

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2008/9

We hope that you will find this annual report of interest. During the year I have attended several meetings on behalf of the Parish and of particular interest were those on public footpaths and on low cost housing. Progress has been made with the village greens. Looking to the future the Council is keen to encourage more community projects and will continue to lobby the County Council about winter gritting of the roads.

*Laura Wilson
Chairman, Culgaith Parish Council*

VILLAGE GREENS

The Parish Council spent £3,553 on managing the 5 village greens much of this going on grass cutting. For the first time this year part of Kirkland Village Green was included in the programme.

The Council continued to provide financial support to the Guardians of Culgaith Tarn. A number of local residents provided topsoil, organised new turf and protective stones for the Flodder. The Council contributed by paying for the turf and would like to thank all those involved in this initiative.

At Skirwith a grant from Neighbourhood Forum plus money from the Council paid for BTCV to thin the trees on the village green, and raise the tree canopy above the beck and children's play area.

After 12 months of collecting evidence the Parish Council successfully registered ownership of the Tarn, The Flodder and the Village Greens in Skirwith and Kirkland with the Land Registry. Many Parish Councils find themselves in dispute over encroachment on village greens or disputes about ownership. By establishing clear title the Parish Council has secured their future for the benefit of the local community and future generations.

HIGHWAYS

The Highway Steward Scheme introduced by Cumbria County Council during the year has been a great success. The Parish Council is

working closely with our Highway Steward to repair minor potholes, clean ditches and signs, and generally maintain the roads and paths in the parish. The Parish Council continues to make representation to Cumbria Highways about the Skirwith Langwathby road and also the need for winter gritting on the Skirwith Culgaith road by the school. If you notice a problem on any of the roads you can report it to the Cumbrian Highways Hotline on 0845 609 6609.

Work on the Carlisle Settle railway has caused a number of problems at the level crossing at Culgaith. Representation has been made to Network Rail about the state of the crossing itself and also the litter left by the contractors.

REDUCING SPEEDING

At the Cumbria Police Authority Eden Area Community Liaison Forum in October a number of residents expressed concern about speeding particularly on entering Culgaith from Langwathby. The Parish Council has been working with the community policeman to address this issue. In January over a 10 day period speeds were monitored by the School and also by the Flodder, in both cases between 21-25% of cars were driving over 35 mph. More recently speed monitoring equipment has been used to alert drivers to their speed as they pass the School.

FOOTPATHS

All the footpaths in the parish were inspected as part of the County Council's Annual Public Rights of Way Programme. One outcome was the recognition that the path by Culgaith church, around Wellgates and into the adjoining field was not a registered right of way. The Council with the support of the landowner and local walkers has applied to have the path officially registered as a right of way. The outcome is expected in late July.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Discussions were held with Eden District Council about conducting a housing survey as the first step to identify the need for affordable

housing. It had been hoped that the survey would be done during the summer of 2008. A change of policy at EDC has resulted in the survey being delayed until 2010 when it will be undertaken by the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust

The Parish was also consulted by EDC about 6 potential housing sites in Culgaith and 3 in Blencarn. The outcome of this consultation is due this summer.

PLANNING

During the year the Parish Council was consulted over 15 planning applications in Culgaith, 2 in Blencarn and 5 in Skirwith. This included the proposed new waste water treatment works at the bottom of the Pea in Culgaith.

OTHER THINGS....

A lot of work goes on in the background, including responding to consultations, representing the Council at meetings and workshops, reminding people to keep the Recycling Centre tidy, reporting street lights not working, reporting damaged road signs and litter bins.

DONATIONS

Donations made by the Parish Council included £100 to Culgaith PCC, £200 to Culgaith Victoria Institute, £200 to Skirwith Village Hall, £250 to the Kirkland and Blencarn Reading Rooms, £225 to the Memo, £325 to the Fellrunner, and £300 to the Guardians of Culgaith Tarn.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information on the work of the Parish Council including copies of the Minutes are available on the village website at www.culgaith.org.uk

FINANCE

The Parish "precept" (The Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) was held at £7,500 but will increase to £8,000 for 2009/10. The balance carried forward at the year end was £5,274. The accounts are audited externally by BDO Stoy Hayward on behalf of the Audit Commission.

The following is a summary of the Parish Council's accounts for the year to 31 March

2009 with the previous year's figures given as a comparison. Administration includes the clerk's salary, office expenses, room hire, insurance, subscriptions, training, the website and audit fees.

Income	2007/08	2008/09
Carried Forward	6,378	6,151
Precept	7,500	7,500
Grants	3,282	650
VAT recovered	800	418
Other income	473	281
Total Receipts	18,433	15,000
Expenditure		
Administration	4,264	4,256
Village Greens	2,200	3,553
Play areas	75	138
Paths/Signposts/Notice Boards/Repairs	3,640	0
Donations	1,475	1,600
VAT	417	179
Election expenses	210	0
Total payments	12,281	9,726

PARISH COUNCILLORS 2008/09

Culgaith

John Findlay - Hudkin House Skirwith; Jill Hay - I Chestnut Close Culgaith; John Hindson - Hill Top Culgaith; John Slann- Elm Tree House Culgaith and Martin Smith - Eden Cottage Culgaith

Skirwith

Laura Wilson - Skirwith Hall and Howard Roper - Aglionby Farm Skirwith

Blencarn and Kirkland

Elaine Froggatt - The Old Corn Mill Blencarn and Ken Philipson - Glebe Farm Kirkland.

Parish Clerk

Sue Smith, Briarfield, Culgaith, CA10 1QL
Tel 01768 879006.
email: culgaithpc@btinternet.com

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

July 6th 2009 – Blencarn
September 7th 2009 – Skirwith
November 2nd 2009– Culgaith
January 4th 2010 – Blencarn
March 1st 2010 – Skirwith
April 26th 2010 Annual Parish Meeting – Skirwith

May 10th 2010 (Annual Parish Council Meeting) – Culgaith

The meetings start at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome.