

# CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Report 2009/10

*I would like to begin by congratulating all three village halls and the VIC Community Café on the progress they have made in the last year. It is disappointingly that so few people came to the Annual Parish Meeting in April when all four community projects gave updates on their past and future plans. As Chairman of your Parish Council I have attended a number of meetings and courses and am looking forward to the forthcoming one on Local Renewable Energy.*

*Laura Wilson  
Chairman, Culgaith Parish Council*

### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Your Parish Council has been actively involved in supporting village projects and organisations. At the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2009 it invited Derick Cotton to talk about the Bolton Exchange. This was the starting point for the VIC Community Café which opened in August 2009 and is used by in excess of over 30 people every week. The Parish Council funded the initial publicity and since then has given grants for new crockery, a freezer and microwave. Alongside the County Council it has also given grants for new furniture. The Parish Council would like to congratulate The VIC on being shortlisted for the Eden Local Heroes Community Award.

The Council has been working closely with the Skirwith Village Hall Committee on its plans to refurbish the hall. On the Hall Committee's behalf the Council applied for planning permission to re-face the external walls, re-roof and install photo voltaic panels. It has also given grants towards Phase 1 of the project to stabilise the roof structure.

At the Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room funding has been given towards new safety matting under the play equipment.

The Parish Council continues to pay for the annual play inspections at the Culgaith Recreation Ground and the Skirwith Play Area.

Following a request from the Guardians of Culgaith Tarn the Council has agreed to resume responsibility for cutting the front of the Tarn and this has been included in the 2010 grass cutting contract.

### HOUSING

There have been two developments this year. Under Eden District Council's new Core Strategy Development Plan, Culgaith Parish has been designated a Local Service Centre. This means that the restriction on any new housing has been removed. Three areas in Culgaith and one in Blencarn have been identified as possible housing sites.

Secondly the Parish Council took up the offer from Cumbria Rural Housing Trust to undertake a housing survey. The Council would like to thank everyone who returned the questionnaire. The results will be known in July and should give some indication of the housing needs of the community.

### WINTER GRITTING

Nobody will forget the winter of 2009/10 with the long periods of snow and icy roads. Apart from the B6142 through Culgaith, the remaining roads are designated by the County Council as Priority 3. This means they are only treated once the main roads have been done. Throughout the cold weather the Parish Council worked closely with the County Councillor, Mrs Mary Robinson, to try and get some of the roads gritted. After many phone calls, logging of problems on the Cumbria Highways website some of the roads were eventually treated.

Since the winter the Parish Council has lobbied the County Council, the local MP and the Chief Constable to get the school bus/taxi routes raised to Priority 2 so that in future they would be gritted on a regular basis. In April Cumbria County Council Local Committee for Eden listened to our representations and is recommending to the County's Cabinet that the Blencarn to Skirwith and Skirwith to Culgaith routes are designated Priority 2. A decision is expected this summer.

## ROADS and FOOTPATHS

The Council continues to report potholes on a regular basis to the Cumbria Highways Hotline. Due to the intervention of the Council two roads were resurfaced last year - the road below the level crossing and the road from Cross Hows toward Newbiggin. It has recently been in touch with the County Council and Network Rail about the state of the road by the level crossing.

There is still no news from the County Council on adding the path by Culgaith Church, around Wellgates and into the adjoining field to the Definitive Rights of Way Map. The Council will continue to pursue this in 2010.

## PLANNING

During the year the Parish Council was consulted over 14 planning applications in Culgaith, 8 in Skirwith and 1 in Kirkland.

## CULGAITH RECYCLING CENTRE

Fly tipping at the Culgaith Recycling Centre has been a problem this year. The Council has been working with Eden District Council to improve the signage.

## DONATIONS

The Parish Council gave £1,625 from its own funds to local organisations. In addition it received and passed on an additional £1,714 from Cumbria County Council Member's Capital Grant.

In total the donations made by the Parish Council, included the County Council grant, were £100 to Culgaith PCC, £255 to The VIC, £555 to Culgaith Victoria Institute, £1,079 to Skirwith Village Hall, £794 to the Kirkland and Blencarn Reading Rooms, £225 to the Memo, £330 to the Fellrunner.

## FINANCE

The Parish "precept" (The Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) was £8,000 for 2009/10. The balance carried forward at the year end was £5,878. The accounts are audited externally by BDO Stoy Hayward.

The following is a summary of the Parish Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2010 with the previous year's figures given as a comparison. The reduction of expenditure on village greens is partly due to a reduction

in grass cutting costs and also a number of one off costs in the previous year had increased expenditure in 2008/09.

<b>Income</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
Carried Forward	6,151	5,274
Precept	7,500	8,000
Grants	650	1,714
VAT recovered	418	179
Other income	281	41
Total Receipts	15,000	15,208

<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administration	4,256	4,071
Village Greens	3,553	1,260
Play areas	138	148
Repairs (Notice Board and walls)	0	230
Donations	1,600	3,339
VAT	179	282
Total payments	9,726	9,330

## PARISH COUNCILLORS 2009/10

### Culgaith

John Findlay - Hudkin House Skirwith; Jill Hay - I Chestnut Close Culgaith; John Hindson - Hill Top Culgaith; John Slann- Elm Tree House Culgaith and Pauline Toppin - Glenmara 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. (Mrs Froggatt resigned in May 2010)

### Parish Clerk

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

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

July 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 - Culgaith  
September 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 - Blencarn  
November 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 - Skirwith  
January 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 - Culgaith  
March 7<sup>th</sup> 2011 - Blencarn  
May 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 (AGM). Skirwith.  
April 11<sup>th</sup> - Annual Parish Meeting Blencarn.

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](http://www.culgaith.org.uk)