

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 7th January 2013 at Skirwith Village Hall

Present: Councillors J. Hay, M. Helm, P. Jago, A. King, K. Philipson, J. Ravetz, C. Richardson, J. Slann, P. Toppin, L. Wilson

In Attendance: 1 member of the public and Mrs Mary Robinson (County Councillor)

Apologies: Mrs Sheila Orchard (District Councillor)

Andy Baines and P.C. Roly Earl briefed the Parish Council on the Cumbria Community Messaging Service and the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

1/13 APOLOGIES – None

2/13 MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of November 12th 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3/13 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS - None

4/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Richardson in Item 17/13 Blencarn Village Green.

5/13 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT on matters since the previous meeting

- The faulty light outside Culgaith Victoria Institute had been repaired.
- The problem of water running down Station Rd into the level crossing has been sorted out with a new drain.
- The Countryside Ranger had reported that the Footpath 320022 Tickleberry Loaning in Blencarn is obstructed and the owner at Glen Robin had agreed to make the legal line usable.
- The rusting sign on the A686 directing people to Skirwith had been reported to Cumbria Highways.
- Shelia Orchard (District Councillor) had been asked to look into the loss of the garden skip waste at Skirwith.
- Dog signs still needed to be ordered for Skirwith Village Green Play area.

6/13 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Councillors had attended the following:

- Eden Community Fair and Conference

7/13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Issues raised included the loss of the garden skip and dog fouling in Skirwith.

8/13 PLANNING

EDC had approved the following applications:

- 12/0664 Ivy Cottage Culgaith. Demolition of existing barn and erection of 2 dwellings. Revised application
- 12/0948 Erection of a stable. Gin Cottage, Home Courtyard

Awaiting a decision

- 12/0421 Site adjacent to Highfield Blencarn. Change of use of land to equine grazing and erection of 3 wooden stables and surrounding fencing. (The Council had raised concerns with regard to off road parking and the removal of caravan from the site)
- 12/0888 Highfield Blencarn. Proposed agricultural workers dwelling. (The Council

had raised concerns about the impact on the environment and amenity of the area on neighbouring properties and had asked that consideration to be given to rotating the position of the house so that it would not directly overlook MidTown Farm.)

The following application had been withdrawn:

- 12/0655 Pea Foot Culgaith. Retrospective application for change of use from general storage to timber processing and general storage.

Response to the concerns raised about the following application:

- 12/0973 Highfield Blencarn Change of use of land from land for the keeping of horses to domestic garden and the erection of carport

Resolved to withdraw concerns about the height of the carport and raise no objections to the application subject to the carport not being not built on/or obstructing the public right of way running adjacent to the property.

Noted EDC's "Material Considerations in Determination of Planning Applications" paper.

9/13 FINANCE

Precept

The Clerk reported that under the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme the Parish Council will receive from Eden District Council £344.58 for 2013/14. **Resolved** to reduce the precept from £8,000 to £7,650 for 2013/14.

Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit

Resolved to accept the Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit carried out under The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006.

10/13 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved to make the following payments

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|---------|--|
| £540.24 | Clerk's Salary Dec/Jan |
| £8.30 | Clerk's expenses |
| £10 | Culgaith Victoria Institute (Room hire Nov 29) |
| £20 | Skirwith Village Hall (Room Hire Nov 20 and Jan 7) |
| £10 | Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Rooms (Room Hire Dec 6) |
| £71.86 | GC Anderson (website hosting) |
| £66.56 | Viking (Printer ink) |

11/13 FINANCIAL REPORT

Resolved to accept the accounts of 20 December as a true record. As of 20 December the balances at National Savings were £7,917.54 and at the Bank £981.79. On December 21st £21.37 had been received from Northwest Electricity as a wayleave for the electricity pole on Skirwith Village Green.

12/13 COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- Councillor Robinson reported that the Local Committee for Eden was to consider spending £20,000 from the 2013/14 devolved highways capital budget to begin a planned programme of fingerpost restoration and maintenance works. 3 fingerposts in Culgaith Parish had been identified as high priority needing replacing, and 3 moderate priority needing new arms.
- Councillor Robinson reported that money from the Divisional Members Grant might be available in 2012/13. The Clerk reported that only Skirwith Village Hall had responded to an initial request for applications for this money. Mrs Robinson would take this proposal forward.
- Councillor Orchard had reported that there was no more news on the garden waste collection scheme at Skirwith.

13/13 COMMUNITY LED PLAN

Councillor King reported that a number of initiatives had already started as a result of the draft Action Plan including affordable housing, neighbourhood watch and a bulk oil purchase scheme. The draft Action Plan and a summary document were almost complete. The summary document would be circulated to every household. The Steering Group and members of the Community would be encouraged to get involved in the issues raised.

Resolved to accept the changes to the draft Action Plan Action to reflect the role of the Parish Council as Lead Partner.

Resolved to seek funding from Eden District Council towards the printing costs and ACT towards the costs associated with the Community Led Plan.

14/13 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Clerk reported that following a response to MP Rory Stewart's email about affordable housing he had attended the Culgaith Public Forum in November. Also present were Andy Lloyd and Jayne Potts from Cumbria Rural Housing Trust. Councillor Ravetz reported on a follow up meeting with Andy Lloyd when the option of a Community Land Trust had been discussed.

Resolved that any affordable housing project should be based in Culgaith.

Resolved to take up Rory Stewart's offer to visit the Crosby Ravensworth development.

Resolved to review potential sites in Culgaith as part of the expected Eden District Council consultation document.

15/13 BROADBAND

Councillor Ravetz reported on a Connecting Cumbria meeting held in December called to support six Cumbrian communities including Culgaith which have been identified as 'hard to reach' areas and unlikely to receive superfast broadband through the main Cumbria project. Consequently the County would like to secure additional funds from the DEFRA Rural Community Broadband Fund to facilitate improved services to the 6 areas. **Resolved** to support the bid by distributing and collecting questionnaires by the end of January.

16/13 GRASSCUTTING

Resolved that the Clerk should seek tenders for grass cutting in 2013 based on the following requirements.

- Culgaith. 10 cuts of the Flodder, the grass around the War Memorial, the area in front of the stones on the Tarn.
- Skirwith 10 cuts of the green area on the Village Green including the area around the slide, plus other areas every other month.
- Blencarn. 10 cuts of the village green.
- Kirkland. 6 cuts of the village green opposite Post Box Cottage and Ranbeck. 2 cuts of the village green from Post Box Cottage to the bridge on the side of the beck nearest the road.

Resolved to ask the successful contractor to quote for a one off tidy up of the main path areas on Skirwith Village Green.

Resolved that the theme of the Annual Parish Meeting at Skirwith in April should be the management of Skirwith Village Green.

17/13 REPAIR OF BLENCARN VILLAGE GREEN

Councillor Richardson left the meeting whilst this agenda item was discussed. Two quotes had been received to repair the track across Blencarn Village Green.

Resolved to reconsider the quote of £450 + VAT from T.A. Hodgson at the March meeting when the weather would have improved and the Parish Council should have a better view of its financial situation in the light of two grant applications for the Community led Plan.

18/13 FOOTWAY LIGHTING

The Clerk reported that Eden District Council had undertaken a review of its Footway Lights and approved a new policy for maintaining existing lighting based on six criteria. A number of lights within the parish do not meet these criteria and potentially will not be maintained in future. This includes at Blencarn 4 out of 4 lights, at Culgaith 5 out of 25 lights, and at Skirwith 13 out of 16 lights.

A consultation meeting for parish councillors is planned for January 28th which will:

1. Confirm those lights that meet all the policy criteria;
2. Confirm those lights which do not meet the policy criteria but which any third party considers to be essential within the community;
3. Confirm those lights which do not meet the criteria and which are not considered to be essential within the community

Resolved that Parish Councillors should consult the local community and identify those lights which do not meet the policy criteria but which are considered essential within the community. The Clerk to co-ordinate the response.

19/13 WREATHS

Resolved to defer this item until the March meeting.

20/13 BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

Resolved to support the Ousby Bulk Oil Purchase Scheme through the printing of posters and other publicity material.

21/13 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Council noted the points raised from the Cumbria Community Messaging Service and the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. **Resolved** to raise the awareness of both schemes through the Community Led Plan.

22/13 STANDING ORDERS

Resolved to accept the revised standing orders to take account of the changes introduced by the new Code of Conduct and the general power of competence.

23/13 RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK

Resolved to recruit a new Parish Clerk from 1st April 2013 based on the following:

- The job description, contract of employment, person specification, and advert to be based on the model supplied by CALC.
- The hours to be worked for 2013/14 to be advertised as 280 hours for the year including holidays.
- Starting pay would depend on the experience of the person.
- The post to be advertised in the CALC Circular and Memo
- Applications to be sent to the present Clerk
- Closing date for applications would be February 28th
- Interviews to be held on March 14th at Blencarn, interviewing panel Councillors Hay, Richardson and King.

24/13 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk briefed the Council on routine correspondence.

25/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday March 4th 2013 at Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Rooms.

Resolved that the January 2014 meeting should be on the second working Monday i.e. January 13th so that the Clerk would not have to work over the Christmas period.