

# CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Fell View  
Blencarn, Penrith  
Cumbria, CA10 1TX

## Minute of the Meeting Held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in the Victoria Institute, Culgaith. commencing at 7.30pm

**Unapproved.**

### **55/22 Present**

Cllrs Caroline Richardson (Chair), Ken Philipson, Sue Smith, John Watson, Andrew Clay, David Witney, Pauline Toppin (Vice Chair), County Cllr Claire Driver and John Fleming (Parish Clerk), plus one member of the public.

### **56/22 Apologies**

Cllrs Laura Wilson, Pam Jago,

### **57/22 Minutes**

The Chair was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022, as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr P Toppin Seconded by Cllr D Witney.

### **58/22 Declaration of Interests**

There were none.

### **59/22 Public Participation**

It was reported that a foot path, finger post, was down by the Chapel, on the path to the 'Back Road'.

**Action :-** To report to Highways.

### **60/22 District Council Report**

There was none

### **61/22 County Council Report – Cllr Claire Driver.**

1. Presentation by care leavers: We had an excellent presentation by two of our care leavers to full council last Thursday, talking about the work they have been doing to refresh the promise all Councillors make to our looked after children in our roles as corporate parents. Strengthening and highlighting this crucial role is timely as we move into the new Unitary Authorities next year.

2. Cuts in local radio: The Leader of the Council made a statement and wrote to the Government in opposition to the proposed cuts to local radio which councillors may be aware of, and which would mean the end of Radio Cumbria and any specific local coverage.

3. Postponement of the decision on the coal mine in West Cumbria: Once again this has been kicked into the long grass by the government at the eleventh hour. An impassioned plea was made by the local member to hasten the decision, and out and end to the uncertainty for the local and wider communities in Cumbria.

4. Cost of living crisis support: A new coordination group has been formed (chaired by Colin Cox), bringing together local gov, NHS, 3rd sector, local resilience groups. This group will be in existence throughout the coming winter to make the best use of available resources, and try and avoid duplication. Information and advice can be found on the County Council website at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/costofliving/>

5. Care sector: Huge concerns about the care sector and its ability to cope through the coming winter. We're already working in crisis mode trying to fill vacancies across Cumbria Care, which is already under incredible strain. The closure of a care provider at incredibly short notice placed additional pressure on Cumbria Care, as

yet again local government had to step in and prop up the private sector. Although recent announcements by central government seem to suggest that they have allocated funds to support the failing health and care sector, we have yet to see even a penny of this funding distributed.

6. Cost of children's care packages continues to increase, a recent care package for example is costing the council £10k p/w, which is not unusual now. This is a complex topic so for any councillor wishing to find more detail, please refer to page 26 of this month's full council papers, CLA (children Looked After) placements sufficiency Strategy.

7. Financial Strategy - half yearly review: In spite of the relentless financial pressures that the County Council is operating under, we continue to delivery within our financial strategy, thanks in no small part to our excellent finance team. At last week's council meeting the council unanimously agreed to note the successful delivery of the half year financial strategy review. A great deal of previously allocated funding has had to be ring-fenced or re-profiled in light of LGR, meaning that some previously identified projects may not be delivered within this financial year. I have no fine detail on what this might mean for our area, other than to say that the likelihood of getting any new projects identified and delivered is slim to none, unless they are required from a safety point of view.

## **62/22 Finance (Incl.Vat)**

<b>62.1 To note the following balances as at:-</b>	<b>28/10/2022</b>
	<b>£</b>
HSBC Account	1119.71
Penrith Building Society	21225.90
NSI Account	24.00
Vat to be claimed	<u>272.57</u>
Total Cash	<u>22642.18</u>

### **62.2 Presentation of Interim Accounts from 5<sup>th</sup> September to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

These accounts were unanimously approved.

Proposer Cllr J Watson

Seconder Cllr D Witney

### **62.3 The Following Accounts were Ratified**

7.2.1 J Fleming Fee September and October 2022	As per contract
7.2.2 J Fleming Office Provision September and October 2022	40.00
7.2.3 HSBC Charges	10.80
7.2.4 A Hodgson – Blencarn Track	1008.00
7.2.5 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting	729.00
7.2.6 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting	288.00
7.2.7 Mark Binney – Grass Cutting	297.00
7.2.8 Blencarn VH Room Hire 5 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00
7.2.9 Royal British Legion – Wreath	23.98
7.2.10 Blencarn V H Jubilee/Sports BBQ Grass Cutting	72.00

### **62.4 Following Account for Payment was Approved.**

J Fleming Expenses, 5 <sup>th</sup> September – 7 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022	12.77
---	-------

### **62.5 The Accounts Listed in 62.3 and 62.4 above, were unanimously approved.**

Proposer Cllr S Smith

Seconder Cllr P Toppin

### **62.6 To Report Receipt**

Transfer from Penrith Building Society to current account.	3000.00
--	---------

**62.7 Budget 2023 – 2024**

A draft 2023/2024 budget was tabled for discussion. It was noted that a 6.5% inflation rise had been built into the calculation, this possibly being conservative. A further point was that, with the Parish Council having to bear the full cost, should there be an election in the Parish in May 2023, a figure of £1000 had been included; this being 50% of the £2000 CALC had recommended. These economic realities were putting great pressure on the Parish Council's finances.

In the current 'cost of living' crises Councillors were reluctant to raise the Precept to cover this extra expenditure, however, not to do so would result in the Council incurring an approximate, £2300 budgeted deficit at the year end. Taking into account the Councils current asset value it was felt that the Council could bear such a deficit, for this year at least.

The budget was unanimously approved leaving the Precept, as last year, at £12000.

Proposed by Cllr S Smith  
Seconded by Cllr A Clay.

**62.8 Precept 2023 – 2024.**

It was formally agreed to set the figure at £12000.

Proposed by Cllr J Watson  
Seconded by Cllr D Witney.

**63/22 Planning**

To Report.

22/0362 – Land Northeast of Culgaith Primary School, Culgaith. Penrith - Erection of 5 dwellings including associated operations. Resubmission. Strongly Objected.

**64/22 Highways and Land Matters****64.1 Foot path signs**

Kirkland/Broats - Bramblelands/Barn Croft - Station Road to Culgaith Church.  
Footpath signs down. Action still awaited from Highways.

**64.2 Culgaith Entrance Road Signs and Road Markings**

Signs agreed by Highways – Awaiting installation.

**64.3 Drainage issue by the Beck Mill entrance.** Situation still being monitored.**64.4 The Pea to A6412 Junction – Drainage issue.** Work had been done but issue, still has not been resolved.

**Action:** - Monitor with view to reporting to Highways, again.

**64.5 Water flowing across road – Culgaith / Langwathby road.** Work had been done but situation still has not been totally resolved.

**Action:** - Monitor with view to reporting to Highways, again.

**64.6 Culgaith Faded - White Lines at War Memorial junction.**

Work still awaited.

**Action:** - Raise with Highways again.

(Subsequent to meeting work completed)

**64.7 Faded Culgaith school 'No Parking' - yellow lines.**

Work still awaited.

**Action:** - Raise with Highways again.

(Subsequent to meeting work completed)

**64.8 Potholes - Bank Hall Farm Adopted Access Road.** Reported to Highways but no action has been taken.

**Action :-** To report to Highways again.

- 64.9 Skirwith Footway Lights** – The light opposite Skirwith Village Hall and the one in front of Pear Tree house. EDC had reported that the electrical connection issue was still with Electricity N W. It was reported that no action had been taken by E NW.  
**Action :-** To take the issue up with EDC Portfolio Holder. Cllr Mike Tompkins
- 64.10 Fir Tree 1 Station Road** – Felling and killing of stump.  
Reported that work completed
- 64.11 Skirwith Village Green – Roadside Boundary Fence.**  
Reported that Highways had scheduled the work to be done in November '22
- 64.12 Beck Cottage, Skirwith** – Revised Driveway Deed of Grant. In hand.
- 64.13 Electricity NW – Tree maintenance in Church Street Skirwith.**  
Work agreed but waiting to be done.
- 64.14 Eden Speed Limit Review – Culgaith.**  
Reported that the request to introduce a 40mph limit from the Newbiggin junction to the current 30mph sign, before the school, had been rejected on highway legal grounds. It was, however, confirmed that the previously agreed new 30mph signs would be installed. The work having been placed with contractors.
- 64.15 Commemorative Tree to our late Queen – Kirkland.** Permission had been sought for this tree to be located on Kirkland village green.  
**Action:** - Agreed to cover the cost of the tree with Cllr K Philipson agreeing the location with Parishioners.
- 64.16 Culgaith Road Surface - Black Swan to Edge of Village towards Langwathby.**  
Reported that extensive resurfacing had been completed.

## **65.22 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications.**

The following item of correspondence was received since the last meeting.

- 65.1 40 Email** had been forwarded to Councillors since the September meeting.: - kept on file for 12 months.

### **65.2 Dalefoot Compost at Blencarn Hall Farm. – Planning Issue**

The following correspondence had been received from Blencarn Hall Farm, Blencarn, which was requested to be read out at the meeting and made public, in order to clarify the planning situation regarding the Dale Foot compost business, based at Blencarn Hall Farm

*"I am writing to Culgaith Parish Council, so that I can ask you to put on record recent events concerning our farm. I am happy for this email to be read out at the forthcoming Parish meeting on 7 November 2022.*

*Earlier this year a resident of Blencarn raised an 'enquiry' with Eden District Council ("Eden") concerning activities on the farm. Essentially, a complaint. Specifically, Eden was asked to consider whether those activities amount to any change of use to the established existing agricultural use, which has been at the heart of the village for a very long time.*

*We received a letter outlining the complainant's concern which gave rise to a meeting at the farm on 24 June 2022 with Eden planning officer Kath Joynt - attended by my wife Helen and I, our land agent Thomas Armstrong of H&H and Simon Bland, director of Barker & Bland Limited - who crop the land and occupy the buildings.*

*At that meeting it became clear that the complaint had been initiated by someone unfamiliar with the usual ambit of agricultural activities and still less of the history of the farm and the village as a whole.*

*Following the meeting, Eden made it clear that they saw no planning issues at all. I attach a copy of the email we received from Eden which made this clear and which I understand was communicated to the 'enquirer'.*

*In the past couple of weeks, a further complaint has been lodged by the same person, of whose identity we await confirmation. We have again been contacted by Eden and this has led to a further meeting, this time with Pam Joyce who is Eden's Principal Planning Enforcement Officer in addition to Kath Joynt.*

*I should make it clear that there has been no change in activities, except that things are quieter as winter approaches, as you would expect.*

*That second meeting was held last week, again attended by me and Mr Bland. The outcome was the same as previously, in that the Council officers expressed the view that there was nothing of concern. I am awaiting confirmation of this by email and will forward this once received.*

*Please can you put this fact into the public domain via your meeting, so that everyone is aware of Eden's view.*

*This situation is disappointing because:*

- 1. the complainant has not seen fit to approach us directly with any concerns, preferring instead to seek anonymity in making contact direct with Eden; in a small community like ours, I would expect those with something to discuss would initially talk to us;*
- 2. the nature of the complaint requires us to involve our tenant and our land agent, expending (and wasting) time and money.*

*Therefore, please can you make known the fact that Eden have confirmed that the current activities at the farm are lawful and within the established use for planning purposes.*

*If anyone living in Blencarn has any issue relating to the farm, then they should please raise it with me, as I have day to day responsibility for the management of the farm.*

*On a more serious note, if another complaint of this kind is made without reasonable cause, then we will consider what step to take to protect our position."*

*Kind regards  
Nick Miller*

*Nick Miller BA Solicitor (non-practising)  
Business Manager  
Messrs JK Stamper, Blencarn Hall Farm  
Long Meadows, Blencarn Hall Farm, Blencarn, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1TX, United Kingdom*

**65.3 Local Government Association - Cost of Living Support Hub.**

The LGA's cost of living support hub and bulletin was reported to the meeting. For further details contact :[Local Government Association \(LGA\) has recently launched a cost-of-living support hub](#)

**65.4 Cumbria Wildlife Trust – Parish Nature Planning Initiative** was reported. Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm. Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton

**65.5 An Eden District Council 'Settlement Study Survey'** was reported.

**Action:-** The Clerk to respond adding Kirkland as a settlement within the Parish.

**65.6 CALC and Westmorland and Furness Council** – had indicated that they would like to open a dialogue with Parish Councils around engagement, aspirations and what might be possible as Westmorland and Furness Council develops. Contact: - [Lindsay.Nicholson@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:Lindsay.Nicholson@cumbria.gov.uk)

**65.7 Cumbria in Bloom** – Reported that the AGM was on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**66/22 Councillor Matters.** An opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

There was none.

**67/22 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings.** All on Mondays at 7.30pm.

Skirwith Village Hall, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Blencarn Village Hall 6<sup>th</sup> March

Culgaith, Victoria Institute, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

(Annual Parish Meeting/AGM/May meeting)

Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Chair thanked Councillors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.35