

Culgaith Parish Council



From The Chair

The past year has seen a changing of the guard at Culgaith Parish Council. Our longest serving councillor and past Chair, Laura Wilson, and Councillor Pam Jago stood down at the start of the year. We thank them both for their service. Sadly, Councillor John Watson passed away in November after a long illness. He is much missed. We have been pleased to welcome Councillors Nick Mason (Skirwith) and Ian Stowers (Culgaith) to our ranks, and also enjoyed the valuable support of WAFC Councillors Mary Robinson and Michael Hanley. I should like to thank all Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their commitment and support throughout the year.

Caroline Richardson
Chair, Culgaith Parish Council

- During 2023/2024 there were no planning applications in Kirkland and Blencarn.

In Culgaith

- Road markings, showing the speed limits, have been actioned.
- A 20mph speed restriction was requested on the B6412 through the village
- Acorn Bank 10k Run was agreed and welcomed.
- The use of HGV's, over 7.5 tonnes and coaches, using the 'The Pea', was raised with Highways and the Police.
- 'The Pea' to Station Road flooding issues were still being reported to Highways.
- A 'Permissive Path,' by Tarn Villa was agreed with landowners.
- Tarn boundary wall and fence – responsibility for repair clarified
- Drove Road – demolished bench replaced.
- Defective storm drain cover – by the entrance to Pea Top Farm was investigated.
- Uneven pavement by Rose Walk, reported.
- Voneus broadband fibre Installation queries raised, regarding Culgaith/Blencarn/ Kirkland.
- Raised Edging on the lay - by Whinfell Terrace
- During 2023/2024 the Council considered 5 planning applications in Culgaith

Around The Communities - General

- The Parish was very grateful for the support received from the Community Support Officer, PC Anthony Labram, on policing matters during the year.
- The Parish is also very grateful for the support that it has received from the Highways department during the year in maintaining the roads within the Parish. The major resurfacing along with drainage improvements, on the Skirwith to Langwathby road, is appreciated.
- The Parish Council is indebted to Geoff Anderson for his support in maintaining the Council's website, during the year.
- The Council is also indebted to Mark Binney for his very conscientious cutting of the Parish greens.
- Parish Defibrillators – Council agreed to cover ongoing and consumable cost.
- Handling Public Enquiries - Guidelines for Councillors and Staff were adopted.
- Otters Holt – Two parcels of amenity land offered to the Council. Negotiations are ongoing

In Kirkland and Blencarn

- A bench was installed by the Commemorative Tree to the late Queen Elizabeth II on Kirkland Village Green.
- Silver Birch on Blencarn Green safety pruned

In Skirwith

- Footway lighting issue - still being addressed.
- Skirwith to Kirkland roadside boundary fence; to be repaired when funding is available.
- A 'Green Waste' skip was provided, as in previous years.
- Bus Shelter – The completed renovation is a credit to Susie Ramsden and her group. The external mural, along with planters has made an attractive village feature which greatly enhances the centre of the village.
- Village Green – The path steps onto the green, by Beck Cottage repaired with new hand rail.
- Foot Bridge – village green. Repaired
- Church St. roadside concrete post and rail fence repair requested to highways.
- Beech Tree – Permission given to adorn with Christmas lights.
- During 2023/2024 the Council considered 5 planning applications in Skirwith.

Finance

The Parish Precept (The Parish Councils share of Council Tax) for 2023/2024 was £12,000

Financial Summary

Income	2022/2023	2023/2024
	£	
Carried forward	19679	18888
Precept + CRS	12044	12043
Other Income	469	739
Total Receipts	12513	12782

Expenditure

Administration	4027	4602
Village Greens	2889	3069
Village Maintenance	1698	1438
Playgrounds	140	160
Grants	1745	1745
Wreath	24	20
Lighting Costs	0	0
Elections	0	0
Parish Defibrillators	0	453
Other Expenditure	2780	2547
Total Expenditure	13303	14034

Internal Audit – The Council is indebted to Sandra Harrison for undertaking this duty.

Support For Local Organisations

	£
Fellrunner	414
Skirwith Village Hall	300
Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room	300
Culgaith Victoria Institute	300
Culgaith All Saints Church	240
St Lawrence Church, Kirkland	240
Skirwith Parish Church	240
Skirwith Bus Shelter	130
Memo	191

Parish Council Co-option

A warm welcome is extended to Ian Stowers who was co-opted during the year to represent the Culgaith Ward, with a particular interest in Otters Holt.

Tribute to John Watson

Our fellow Councillor, John Watson, sadly, passed away on the 10th November, 2023. John joined Culgaith Parish Council in 2018 and will be remembered by us all for his commitment to work for the benefit of the community. He was always a voice of logic and reason and bravely continued to contribute to the work of the Council throughout his illness. It was a privilege to work with John and the Council stood to observe a minute's silence to

remember him ,at the start of the January meeting, both as a Councillor and a friend.

Parish Councillors 2023- 2024

Culgaith Ward

Pauline Toppin (Vice Chair)
Glenmara, Culgaith

David Witney

Sunnyfield, Culgaith, Penrith

Sue Smith

Briarfield, Culgaith.

John Watson

Bracken Ridge, Culgaith.

Sadly, passed away in November 2023

Ian Stowers

29 Otters Holt, Culgaith

Co-opted 4th March 2024

Blencarn and Kirkland Ward

Andrew Clay

The Croft, Blencarn

Caroline Richardson (Chair)

Smithy House, Blencarn

Ken Philipson

Glebe Farm, Kirkland

Skirwith Ward

Nick Mason

The Old Vicarage, Skirwith

Westmorland and Furness Councillors

Michael. Hanley

Mary Robinson

Parish Clerk

John Fleming

Fell View, Blencarn, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1TX.

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Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 1st July 2024- Skirwith

Monday 2nd September 2024 - Blencarn

Monday 4th November 2024 – Culgaith

Monday 13^h January 2025 – Skirwith

Monday 3rd March 2025 – Blencarn

Monday 19th May 2025 – Culgaith

(Annual Parish Meeting/AGM/May meeting)

For More Information

For more information on the work of the Parish Council, including full copies of the minutes, visit: - www.culgaith.org.uk