

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2013/14

The weather was a feature of 2013 with a very cold spring, torrential rain in May, gale force winds in December followed by more torrential rain.

*Jill Hay
Chairman, Culgaith Parish Council*

COMMUNITY LED PLAN

The Parish Council reviewed its Community Led Plan in November 2013. Work has begun on some of the action points identified. The Council has been successful in restricting HGVs travelling down The Pea in Culgaith and the 30mph speed limit in Blencarn is to be extended to "Black Hill" on the Blencarn to Milburn road. It is hoped that some of the roads which encounter problems with flooding will be resolved in 2014.

BROADBAND

The Parish Council is still working to see if superfast broadband will be rolled out to the Parish, although BT haven't said which communities are to be identified as the 'hard to reach' areas yet.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Money has been tight this year, a total of £1,113 has been donated to local organisations. £393 to the Fellrunner, £220 to the Memo, £200 was given to Skirwith Village Hall for improvements to the toilet facilities and £300 to the Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Rooms towards the costs of damp-proofing and associated works. It was agreed that the public liability insurance costs for the new play equipment in Skirwith would be paid by the Parish Council for 2014/15 year.

AROUND THE COMMUNITIES

It has been a busy year in Skirwith, the Annual Parish meeting discussed the future of the maintenance of Skirwith Village Green.

The footbridge over Skirwith Beck was washed away during a heavy downpour one night in May, this will be replaced in the spring of 2014 by the Countryside Management students from Newton Rigg college after the Parish Council received funding from Cumbria County Council's Local Members Fund. The Skirwith garden waste skip scheme was reintroduced with the first skip finally being delivered in July which was quickly filled. Eden District Council agreed to provide one skip each month with the last skip being delivered in October. Skirwith Children's Play Committee have secured a grant to purchase new play equipment for the village green but are still in desperate need of new members for the committee.

In Blencarn, the track across the village green was repaired. The Parish Council has made an application for the diversion of the footpath next to Glenrobin, however, this is quite a lengthy process.

The footpath in Hag Wood, Culgaith remains impassable due to the heavy rain which caused a land slippage. Discussions have taken place with the landowner and the countryside ranger but after visiting the site the countryside ranger reported there may be further land slippage. Therefore, Cumbria County Council are reluctant to do any work as more of the land may slip into the River Eden.

FOOTWAY LIGHTING

This is still being reviewed by Eden District Council.

FINANCE

The Parish "precept" (The Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) was reduced to £7,650 for 2013/14. However the Parish Council also received a "Council Tax Reduction scheme" payment which is like a top up of £344. The balance carried forward at the end of the year was £6556. The accounts are audited externally by BDO.

The following is a summary of the Parish Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2014 with the previous year's figures given as a comparison. In 2013/14 a grant of £1,500 was received from Cumbria County Council for the replacement footbridge for Skirwith Beck, as the work has not been carried out yet, this amount has been carried over to 2014/15 together with a contingency amount. The cost of administration was higher in 2012/13 due to work on the Community led Plan.

Income	2012/13	2013/14
Carried forward	6,818	6,556
Precept	8,000	7,994
Grants	800	1,500
VAT recovered	454	532
Other income	372	0
Total receipts	16,444	16,582

Expenditure	2012/13	2013/14
Administration	5,106	3,687
Village Greens	1,634	2,084
Play areas	135	139
Repairs	0	0
Bench	387	0
Donations	1,538	1,113
Community Led Plan	555	0
Wreath	0	17
VAT	532	495
Total payments	9,889	7,535

PLANNING

During the year the Parish Council was consulted over 23 planning applications in Culgaith, in Skirwith and in Blencarn.

PARISH COUNCILLORS 2012/13

Culgaith

Jill Hay (Chairman), 1 Chestnut Close
Pam Jago, 17 Chestnut Close
John Slann, Elm Tree House
Pauline Toppin, Glenmara

Skirwith

Laura Wilson, Skirwith Hall
Joe Ravetz, Gin Cottage

Blencarn and Kirkland

Marjorie Helm, Rigg End, Blencarn
Ken Philipson, Glebe Farm, Kirkland
Caroline Richardson (Vice Chairman), Smithy House, Blencarn

Parish Clerk

Christine Callery, Beech House, Long Marton, CA16 6BJ
Tel: 017683 61886
Email:culgaithpc@yahoo.co.uk

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

There is still a vacancy for a councillor for Culgaith. If anyone is interested please contact either the Chairman or the Parish Clerk.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

July 7th 2014 - Skirwith
September 1st2014 - Blencarn
November 3rd2014 - Culgaith
January 12th 2015 - Skirwith
March 2nd - Blencarn
May 11th (AGM) - Culgaith
April 20th 2015 Annual Parish Meeting – Culgaith

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

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.