

CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CULGAITH PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Kirkland and Blencarn Recreation Room,
on Monday 5 September 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Caroline Richardson (Chair), Pauline Toppin (Vice Chair), Pam Jago, Jill Hay, David Witney, Laura Wilson, Marjorie Helm

Clerk: Kathryn Binney

Residents: Mr G Soulsby, Mr T Soulsby, Mrs L Soulsby

71/16 Apologies

Apologies were received from;

Councillors: Mary Robinson, Sheila Orchard, Philip Hemingway and Ken Philipson

72/16 Minutes

It was agreed to authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 4 July 2016 as a true record.

73/16 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

74/16 Public Participation / Open session

Mr T Soulsby (Kettlestones) advised that he has planning permission for an extension; the replacement footpath light is outside his proposed window.

He felt that had more consultation taken place, this could have influenced his plans.

Councillors tried to give clarity on the restrictions of EDC's footpath lighting policy with regard to the placement of the lights. Reassurance was offered that the replacement LED lights are less intrusive and the light is radiated downwards.

Mr G Soulsby (Croft House) raised objections to the replacement footpath light outside his property. He felt that his objection was handled poorly by the Parish Council and EDC. His objections related to the site meeting, a lack of information from the Parish Council, and no direct consultation being made. He advised that he had complained to EDC and they had failed to respond to his efforts to contact them.

Councillors heard Mr G. Soulby's grievances and tried to explain why the decision to retain as many lights as possible was taken in consideration of the whole community and that there was no alternative position for this light. There are 25 EDC lights in Culgaith – 8 will not be replaced, leaving just 17. Mr Soulsby was encouraged to address his complaints regarding EDC with them directly.

75/16 Footpath Lighting

The Chair reported: Following objections from residents, site meetings were held at Croft House, Culgaith (18/7), Kettlestones, Culgaith (25/7) and Blencarn (18/7). Residents, representatives from the Parish Council and Amanda Ward (EDC) were present.

EDC's proposed replacement of footway lights was discussed at Parish Council meetings in January 2013, March 2013, July 2015 and November 2015 and the discussions summarised in the minutes. There have also been Parish Council updates in the Memo and the Herald.

The reasons for the Parish Council accepting Chris Slater's footway lighting report are as follows. The Parish Council wanted as many of the footway lights as possible replaced. This was because of concerns about the safety of the community, particularly children and the elderly. The Parish Council was also aware of the hazards presented by increasing volumes of traffic through Culgaith, including many heavy goods vehicles. Moreover, it has come to the attention of the Parish Council, that in January '16 a resident suffered a serious accident when walking home close to the Black Swan. The footway light was out and the resident tripped on the curb in the darkness breaking her shoulder and suffering a heart attack. If the Parish Council refuses the replacement of footway lights by EDC, there may be liability for any future accidents.

EDC have determined the sites of the replacement lights. They have reviewed their decisions at site meetings and will only install lights in these positions. If the Parish Council refuses the installation of these lights, EDC will not install lights in the future. The cost to the Parish Council of installing a light in any other position would be about £2.5K and would represent an increase of up to 30% on the precept for that year, as well as possible on-going maintenance costs. EDC have stated that they do not need planning permission to install the replacement lights and that there are no regulations governing the distance between a footway light and a property.

The Parish Council recognise the problem caused by light intrusion into properties from the present yellow footway lights, which are bright and scatter light in all directions. The replacements are white LED down lighters, which focus light on the footpath below and should significantly reduce light intrusion.

The Parish Council also considers that the traffic volume through Culgaith is unlikely to decrease in future years. Indeed there is likely to be an increasing risk to pedestrians and no guarantee that 'back lighting' from existing premises will remain in place.

Councillors acknowledged the complaints raised by the parishioners present.

Motions were then put forward and the councillors voted to;

1. Retain the light in front of Croft House, Culgaith, and
2. Retain the light in front of Kettlestones, Culgaith

EDC have reassessed the replacement of the footpath lights in Blencarn and decided that none of the existing lights meet their criteria and, therefore cannot be replaced. Light 1 is on a building (White Hall) and lights 2,3 and 4 are on private land. Extension of the lights to the roadside service strip would be expensive. Moreover it was clear at the site meeting that there would be strong objections to this. EDC will be asked to remove the pole installed on Blencarn Village Green.

EDC will be notified of the above decisions.

76/16 Progress Reports

Clerks report: Matters all arise within the agenda.

Chairs report: The Parish Council has been approached about the dangerous state of the footbridge at The Cornmill in Blencarn. Andy Sims, CCC has confirmed that this is not a registered footpath and that upkeep and liability are the responsibility of the landowner. As the landownership at this bridge is not clear, this has been passed on to Bill Dodd (Cornmill), Celia Sharp (Bank Cottage) and Ken Stamper.

The emergency planning group has not met in August as planned. A date for the next meeting is to be arranged in September.

The Parish Council has received and replied to a complaint about the proposed Blencarn playground. A planning application has been submitted to EDC.

Councillor Jill Hay has continued to notify Cumbria Highways about the repairs needed to the road in Culgaith.

The noticeboard in Kirkland has been repaired – thank you to Councillor Ken Philipson.

The Parish Council has written to Savilles about the state of the Loaning Head site in Culgaith after a complaint by a resident. They advised that the planning application will be submitted soon.

The Parish Council received notification of a near accident on the Skirwith footbridge. This will be considered in agenda item 82/16.

Councillor Jill Hay has agreed to represent the Parish Council as a member of the CALC executive for another year – thank you.

77/16 County and District Councillors reports

No reports were received from the County and District Councillors.

78/16 Planning

The Parish Council considered application 16/0747 - Extension of existing agricultural building to provide new milking parlour for Skirwith Abbey Farm. No objection was heard.

Councillors noted that the Blencarn Playground application would be pending soon – as the Parish Council has supported this from the outset and has donated some funding, a simple letter of support was agreed.

79/16 Finance

The bank reconciliation, cash flow and budget comparison were agreed.

The current balance in the current account is £2,434.60

The current balance in the savings account is £12,168.63

A grant application from Skirwith Childrens Committee was received, requesting support with the cost of the insurance. This was approved and covered in the budget by alternative savings already made this year.

The following payments were approved;

M Binney	Grass cutting	663.83
GCA Web design	Web maintenance	71.83
Kirkland and Blencarn Rec	room hire	10.00
Skirwith Childrens Committee	grant	172.11
K Binney	Expenses	20.70

Memo	Inclusion (£4 previous) plus £12	16.00
John Fleming	Internal Audit Fees	35.00

80/16 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications

It was agreed to adopt the Grant Application policy. This will be made available on our website.

81/16 Training

Opportunities provided by CALC were circulated.

82/16 Asset Maintenance

A Maintenance Schedule for Parish Assets was circulated – any additional assets are to be identified and clarity of ownership given. A regular check of these assets is to be made and recorded along with any maintenance work that is required.

It was noted that a near miss on Skirwith Footbridge was reported to the Parish Council. Grip strips have been priced, the lowest option was from Safe Tread - £92.66. Mark Binney had kindly measured up whilst cutting the Parish Council grass there. He advised he could fit them and an offer to complete this for £30 was extended. The Parish Council was happy to accept this offer.

83/16 Councillor Matters

Skirwith Green Waste Skip has been collected for the last time. It remains a real problem. KB check on progress or timescales regarding the review of this provision by EDC.

Skirwith Beck was backing up in the heavy rain and needs cleaning out. This matter is to be referred to the Environment Agency.

Newtown/Skirwith road – grates are full of soil and need unblocking.

Councillor Jill Hay agreed to raise this with Highways.

Jill Hay reported that at the recycling centre in Culgaith a bush was obscuring access and egress. This is now resolved. Thanks were extended.

John Fleming had approached the Parish Council regarding a tree on Blencarn Green with a fence around it. The tree has grown and the fence needs removed. No objection. A check is to be made with Ken Stamper as we are unclear on whose responsibility it is.

An incident on the Pea resulted in the grit bin being damaged. This has been reported and post meeting Councillor Jill Hay has confirmed a new bin will be put in when they come around with grit in a month or so.

84/16 Date of the next meeting

7 November at Culgaith - 1930hrs