



Beckerton Village Association
Minutes of meeting held on 5 January 2022

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

Members present: John Mackay (Chair), Lesley Barlow (Secretary), Tim Barlow, Kath Cook, Alan Kiel (Treasurer), Doug McDevitte, Sarah Moore, Geoff Nugent, Ian Perry, Sue Perry, Simon Spencer (Vice Chair),

1. Apologies received: Jo Cloudsdale, Doreen Head, Frank McKee, Sheena Mounsey, Keith Woolley, Margaret Woolley.

2. Previous meeting minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2021 were approved.

2.2 **White Mare** (min ref 2.3): It was understood that Star Brewery intended to open the pub within the next few weeks.

2.3 **Items for Parish Council** (min ref 5): All items raised by the BVA (suggestions for funding for trees for the Queen's Jubilee, dog waste bins, a larger 'No Dogs' sign for the playing field and traffic management issues) had been submitted to the Parish Council – a full update would be provided under agenda item 5.

2.4 **Newsletter editor** (min ref 7): a replacement editor had yet to be identified.

2.5 **GDF proposal** (min ref 9): a letter had been sent to the consortium outlining the BVA concerns – a response had been received apologising for having overlooked the village as a host for a road show and offering undertakings to keep the BVA informed of developments. A further update would be provided under agenda item 5.

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. There have been no call outs since the last BVA.

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 from October BVA			1048.33
CLP Update leaflet		146.25	-146.25
Kickstart Event 3: October excl RR hire	437.75	385.81	51.94
Kickstart Event 4: November excl RR hire	215.01	148.69	66.32
Kickstart Event 5: December excl RR hire *	179.00	109.60	132.40
Rum butter sales	23.00		
Reading Room Rental for events August-October		540.00	-540.00
BVA donation to RR Christmas decorations		50.00	-50.00
Total			
Ongoing Balance			562.74

* includes £40 from sale of football cards – which will become £40 donation to scouts

Reading Room invoice for November and December usage has yet to be received.

The Reading Rooms Committee was reviewing its charging policy – the outcome of the negotiations would determine which events funded via the BVA could continue.

5. Parish Council (PC) matters

Update on Parish Council business:

1. The consortium behind the GDF had attended the November meeting, attracting attendance by around 10 members of the public. The consortium was now formed as a Community Partnership - one for mid-Copeland incorporating Beckermet and a separate second one for South Copeland (based around Millom). Each partnership controlled an initial annual £1 million fund against which the community could bid for projects of any size. Should discussions proceed in subsequent years to the drilling/bore-hole stage, the annual amount would rise to £2 million. Should the project be chosen to proceed beyond the second phase, the consortium would be required to carry out some form of referendum to demonstrate that the communities affected were in agreement with the project proceeding.
An application to the fund was being drawn up on behalf of the village to secure funding for the initial stages of a refurbishment plan for the Reading Rooms. A decision by the Community Partnership was expected at the end of January.
2. Councillor Paul Turner had attended the PC on behalf of Copeland Highways Dept. to discuss traffic calming measures in the village. The BVA's concern and frustration over delays in any action being taken had been relayed. Councillor Turner had undertaken to pass the issues to the relevant Highways Area Manager but stressed the need for contemporary data. The PC highlighted the wasted efforts over the years from having collected data (usually from the wrong locations). The BVA suggested that the option of installing 'Smiley Faces' could be investigated – possibly funded through the GDF partnership.
3. An Officer from Copeland Council had attended the November meeting to discuss the provision of dog waste bins and fly tipping. It had been confirmed that general waste bins can be used for bagged dog waste. As the fly tipping on Cop Lane had been shown to be non-hazardous, removal was not a priority but would eventually be undertaken.
The BVA's request for a large 'No Dogs' notice for the village playing field was accepted and would be forwarded for action.
4. The PC noted the positive response to a request for help in clearing up the churchyard and passed its thanks on to all those who had been able to give up their time.

6. Community Led Plan

The CLP group had just met to review achievements arising from the actions identified through the village questionnaire. The Action Plan would be amended to show the progress made and an updated document would be circulated to all households.

The Reading Rooms Committee was discussing the option of restructuring itself as a Community Interest Company (CIC). It was exploring ways in which (through funding being sought via the GDF Community Partnership fund) could be refurbished.

7. Newsletter

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 on the role of Newsletter Editor – but including the use of social media in general to ensure that all forms of communication were being exploited.

8. Matters of concern to residents.

The following was raised:

1. Moves to install wifi in the Reading Rooms were underway. An additional pole for a new telephone line was required but this was now in-hand.
2. Options were being explored with Sellafield to use the Reading Rooms as a base for lectures/conferences.

9. Dates for 2022

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

6 April

6 July (AGM)

Lesley Barlow

Secretary – Beckermet Village Association

February 2022