u>21797.73</u>

The interim set of accounts, as at 28/11/2020, were unanimously approved.
Proposed by Cllr S Smith
Seconded by Cllr P Toppin

77.2 The Following Accounts were Ratified.

7.2.1 J Fleming Fee September and October 2020.	As per contract
7.2.2 J Fleming Office Provision September and October 2020	30.00
7.2.3 Zoom Fee July/Aug/Sep/ Oct/Nov @ £14.39/m	71.95
7.2.4 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting	531.20

77.3 The Following Account was Approved for Payment

J Fleming Expenses, 7 th September – 2 nd November 2020	4.75
Viking Direct 5 Reams of paper	20.22

Items 77.2 and 77.3 were unanimously approved.
Proposed by Cllr D Witney, Seconded by Cllr A Clay

77.4 To Report the Following Receipt

Langwathby PC Zoom Fee Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov. 50%	24.00
--	-------

77.5 To Report the Following Transfer

Penrith Building Society to Current Account	3000.00
---	---------

77.6 To Agree a Precept and Budget for 2020/2021

A budget for 2021-2022 was unanimously approved.
Proposed by Cllr S Smith
Seconded by Cllrs A Clay
A copy being on file.

77.7 Precept

It was unanimously agreed to keep the Precept as last year, at £12,000
Proposed by Cllr C Richardson
Seconded by Cllrs K Philipson.

78/20 Planning Applications

20/0332 – Rose Cottage, Blencarn, Penrith – Change of use of existing barn to dwelling with associated operations (previously ‘Change of use of part of barn to form 1no. two storey dwelling’) Change of use of part of barn to form one single storey dwelling – Further revised set of plans **Supported**

20/0685 – Blackhill Lodge Stud, Blencarn, Penrith - Removal of condition 3 (occupancy restriction), attached to approval 11/0945 **Supported**

20/0683 – Blackhill Lodge Stud, Blencarn, Penrith - Change of use of buildings and land from agriculture to equestrian (retrospective) **Supported**

20/0756 – Hazel Dene, Culgaith - Change of use for a former tearoom/shop to residential dwelling. **Supported** with a comment that concern had been raised over the loss employment opportunities and as a venue, for community gathering.

20/0685 – Blackhill Lodge Stud, Blencarn, Penrith - Variation of condition 2, 3, 4 and 6 (occupancy restriction, vehicle parking and turning, and chalet retention and use) of planning permission 11/0945

Decision: - Following discussion, the Council supported the proposal detailed above on condition that the occupancy clause is changed from ‘limited to a person involved in the active day to day management, supervision and operation of the livestock/poultry unit to ‘Commercial Equine’ for both the dwelling and the chalet.

79/20 Highways and Land Matters

79.1 Safety Tree Pruning – Skirwith Work To be done on the 25th November

79.2 Cross Hows Bridge, Culgaith/Skirwith road – Work completed

79.3 Kirkland Boundary Stones – Agreed to set stone on a paving slab and to mark with a tall pole to identify its location when buried in a snow drift

79.4 Potholes - Skirwith – Potholes opposite Spring Cottage and the recycling center. In hand with Highways.

79.5 Community Orchard - Fruit trees project – Skirwith Village Green.

79.5.1 Proposal

A Parishioner proposed that a ‘Community Orchard’ be established on Skirwith village green, comprising of approximately 5 groups of 5 fruit trees on the sloping sides of the village green. This being an area currently overgrown and unusable. The trees would be a mix of native species of apple, pear, plum, damson and cherry. The spring blossom would greatly enhance the visual appearance of the area and the subsequent fruit being of value to the local community.

A local resident being an arborist, had volunteered to advise on the scheme, plant the trees and source the tree shelters + stakes at no cost. Trees being obtained at a discount price; as a consequence, the orchard establishment costs can be kept to a minimum.

The estimated cost of purchasing the trees being approximately £250 which the scheme proposer was hoping the Parish Council could finance, as a pump priming gesture, to get the proposal off the ground.

To date eleven Skirwith residents have welcomed and supported the scheme.

79.5.2 Issues Raised Regarding the Project.

Following an in-depth debate, the following points were raised: -

- **Avoiding Utilities**
Before finalizing the planting position of the trees, maps identifying the location of above and below ground utility services be obtained from United Utilities, Electricity NW and Openreach, so such services be avoided.
- **Skirwith Conservation Area.** In order to confirm that the proposed planting conforms with the rules governing the Conservation area, Eden District Council be approach for their comments on the scheme.
- **Insurance Cover**
The Clerk confirmed that the Council's Employers Liability Insurance would cover any volunteers working on behalf of Culgaith Parish Council on the village green planting, maintain and managing the fruit trees, should the Council be proven to have been negligent.
- **Skirwith Community Fruit Tree Committee.**
It was suggested that the project be organised and managed by a 'Skirwith Community Fruit Tree Committee', comprising of approximately 5 Skirwith residents. This committee being responsible for the initial establishment and long-term, day to day management of the project.
- **Way Forward**
It was agreed that a detailed planting plan, a final costing and administrative arrangements, be brought to the January 4th meeting, for final approval by Councillors.
- **Approval**
The Council unanimously agreed to support the scheme in principle.
Proposed by Cllr C Richardson
Seconded by Cllr A Clay.

79.6 30 mph Signs – Station Road Culgaith. – Repositioning

Following completion of the 'Primrose Hill' housing development, it was proposed that a request be made to the Highways Department for the 30mph speed restriction sign be repositioned at the top of the hill on Station Road, before the corner.

Attention was also drawn to the future housing development, planned on the Hazel Dene site and whether Highways needed to also consider this development before finally deciding the most appropriate location for the sign, on this approach to the village.

79.7 B4RN Hyper Speed Broadband Provision – Attention was drawn to the meeting of the potential provision of a Hyper Speed broadband to the Parish by a Community Benefit Society called B4RN.

The B4RN philosophy being that the whole parish is served – including the most remote and difficult to reach, rural homes and businesses, by full fibre to your premises.

Further information is available from www.b4rn.org.uk

80/20 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications.

The following items of correspondence were received since the last meeting.

80.1 Great North Air Ambulance and N W Ambulance Service - How To Save Life – Charitable donation requests.

It was confirmed that it was not Parish Council policy to support a charity donation request, using public money, no matter how worthy the cause. To do so would open the door to endless future, equally worthy, requests.

80.2 “Changes to the Current Planning System” - NALC response to the Government’s policy consultation

80.3 Public Space Protection Orders - Dog Control – Revision reported.

80.4 ‘Dark Sky’s Event’ – 30/9/20 Papers Circulated

80.5 Covid Related – E Mails 7 forwarded to Councillors since the last meeting

80.6 CALC EALC AGM Minutes

80.7 CALC Code of Conduct Training – 25/11/20.

80.8 CCC Autumn Half Term Activity and Support Directories

80.9 CALC – Standards In Public Life – Consultation –

80.10 Eden’s Green Homes Grant

For more information visit Eden District Council’s Green Homes Grant webpage at www.eden.gov.uk/green-homes-grant/

80.11 Domestic Boundary Dispute. – This had been raised by a parishioner, relating to a property in the Parish, to which the Council had responded, providing clarification on the issues raised.

80.12 CALC Training Circulated

80.13 Cumbria Arts and Culture Network Newsletter.

80.14 Information Pack for Community Leaders.

80.15 Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Nature Recovery Lunchtime Talks

80.16 Local Government Reform Cumbria Consultation – Have Your Say

81/20 Councillor Matters An opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

81.1 Vehicle Speeding. Concern was raised over vehicles speeding, on entry to the village from Langwathby. Councillors were reminded that this issue had been raised previously with the traffic department of Highways and the Community Police Officer and the matter was on file with them both, to take whatever action they considered appropriate. It was reported that a police speed camera van had been present, on more than one occasion, in the village recently.

81.2 Digital Speed Awareness Device

A Councillor asked whether the Council should consider the installation of a digital speed awareness device on the approach to the village. The Clerk clarified that it was his understanding that should a Parish Council decide to install such a device they would have bear the full purchase and installation cost, estimated at approximately £2000 to £2500.

Another Councillor did question the effectiveness of such signs.

81.3 Culgaith Footway Darkness. – It was asked if an additional footway light could be considered to cover an area of darkness in the center of Culgaith. The Council were reminded that at the time of the adoption of the 25 agreed ‘Accepted’ Footway lights, in the Parish, from EDC, the Council’s confirmed its policy not to consider the installation of any extra lights over and above those adopted.at this time.

81.4 Website Costs – This annual cost was clarified.

/..

82/20 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

Monday 4th January 2021 – In the current Covid – 19 circumstances it is expected that this will again be held as a ‘Virtual’ meeting.

Monday 1st March 2021 – Blencarn

Monday 10th May 2021– Culgaith

Annual Parish Meeting/AGM/May meeting

This meeting will be followed by the AGM and May Council Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.27pm with the Chair thanking Councillors for their ‘virtual’ attendance.

Signed by Chair _____

Date _____