

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

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Fell View
Blencarn, Penrith
Cumbria, CA10 1TX

Minute of the Meeting Held on Monday 6th March 2023 in Blencarn Village Hall. commencing at 7.30pm

Unapproved.

14/23 Present

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

15/23 Apologies

Cllr Pam Jago and Westmorland and Furness Council (WAFC) Councillor Michael Handley

16/23 Minutes

The Chair was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 9th January, as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr S Smith

Seconded by Cllr D Witney

17/23 Declaration of Interests

Cllr S Smith, as a Trustee of the VIC Cafe, in respect of Agenda item 9.13

18/23 Public Participation

A member of the public expressed a personal opinion regarding the correspondence, minuted in full in the 7th November minutes, received from Mr. N Miller on behalf of Blencarn Hall, in connection with a commercial production of compost enterprise, operating on the Blencarn Hall farm site.

The member of the public stating that the smell and polluting atmosphere emanating from the site, from time to time, was detrimental to those living in close proximity; these circumstances aggravating a chest condition suffered by one of her family. It was also felt that there should have been greater communication with the local community before the enterprise was established; the letter was also unnecessarily aggressive in tone.

The Chair responded by stating that the change of enterprise on this site, from a 70 cow, beef suckler herd with offspring, to a commercial production of compost enterprise, did not require planning permission and was a legitimate enterprise, this having been confirmed by the EDC Planning Enforcement Officer at Planning Services, following an in-depth Planning Enforcement enquiry.

Not being a planning matter the Parish Council was not required to be consulted, the matter being outside of the Parish Council's remit.

If Parishioners have a concern regarding this enterprise they are advised, in the first instance, to speak directly with Nick and Helen Miller at Blencarn Hall, should further clarification on the legal position be necessary, then the Planning Enforcement Officer at Westmorland and Furness Council (formerly EDC) Planning Services should be contacted.

19/23 District and County Council Reports

There were none

20/23 Finance (Inc. Vat)

20.1 The following balances were noted as at:-	23/2/2023
	£
HSBC Account	2118.83
Penrith Building Society	18315.12
NSI Account	24.00
Vat to be claimed	<u>339.83</u>
Total Cash	<u>20797.78</u>

20.2 Presentation of Interim Accounts - 9th January to 6th March 2023

These accounts were unanimously approved.

Proposer Cllr D Witney

Seconder Cllr C Richardson

20.3 The Following Accounts were Ratified

20.3.1 J Fleming Fee January 2023	As per contract
20.3.2 J Fleming Office Provision January 2023	20.00
20.3.3 Bank Charges	10.80
20.3.4 Play Ground Inspection Company – Inspections X 2	167.88
20.3.5 Memo. Balance Paid to 31/12/22	20.00
20.3.6 Room Hire - Skirwith	16.00
20.3.7 John Fleming Expenses – 2022/2023 Fee Increase	216.60
20.3.8 Web Hosting – Until 5/1/2024	25.00

20.4 To Approve the Following Account for Payment

J Fleming Expenses, 9 th January – 6 th March 2023	27.90
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20.5 To Approve 20.3 and 20.4

Proposer Cllr A Clay

Seconder Cllrs Smith

20.6 Receipt

Electricity NW – Wayleave	22.48
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21/23 Planning

22/0927 – Skirwith Hall Cottage, Skirwith Penrith - Siting of a shepherd's hut and erection of associated shower hut.	Supported
22/0988 – Ranbeck, Kirkland. Penrith - Addition of sun room	Supported
22/0902 – Skelling Farm, Kirkland Road. Skirwith. Penrith – Erection of a side extension	Supported

22/23 Highways and Land Matters**22.1 Foot path signs**

It was reported that work was underway to replace the broken footpath signs that had been reported.

22.2 Drainage issue by the Beck Mill entrance.

As previously reported Highway had indicated that, following a site visit, they had assessed the problem and would take steps to attempt improve the drainage in this low-lying section of the carriageway.

It was reported to the meeting that this issue had been addressed about 10 years ago and possibly the work done then had now silted up. It was agreed to convey this, historical information to Highways.

- 22.3 The Pea to A6412 Junction – Drainage issue.**
This matter was still in hand with Highways.
Action: - Agreed to chase up the issue.
- 22.4 Potholes - Bank Hall Farm Adopted Access Road.**
Reported that this work had still not been done and that the road surface was now breaking up badly
Action: - To report again to Highways.
- 22.5 Skirwith Footway Lights – The light opposite Skirwith Village Hall and the one in front of Pear Tree house – Not Functioning.**
Reported that the light by the village hall was now working. There were, however, still wayleave issues impeding progress on the electricity connection to the Pear Tree House light
- 22.6 Skirwith Village Green – Roadside Boundary Fence.**
As previously reported, due to financial constraints, this work had now been rescheduled, by Highways, for the 2023/2024 financial year.
- 22.7 Beck Cottage, Skirwith – Revised Driveway Deed of Grant.**
Reported that this document had now been signed by both parties and was with the Land Registry, awaiting processing.
- 22.8 Electricity NW – Tree maintenance in Church Street Skirwith.**
Reported that this matter was still in hand with Electricity North West.
- 22.9 Eden Speed Limit Review and New Village Entrance Signs – Culgaith.**
Reported that this matter was awaiting action by the Highways contractors.
- 22.10 HGV and Coach Traffic from Station Road to ‘Black Swan’ Junction.**
A parishioner had raised concerns over heavy goods vehicles over 7.5 tons and Coaches/Bus uses, coming from Station Road, up the ‘Pea’ to the ‘Black Swan’ Junction. A request being made to stop this practice.

During an in-depth discussion, the following was observed: -

1. This stretch of road has a 7.5ton HGV weight restriction, except for access.
2. There are no Traffic Regulation Order restrictions on Coaches/ Buses using this road.
3. Currently the school bus does not pick up pupils on this stretch of road.
4. The information recorded on Sat Nav maps is correct for this section of road.
5. The Police had confirmed that the only illicit use of the road was HGV's over 7.5tons, using the road as a shortcut.
6. It was accepted that, whilst the ‘Black Swan’ junction was ‘tricky’, it was possible to navigate perfectly safely, with caution and care; in fact, an HGV and Coach, being higher, had enhanced visibility when negotiating the junction.

7. The number of recorded accidents/incidents at this junction was very low.
8. It was the opinion of Councillors that the majority of large HGV's and Coaches travelled through the village and Coaches and large HGV's coming up the 'Pea' are relatively infrequent.

Action: - Councillors recognized that there was Parishioner concern over the use of this stretch of road by HGV's over 7.5tons and Coaches, all be it, minimal. It was agreed to pass the issue to Highways for their judgment, possibly following a traffic survey, as to whether it was appropriate or necessary for a Traffic Regulation Order to be requested, banning Coaches, except for access, using this stretch of road.

Finally, the Police were to be asked to monitor the road so that illicit HGV's, using the road, as a short cut, were apprehended.

22.11 Kirkland Road Sign – Damaged

This damage had been reported to Highways, repair was awaited.

22.12 Culgaith Coronation Bench

Following an approach to the Parish Council by the Viv Café, the replacement of the wooden, painted benches with ones commemorating the forthcoming Coronation, by the Culgaith War memorial, was discussed.

In view of the Kings environmental leanings, it was felt that a bench made from recycled plastic would be appropriate.

Action: - Agreed, subject to the Viv Café's committee approval, to purchase 2 black, 3 spar, 2m benches at a cost of £510 each, excluding Vat. This price to include concrete fixings and commemorative plaques. The Vic Café had indicated that they could contribute approximately £300 to the cost

22.13 Skirwith Bus Shelter External Mural

Following the public being given the opportunity to comment, none, incidentally, being received, the Parish Council confirmed it's provisional approval, given at the January 2023 meeting.

The Parish Council agreeing to cover the cost of materials.

23/23 Coronation 6th May 2023

Following discussion Councillors were aware that the Village Halls, within the Parish, were planning events. The most appropriate support the Parish Council could make was to invite a funding application to be made to the July meeting, to assist the Village Halls to cover some of their costs, for Councillors to consider.

24/23 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications.

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

24.1 12 E mails had been forwarded to Councillors since the January meeting, these being kept on file for 12 months.

24.2 Local Elections – Polling Day 4th May 2023

Reported that any person wishing to submit a Nomination Paper had to ensure that the completed form be handed in to the Town Hall in Penrith by 4pm on Tuesday 4th April; postal and E Mail applications would not be accepted. Nomination forms being available from the Parish Clerk

24.3 Playground Inspections

The recent playground inspection reports were tabled.

Action: -

24.3.1 To be forwarded to the appropriate playground committees.

23.3.2 It was noted the whilst the Parish Council arranged and paid for the inspections, in respect of Culgaith, it could accept no legal liability regarding playgrounds use. This was to be stated to and confirmed with the Culgaith Recreational Ground Committee.

23.3.3 The situation in respect of Skirwith was different as the playground was located on Parish land, even though it was managed by an independent committee. In this instance the Skirwith Playground Committee was to be asked to liaise closely with the Parish Council in respect of all remedial work carried out as notified in the report.

24.4 Cumbria in Bloom Competition 2023.

Reported that the closing date for applications was 30th April

24.5 Rural Cost Of Living Survey

It was reported that the Rural Services Network, in partnership with Citizens Advice, is running a [Rural Cost of Living Household Survey](#) and are looking for responses from across England. Closing date 31st March

24.6 NALC Civility and Respect Newsletter - E-Learning Modules – Reported

Details available on: -

[Civility and Respect Project \(nalc.gov.uk\)](#) [SLCC | Civility & Respect Project](#)

24.7 Power Failure – Community Hub Survey. – Reported, details on file.

Action:- To forward this information to the Parish Village Hall Committees.

25/23 Councillor Matters.

An opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

25.1 Reported a Pothole by the entrance to ‘Skelling’

25.2 Skirwith/ Culgaith Junction, south of Blencarn.

Flooding due to water bubbling up from a land drain – reported to Highways.

26/23 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings. All on Mondays at 7.30pm.

Culgaith, Victoria Institute, 15th May

(Annual Parish Meeting/AGM/May meeting)

Skirwith Village Hall. 3rd July, Blencarn Village Hall. 4th September

Victoria Institute Culgaith. 6th November

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

The Chair thanked Councillors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.50