

# CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

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Fell View  
Blencarn, Penrith  
Cumbria, CA10 1TX

## Minute of the 'Virtual' Meeting Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 commencing at 7.30pm

### 1/21 Present

Cllrs: Caroline Richardson (Chair), Sue Smith, David Witney, Ken Philipson, Lesley Benton, Pam Jago, John Watson, Pauline Toppin (Vice Chair) and parishioner Susie Ramsden.

County Councillor, Claire Driver. Locum District Councillor, Doug Banks and John Fleming (Parish Clerk)

### 2/21 Apologies

Cllrs Andrew Clay and Laura Wilson.

### 3/21 Minutes

The Chair was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020, as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr D Witney. Seconded by Cllr S Smith

### 4/21 Declaration of Interests

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

### 5/21 Public Participation

Susie Ramsden gave an update on the Skirwith Community Orchard Project.

- a. There have been donations totalling £480 from roughly 30 households
- b. Two volunteers were helping with the committee
- c. Roughly another 15 volunteers, from the village, have offered to help clear the ground for the planters and to help with the pruning, in the future, when needed.
- d. Arborist Sandy Kerridge, from the village has offered to undertake the planting with two other volunteers.
- e. Former village resident and Head Gardener at Acorn Bank, Chris Braithwaite, is continuing to advise on planting and management of the scheme.
- f. Alan Kitchen (village joiner) is making wooden plaques for labels and hopefully another village resident is going to etch them with pyrography.

### 6/21 Community Orchard - Fruit trees project – Skirwith Village Green.

**6.1 Approval** - The Council had previously unanimously agreed to support the scheme, in principle, at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**6.2 Final Planting Scheme.** A map showing the final plant location of the trees was presented to the meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

Proposed by Cllr Ken Philipson

Seconded by Cllr Pam Jago.

A copy is on file.

#### 6.3 Financing of the Scheme

**6.3.1** It was confirmed that all costs associated with the establishment of the scheme were covered by the monies raised by the 'Skirwith Community Fruit Tree Committee'. A financial grant from the Parish Council was not required.

**6.3.2 Future Grant Support** – Should the project require further funding, the Chair invited the ‘Skirwith Community Fruit Tree Committee’ to apply for grant support from the Council; any such request would be considered by Councillors at a July meeting.

**6.4 The Responsibilities of the Skirwith Community Orchard Committee.** A document stating the responsibilities of the ‘Skirwith Community Fruit Tree Committee’ was tabled. This was unanimously approved.

Proposed by Cllr Sue Smith and Seconded by Cllr Pauline Toppin  
A copy is on file

**6.5 Grateful Appreciation** – The Chair thanked Susie Ramsden for initiating and driving this project forward and asked that the Councils thanks were forwarded to all those assisting with the initiative. Susie Ramsden left the meeting.

**7/21 District Councillors Report**

Cllr D Banks stated that there was little to report from Eden District Council. Staff were continuing to undertake Council business by working from home; this was not easy. One key issue being debated was the planned reintroduction of parking charges in Penrith, which had been waived due to the pandemic. He felt that the time was not right for this reintroduction and was arguing strongly against it.

**8/21 County Council Report**

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

**9/21 Finance (Incl.Vat)**

**9.1 The Following Balances were Noted as at:-**

**19/12/2020**

	<b>£</b>
HSBC Account	1403.96
Penrith Building Society	19041.20
NSI Account	23.83
Vat to be claimed	<u>58.58</u>
Total Cash	<u>20527.57</u>

The interim set of accounts, as at 19/12/2020, were unanimously approved.  
Proposed by Cllr David Witney  
Seconded by Cllr Caroline Richardson

**9.2 The Following Accounts were Ratified.**

9.2.1 J Fleming Fee November/December 2020.	As per contract
9.2.2 J Fleming Office Provision November/December 2020	30.00
9.2.3 Zoom Fee December @ £14.39/m	14.39
9.2.4 David Willetts Tree Pruning Skirwith – By Recycling	430.00
9.2.5 David Willetts Tree Pruning Skirwith – Rowen	305.00
9.2.6 Arrigons Penrith Xmas Voucher – Website provider	50.00
9.2.7 CALC Councillor Training	40.00
9.2.8 Web Hosting until 5/12/2021 'gca-webdesign'	30.00
9.2.9 Royal British Legion – Remembrance Wreath	20.00
9.2.10 Cartridge People – Printer Toner	101.39

- 9.3 The Following Accounts Were Approved for Payment**
- |              |   |         |
|--------------|---|---------|
| <b>9.3.1</b> | Clerks Expenses, 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020 – 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 | 3.60    |
| <b>9.3.2</b> | EDC Lighting Maintenance and Electricity Costs                                | 1788.00 |

9.2 and 9.3 were unanimously approved.  
Proposed by Cllr Pam Jago and Seconded by Cllr John Watson.

- 9.4 To Report the Following Receipt**
- |                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Electricity North West - Wayleave | 22.48 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|

**10/21 Planning Applications**

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 20/0829 – Land adjacent to Beck Mill. Langwathby, Penrith - Change of use of agricultural land to site 3No. holiday units                          | Qualified Support |
| 20/0821 – Mallard House Culgaith - Variation of Condition 2 (Plans Compliance) to increase garage floor space/storage attached to approval 18/0820 | Supported         |
| 20/0842 – Removal of Ash Tree close to a borehole. – Skirwith, Penrith   | Supported         |
| 20/0360 – High Croft, Culgaith – Erection of one dwelling  | Supported         |

**11.21 Highways and Land Matters**

- 11.1 Safety Tree Pruning – Skirwith - Work completed**

- 11.2 30 mph Signs – Station Road Culgaith. – Repositioning** - A map was tabled indicating the Highways Department intention to reposition the 30mph sign approximately halfway between the corner, at the top of the hill, on Station Road and the Level Crossing.

**Action:** - Unanimously agreed to request that the sign be positioned, the other side of the Level Crossing, before the entrance to the new Hazel Dene housing development and that 'Repeater' signs be installed on the Station road hill.

- 11.3 Potholes - Skirwith** – Reported that the potholes opposite Spring Cottage and the recycling Center was still in hand with Highway

- 11.4 Digital Speed Awareness Device** – Approach to Culgaith from Langwathby
- 11.4.1** It was reported that Highways will only agree locations where there is a recorded speeding issue, this is to ensure that speed indication devices are deployed where they are most effective and will have maximum impact. For that reason, they would need to take any request through the 'CRASH Group'. If the Parish Council wished to proceed it would need to identify the proposed location and this would be put to the next CRASH group meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**11.4.2** Cumbria County Council would not be able to contribute to the cost and if it is placed on the highway verge, the Parish Council would need to apply for a licence, details being available on the CCC website

<https://cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/highways/highwaypermitsandlicencesnew.asp>.

There are costs associated with this which the Parish Council would need to take account of. The Parish Council would also have to enter into an agreement with Highways to place equipment within the highway.

**11.4.3** Cumbria County Council do not have any financial agreements with any suppliers.

**11.4.4 Costs.** Approximate cost to the Parish Council per solar powered digital sign is £1800 + carriage £90 = £1890 + Vat. Plus, installation costs and the Cumbria County Council licence fee. An estimated total cost being in the region of £2250 – £2500, excl. VAT.

**11.4.5 Debate** – The initiative was discussed at length with mixed views being expressed as to the merits or otherwise of such an installation. It was also noted that if such a sign were erected, it may prompt requests for others to be installed elsewhere in the Parish.

**11.4.6 Action:-** It was decided by a majority decision, 5 in favour, 2 against with 1 abstention, to initiate the project by requesting permission for a sign from Highways, to be located on the approach to Culgaith, from Langwathby, just past the 30 mph sign. The exact location to be agreed at a future meeting, following advice from Highways, should permission be granted.

**11.5 Village Green by War Memorial Culgaith – Planting of Wild Flower Bed**

**11.5.1** A proposal was put to the meeting that a 'Wild Flower Bed' be created

**11.5.2** This idea was well received by the Council as it would add colour to the area and was showing support, following the EALC Nature Recovery Event.

**11.5.3** A point was made that whilst such a bed would provide attractive summer colour, the area must be seen to be kept tidy to show respect for the adjacent Memorial.

**11.5.4 Action:-** The proposal was unanimously approved, subject to a review of the decision, should it be deemed necessary, in future years. The exact location of the flower bed being agreed at the March meeting.

**11.6 Grass Cutting Tender 2021** – It was confirmed that tenders be sought for cutting the grass in the Parish for the 2021 season and also for a 3-year contract for the seasons 2021 – 2023.

This Tender process being advertised on the Parish notice boards, website and also in the Memo. The closing date being 12 noon Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

**11.7 Blencarn 'Rigg'**. Safety concerns were raised over approximately 20 suckler cows, some with young calves at foot, being grazed on this common grazing. The Bridle Way across the 'Rigg' being very frequently used by walkers, often with dogs. A suckler cow with a young calf at foot can be very possessive and a danger.

**Action:-** "Whilst the Parish Council accepted it has no jurisdiction over the 'Rigg' it was agreed to look into this public safety issue and report back to the March meeting.

**12/21 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications.**

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

- 12.1 Parish-level Carbon Footprint Tool.** – Was reported, taking place 'Virtually'. 2pm – 4pm on Tuesday the 12th January.
- 12.2 EDC Recharge for using Eden's Contractors.** – Footway Lights For year 1/4/21 - 31/3/22. Maintenance £25.84 and Electricity £33.76 = £59.60 X 25 light = £1490 + Vat
- 12.3 Police and Crime Commissioner and Cumbria Constabulary** Annual public consultation survey.  
Link - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MROW5H/>
- 12.4 Community Groups Thank You** – From numerous County organisations.
- 12.5 Highways England A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project** – Update
- 12.6 Covid – 19 Related E mails – X 9, forwarded to Councillors.**
- 12.7 Update on Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria**
- 12.8 EALC - Nature Recovery Event**
- 12.9 Updates from Health Protection Board**
- 12.10 EDC Draft Housing Strategy**

- 12.11 Cumbria County Council Supporting Eden Over Christmas
- 12.12 Cumbria Arts and Culture Network Newsletters
- 12.13 Minister for Local Government - Letter from Robert Jenrick
- 12.14 Covid-19 Community Leaders Pack
- 12.15 Hazel Dean Development – A Parishioner’s concern- responded to.
- 12.16 Geoff Anderson – Thank you for Christmas voucher for website support.

**13 Councillor Training** – Cllr Lesley Benton reported on how interesting and useful the Councillor training courses she had attended were; the importance of a Council’s ‘engagement’ with Parishioners being stressed. Following discussion, it was decided to edit the Councils ‘Parishioner Concerns’ on the website **from:** -

**Parishioner Concerns**

Should any Parishioners have any issues that concern them, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk on 07768 468 634 or [culgaithpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:culgaithpc@yahoo.co.uk)  
Agendas are posted on the village notice boards.

**To:-**

**Parishioner Engagement WithThe Parish Council.**

Should any Parishioners have any issues, suggestions or concerns relating to the Parish, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk on 07768 468 634 or [culgaithpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:culgaithpc@yahoo.co.uk) or speak directly with one of the Councillors, their contact details are below. There is always the opportunity for you to speak at a meeting under ‘Public Participation’

Agendas are posted on the village notice boards and on [www.culgaith.org.uk](http://www.culgaith.org.uk)

**14/21 Councilor Matters** An opportunity for Councilors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

**14.1** Poor road surface from Culgaith school to War Memorial

**Action** – To report to Highways.

**14.2** Flooding vicinity of Otter’s Holt entrance

**Action** – To report to Highways.

**15/21 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings**

Monday 1st March 2021 – Blencarn. In the current Covid – 19 circumstances it is expected that this will again be held as a ‘Virtual’ meeting.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 9.00pm with the Chair thanking Councillors for their ‘Virtual’ attendance.

Signed by Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_