

**CULGAITH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Held on April 27th 2009 at Culgaith Victoria Institute**

Present: Councillors E. Froggatt, J. Hay (Vice Chairman), J. Hindson, J. Slann

In Attendance: 8 members of the public

1. WELCOME

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including Derick Cotton of the Bolton Exchange.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Wilson and Philipson.

3. COMMUNITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Derick Cotton explained the ideas behind the Bolton Exchange, a community enterprise initiated in response to the enforced closure of Bolton Post Office and associated shop. The local community found they missed the social and information exchange and this led to the creation of the Bolton Exchange which meets every Tuesday afternoon.

The Bolton exchange has developed the following services:

- A cafe facility
- Home made bakery stall overseen by qualified members of the WI
- A local produce stall
- A marmalade and preserves stall
- A stationery stall including sale of postage stamps
- A Chiropody service
- A hand and arm massage service
- A haberdashery stall
- Opportunity to order locally produced cheese, meat and fresh fish
- A home made card stall
- A book and video/dvd exchange
- A parish community notice board
- A monthly newsletter
- Monthly lunch club at the local pub

Volunteers collect those unable to attend and the project has far exceeded expectations. Support from volunteers continues at a high level and this means the workload on individuals only requires attendance once a month.

Funding

Funding has come from a variety of sources including

- £4,000 from Eden LSP
- Each stall holder donates 10% of earnings to project
- Donations received from book and DVD exchange
- Sponsorship from Farahs Coffee Company

Setting the project up

- Ideas were generated from the community projects at Crosthwaite and the Northern Fells Group
- An inaugural meeting in August 2008 resulted in over 50 residents participating and 25 volunteers came forward.
- Initially money was used to purchase furniture, tables are decorated with cloths and flowers to create a cafe style environment.

- There is a steering/management group of about 6 people
- Although not intended as a fund raising project, the project is making £2000 pa which is being used to buy new furniture, improve the hall, and fund community projects such as theatre outings.

Who has benefited from the project?

The whole community has benefited in a variety of ways:

- The project had provided a chance for social interchange and especially valued by those otherwise housebound
- The project had provided an easy way for individuals to volunteer
- The age range had included toddlers through to the elderly
- Increase use of Village hall had led to the hall being refurbished.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- There was a great deal of interest in the Bolton Community project and a number of people agreed to get together to see if a similar project could be started in Culgaith, perhaps starting with a regular coffee morning. The Parish Clerk will organise an initial meeting.
- On an unrelated matter concern was expressed about litter in the parish.

5. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The next Annual Parish Meeting is provisionally set for April 26th 2010 at Skirwith Village Hall.