



1. The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking those present for attending.

Members present: John Mackay (Chair), Lesley Barlow (Secretary), Tim Barlow, Susan Brown, Jo Cloudsdale, Les Coan, Kath Cook, Anne Dickinson, John Dickinson, Alan Kiel (Treasurer), Geoff Nugent, Ian Perry, Sue Perry, Chris Reay, Jean Slater, Simon Spencer (Vice Chair), Margaret Woolley, Margery Worsell

Apologies received: Doreen Head, Keith Woolley.

2. Previous meeting minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 4 August 2021 were approved.

2.2 **First Responders:** An article about the role and importance of the First Responders had been included in the latest edition of the newsletter.

2.3 **White Mare:** It was understood that the MP had contacted Star Brewery about the state of the White Mare but there was no further progress to report.

3. First Responders Update

Alan Kiel reported that there had been no activity on this account for the financial year to date – the ongoing balance remains at £1626.15.

4. BVA Financial Update

Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the BVA for the financial year to date.

	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Opening Balance			162.13
Kick Start Event 1 August excl RR hire	702.97	342.62	360.35
Kick Start Event 2 September excl RR hire	958.57	890.92	67.65
Community Grant	500.00		500.00
WI donation	50.00		50.00
Village Fete donation	165.00		165.00
Newsletter x 3 (March, August, September)		220.80	-220.80
Reading Room hire for BVA		36.00	-36.00
Total	2375.97	1489.77	
Ongoing Balance			1048.33

A further £150 had been received from the Village Fete organisers but this money was ringfenced for the financing of a subsequent Fete.

5. Parish Council (PC) matters

Update on Parish Council business:

- Parish Council minutes can be accessed via the PC website for detailed information on its activities. The Council meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (excluding August) at 7pm with the venue alternating between Beckermet Reading Rooms and Thornhill Social Club. Attendance is open to all villagers.
- The planning application for 24 houses alongside Hunter Rise had been withdrawn.
- A representative of Copeland Council was to attend the October meeting to discuss the provision of dog waste bins (see BVA August minutes: Matters of Concern to Residents).

The BVA requested that the need for a large 'No Dogs' notice for the village playing field be highlighted.

- There had been an audit of the play areas in Beckermeth and Thornhill which had identified the need for minor repairs to some Beckermeth equipment (thanks were extended to Mike Slater and Eric Jewitt for their work on this). The audit had also identified that one item on the Beckermeth playpark needed removing. Work will be undertaken in the Spring after consultation with children in the village to identify a suitable replacement.

BVA members emphasised the need for consultation to cover all ages including teens – especially given the lack of opportunities for youths in the village to socialise. It was suggested that a hard surface with basketball hoop and accessible shelter may be attractive.

- Kath Cook was taking the lead on the creation of a design piece to be installed opposite Croft House Farm as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.
- Kath was also leading on planting trees in recognition of the Jubilee – possibly at the bend near the cemetery.

BVA members suggested that, in addition to available government funding, the Woodland Trust and Cumbria Wildlife Trust could be approached for assistance in the purchase of trees.

- Copeland Highways Officer, Paul Turner, was to attend the October meeting of the PC to discuss traffic calming measures in the village.

The BVA noted that such discussions had been ongoing for around 25 years with no action and wanted to emphasise that concerns around excessive speeding were most acutely felt in specific areas of the village only – such as Morass Road and on Braystones Road – and may not be an issue for residents in other areas of the village. This should not negate the importance of having these concerns addressed.

- A representative from the Copeland GDF Consortium was to attend the November meeting of the PC to discuss the GDF initiative (see item 9 below).

6. Community Led Plan

The CLP group provided an update on progress. It was agreed that there had been significant success in kickstarting a community feel and delivering outputs identified as a result of the questionnaire. The range of activities offered to date provided something for almost every age group. It was acknowledged that not all residents wanted to participate and that there is a limit to the amount of time and energy that the group can continue to expend on establishing and delivering a programme of events.

Discussions had taken place with the Reading Room Committee who was looking at ways of revitalising and relaunching the resource in advance of its centenary in 2023.

The focus of the CLP group was now on where to go from here and how the various groups in the village (CLP, BVA, Social Committee, Reading Room Committee) can interact with each other effectively – should the BVA act as an umbrella/oversight committee into which all other groups feed?

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

7. Newsletter

Geoff Nugent, the editor, reported that he felt he had taken the newsletter as far as he was able and that the demands of the CLP group meant he could no longer continue in the role of editor. It was agreed that an advert should be placed on the village facebook page to see if there was any interest within the village to take this on. If this was not the case, an approach could be made to West Lakes Academy to see if a student may be interested as part of a college-based project.

There was a general discussion about the nature of the newsletter and it was agreed that its aim should be to highlight village news and promote village events – the use of a newsletter funded, edited and delivered by volunteers to advertise commercial 'for profit' events was not appropriate. It was also suggested that residents should be offered the opportunity to receive an emailed PDF copy rather than a hard copy of the newsletter.

8. Matters of concern to residents.

The following was raised:

- The noticeboard to the right of the bus stop was for use by the Parish Council. Requests to post a document in it should be made to Julie Nugent as chair of the Parish Council.

9. AOB

9.1 Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

The Copeland GDF Working Group's Press Release dated 29 September and accompanying map had been circulated to the BVA email distribution list and was considered at this point with the following comments made:

- Anger and disappointment that the recent schedule of roadshows to provide context and information on the GDF had not included Beckermets. This echoed the approach that had taken place regarding the earlier Moorside development when Beckermets was not involved in any of the formal consultations despite the proximity of the proposed development
- The secretary was asked to draft a letter to send on behalf of the BVA to the GDF Working Group requesting that the association be kept directly informed and updated on all matters relating to the proposal. The letter would be copied to the local MP, Borough and County Councillors
- It was suggested that the group Residents Affected by Moorside (RAM) be reinstigated to co-ordinate the village's involvement in the discussions, reporting directly to the BVA
- There was a general feeling amongst those present that the proposal would be taken forward irrespective of the approval or otherwise of the local community – and that the village's only influence would be in terms of what benefits the village can secure for itself. As a result, it was likely that the Community Led Plan would prove crucial as it already offered evidence of what residents wanted in terms of developments, amenities and services
- The financial incentives offered (£1 million rising to £2.5 million) were not considered adequate compensation for involvement in such an initiative. This should be conveyed to the GDF Working Group as part of the letter mentioned above
- The meeting was reminded that a representative from the GDF Working Group was to attend the November meeting of the Parish Council – residents from Beckermets were encouraged to exercise their rights to attend that meeting.

10. Dates for 2022

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

6 January

6 April

6 July (AGM)

Lesley Barlow

Secretary – Beckermets Village Association

October 2021