



Beckermet Village Association
Annual General Meeting
Minutes of meeting held on 4 August 2021

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking those present for attending and noting that this delayed AGM was the first opportunity for a meeting since January 2020 given the restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid pandemic; future years' AGMs would revert to a July date.

Members present: John Mackay (Chair), Lesley Barlow (Secretary), Tim Barlow, Kathleen Cook, Alan Kiel (Treasurer), Frank McKee, Sheena Mounsey, Geoff Nugent, Julie Nugent (item 8 onwards), Jean Slater, Simon Spencer (Vice Chair).

As 10 members were present, it was noted that the AGM quoracy was satisfied.

Apologies received: Keith Woolley, Margaret Woolley.

2. Previous meeting minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2020 were approved.

2.2 **Road Markings:** Cumbria County Council had refreshed junction road markings in Beckermet following requests from both the BVA and the Parish Council.

2.3 **Dog Litter:** The Parish Council was in contact with Copeland Borough Council regarding additional dog litter signs around the village.

2.4 **Remaining visible on dark evenings:** The Chair had included a reminder in a recent newsletter of the importance of wearing brighter/high visibility clothing when walking along the dark roads. It was agreed that a second reminder would be included in a late Summer/early Autumn newsletter.

3. Election of Officers

All post holders were proposed and seconded and all present voted in favour of the appointments which were accepted by the postholders. For clarity, the post holders are as follows:

Chair – John Mackay (nominated: Simon Spencer, seconded: Tim Barlow)

Vice Chair – Simon Spencer (nominated: Sheena Mounsey, seconded: Geoff Nugent)

Secretary – Lesley Barlow (nominated: John Mackay, seconded: Geoff Nugent)

Treasurer – Alan Kiel (nominated Tim Barlow, seconded: John Mackay)

Geoff Nugent also agreed to continue in the role of Newsletter Editor.

Thanks were extended in particular to the Newsletter Editor for the revamp of the newsletter which now included clear notification of forthcoming and planned activities. The need for contributors to submit articles by the stated deadline was emphasised.

4. Review and confirmation of Aims and Constitution

As Covid restrictions had ruled out meetings for the last 18 months, the Aims and Constitution document had been updated via Chair's approval in July 2020. The 2020 updates reflected:

- a. Names and contact details of committee members in Section 2
- b. Clarification under 6.1 that the scheduling of meetings would 'usually' take place in the identified months
- c. Clarification under 7.1.2 that a 'minimum' of 3 newsletters would be published annually.

The meeting requested that the 2021 version of the document be amended to show that the role of Newsletter Editor was not a Committee member.

It was also noted that a minimum of 10 people needed to be present for the AGM to satisfy quoracy requirements – thereby guaranteeing that the weight of approval rested with the main body of the meeting given that there were 4 committee members.

The amended document would be sent for inclusion on the Parish Council website and a short explanation of the role of the BVA and how to access its documents would be drafted for inclusion on one of the village noticeboards.

5. BVA Financial Update

Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the BVA, covering the 2019/2020 annual accounts, the 2020/2021 annual accounts and the accounts to date for the 2021/2022 year. Details of each account activity were shared at the meeting and would be held with these minutes, but in summary:

1. 2019/2020 recorded a year-end balance of £348.78
2. 2020/2021 recorded a year-end balance of £162.13 (including a £200 donation from the Parish Council for the printing of the CLP Plan, a £50 donation to the Christmas event organised by the then Sports Committee, and a £25 prize for the holder of a randomly drawn completed CLP questionnaire)
3. 2021/2022 year to date activity shows a current balance of £662.13 (including £500 grant from the Cumbria Community Fund which was committed to support the coffee mornings/afternoons)

It was agreed that the income and expenditure for the activities scheduled under the Becks Kickstart initiative would each be managed as a self-contained event by the nominated CLP representative and the accounts and profit would be submitted to the Treasurer on the completion of the activity (such as the Kickstarts live gig, the family quiz night, the Bingo evening, the guitar evening etc) – and the accounts for the coffee mornings/afternoons would be presented monthly.

6. First Responders Update

Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the First Responders, covering the 2019/2020 annual accounts, the 2020/2021 annual accounts and the accounts to date for the 2021/2022 year. Details of each account activity were shared at the meeting and would be held with these minutes, but in summary:

1. 2019/2020 recorded a year-end balance of £1408.31
2. 2020/2021 recorded a year-end balance of £1626.135 (including a £400 donation from the Cumbrian Freemasons for a training defibrillator)
3. 2021/2022 year to date has no financial activity, although approximately 3 call-outs had been recorded this calendar year.

It was confirmed that there are currently just 4 First Responders in the village plus a paramedic, with just one FR application currently pending. It was agreed that an article explaining the organisation behind and the role of the First Responders would be drafted by the Vice Chair and the Treasurer for inclusion in the Newsletter. The article would also serve as a call for interest in becoming a FR and would be supported by a similar advert on the village Facebook page.

It was agreed that the possibility of hosting a 'Heart Start' course in the Reading Rooms should be explored.

7. Parish Council (PC) matters

Update on Parish Council business:

- PC meetings had been limited for most of the Covid lockdown period to Zoom activity only, face-to-face meetings recommencing in May 2021. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday in September. It was agreed that dates and locations of Council meetings should be included in the village Newsletter.
- The Clerk and the Chair had both resigned in recent weeks. A new appointment for the role of Clerk had been made today and Julie Nugent had taken on the role of PC Chair and Tim Barlow the role of Vice Chair.
- Derek Humphries (Thornhill resident) had resigned from the PC, Tim Barlow (Beckermet resident) had joined – giving a balance of 5 Beckermet councillors and only 1 Thornhill councillor, with a number of vacancies.
- PC actions completed in recent months included:
 - Installation of a defibrillator on Morass Road
 - Agreement with the highways department for the installation of a salt bin on Braystones Road
 - Agreement with Copeland for additional signs regarding dog fouling
 - Restoration and repair of the War Memorial at the cemetery
 - Cleaning of play equipment on the play park
 - Seats replaced and repaired at Potters Lonning and Petersburg
- Ongoing PC actions include:

- Consideration for the upgrade of the small grassed area opposite Croft House – possibilities include reworking it as a planted area of shrubs and pebbles with the BVA logo
- Possibility of planting trees behind the bench near the cemetery on the curve of Morass Road
- Scheduled inspection of the play equipment
- Repair of gate at Millfields
- Paul Turner had been invited to attend the PC to discuss Beckermet highways issues.

8. Community Led Plan

The CLP group provided an update on progress. The analysis of the Winter 2020 questionnaire had resulted in a formal document and associated schedule of Becks Events promoting the use of the Reading Rooms as a focus for village activities. Furniture to enhance the Reading Rooms had been donated/purchased and a small library of books, games and jigsaws was now available. Tea/coffee mornings/afternoons had been scheduled through to the end of October and the CLP group was pleased to announce that the Kickstarts gig on 21 August had sold out. The full list of planned activities for August had been published on the back page of the July Newsletter and a similar insert would feature in the next Newsletter for the September activities.

It was agreed that the CLP Chair would arrange an Open Evening in October for all residents in the village where a representative of each of its various societies, committees and organisations would have the opportunity to promote their work. Work on this had started earlier in the year but had been postponed due to Covid.

Thanks were extended to all those who had worked on this project.

9. Newsletter

This had been covered under previous sections.

10. Matters of concern to residents.

The following concerns and points of interest were raised:

- Insufficient dog fouling bins.
It was noted that the PC had investigated this but concluded that the cost was prohibitive as it incurred a significant annual charge to cover the collection/emptying of additional bins. It was understood that it is legal to put bagged dog waste in general public bins. As a related matter, it was reported that Copeland's Dog Patrol had cautioned two pet owners for allowing their dogs on the playing field.
- Maintenance of White Mare grounds.
It was reported that the local MP had undertaken to contact Star Brewery about the poor state of the pub grounds and to determine their plans for its future.
- Kerbside weeding
It was noted that the recent visit by council workers to remove kerbside weeds had been 'hit and miss' with the majority of the weedkiller missing the weeds entirely.

11. AOB

Nothing to report.

10. Dates for 2020:

All meetings 7.30pm in the village Reading Rooms. Everyone welcome

6 October 2021

4 January 2022

6 April 2022

6 July 2022 (AGM)

Lesley Barlow
Secretary – Beckermet Village Association
August 2021