



Beckermet Village Association
Annual General Meeting
Minutes of meeting held on 7 July 2022

Members present: John Mackay (Chair), Lesley Barlow (Secretary), Tim Barlow, Kathleen Cook, Hilary Cowley, Eric Jowett, Alan Kiel (Treasurer), Sheena Mounsey, Geoff Nugent, Ian Perry, Sue Perry, Simon Spencer (Vice Chair).

As 12 members were present, it was noted that the AGM quoracy was satisfied.

Apologies received: Jo Cloudsdale, Anne Dickinson, John Dickinson, Doug McDevitte, Sarah Moore, Keith Woolley, Margaret Woolley.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2022 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 (Ref 2.4) GDF: The Seismic Survey was to take place from 1 August for 17 days. The GDF Consortium have scheduled monthly information meetings in the Reading Rooms during the Coffee Cake & Chat sessions on either Tuesday mornings or Thursday afternoons.

2.2 (Ref 2.5) Newsletter Editor: no progress in identifying anyone willing to take on this role.

2.3 (Ref 2.6) Reading Rooms Wifi: The erection of a new telegraph pole was still awaited – a request to resite it had been made.

2.4 (Ref 3) First Aid Course: An emergency first aid course had been scheduled on two separate dates: Thursday 14 July at 18:45, and Thursday 18 August at 18:45. Places would be limited to 6 per session and first call was offered to those present today. Remaining spaces would be advertised via the BVA email list, and any spaces still free after that would be advertised via the village facebook page.

2.5 (Ref 5.4) Swing Bridge: It was understood that repairs were to take place later this month.

2.6 (Ref 5.8) Repairs to benches: ongoing

2.7 (Ref 5.10) Cherry tree area landscaping: ongoing

2.8 (Ref 5.12) Jubilee Celebrations: The quiz had raised £110 in aid of the celebrations which had been combined with the Parish Council donation of £1000.

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: Kath Cook, seconded: Ian Perry)

Vice Chair – no appointment

Secretary – Lesley Barlow (nominated: Kath Cook, seconded: Geoff Nugent)

Treasurer – Alan Kiel (nominated: Kath Cook, seconded: Geoff Nugent)

The role of Newsletter Editor remained vacant.

The Chair thanked Simon Spencer, the outgoing Vice Chair, for his contribution to the BVA.

4. Review and confirmation of Aims and Constitution

The Aims and Constitution document was reapproved subject to the following amendments:

- a. Names and contact details of committee members in Section 2
- b. Clarification under 7.1.2 that the BVA would 'attempt to produce' a minimum of 3 newsletters annually. In the absence of an editor, it was agreed that the minutes of the meetings would be displayed in the noticeboard and a link to the minutes (held on the PC website) would be uploaded onto the village facebook page.

The amended document would be sent for inclusion on the Parish Council website.

5. BVA Financial Update

Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the First Responders, covering the 2021/2022 annual accounts, and the accounts to date for the 2022/2023 year. Details of each account activity were shared at the meeting and would be held with these minutes, but in summary:

1. 2021/2022 recorded a year-end balance of £1015.34 (plus a ringfenced amount of £150 being held on behalf of the Village Fete organisers).
This included a Community Foundation Grant from Copeland Council of £500 which had funded the early stages of the coffee mornings/afternoons, profits from the various Kickstart events, income from the Village Fete and the WI donation. Major expenditure related to newsletter/CLP publications, Reading Room hire and donation for Christmas decorations in the Reading Rooms)
2. 2022/2023 year to date activity shows a current balance of £1102.80.
This includes income from the three months Kickstart events, continued by the BVA, Jubilee quiz evening, donations made at the Village Jubilee party and the Parish Council Jubilee £1000 donation. Major expenditure relates to the Jubilee celebrations, Reading Room hire, and support for the scouts. The figure does not include June quiz and bingo events (balance of £90) – the proceeds from which have been donated to the church as previously agreed. The June coffee morning surplus of £31 is also to follow for banking into the BVA accounts.

Given the healthy balance of the BVA and the current limited expenditure commitments the chairman requested that future surplus from the next three months events be shared equally between the Reading Rooms and St John's Church Beckermat. This was unanimously agreed by those in attendance.

6. First Responders Update

Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the First Responders, covering the 2021/2022 annual accounts, and the accounts to date for the 2022/2023 year. Details of each account activity were shared at the meeting and would be held with these minutes, but in summary:

1. 2021/2022 recorded a year-end balance of £1626.15
2. 2022/2023 year to date has no financial activity and the balance remains £1626.15.

7. Parish Council (PC) matters

Update on Parish Council business:

1. Traffic Management: Speed monitoring equipment had been in place across the village – the results were awaited.
2. School Green playpark: thanks were extended to Julie Nugent who had submitted an application on behalf of the PC to the Mid-Copeland GDF Partnership which had resulted in a grant of £87k to refurbish the playpark. Two open sessions had been arranged for village parents and children to view proposals and express preferences (Sat 9 July and Monday 11 July). It was hoped that an October installation could be achieved.
3. Jubilee celebrations: every child in the primary school had been given a Jubilee coin.
4. The PC was looking to recruit a handyman – anyone with suggestions of possible contacts was asked to contact a PC member.
5. Mid-Copeland GDF Partnership is to conduct a survey of those living in the area to identify how well the project is understood. Between November and the end of June, the Partnership has allocated £597k of its annual £1million budget with a further £300k earmarked but not yet awarded.
6. Full minutes of PC meetings are on the PC website and on the village noticeboard.

8. Community Led Plan

Geoff Nugent provided an update on progress. The key to successfully achieving the outcomes of the CLP centres around the refurbishment of the Reading Rooms. Part of the preparation for applying for grants to support this was the restructuring of the RR Committee as a Community Interest Company (CIC) which was well underway. This had presented the opportunity to combine the BVA with what had been the RR Committee into a single body to reduce duplication.

The BVA was generally supportive of this provided the Aims/Terms of Reference/Articles of Association of the new body included the Aims as outlined in the constitution of the BVA. It was agreed that discussion

between representatives of the two bodies to review compatibility should take place before a final proposal was brought before the BVA for a formal vote.

Following the successful bid to the Mid-Copeland GDF Partnership, plans had been drawn up and costed for the redevelopment of the RR. The original intention to ensure the building was future-proofed had resulted in costings in the order of £550K – a review of the intended works had resulted in a revised figure of around £180k but this would mean increased ongoing costs. The revisions still included roof repairs, heating upgrade, refurbished kitchen and toilets, and a new entrance. It was likely to be the Autumn before the CIC was formed and a formal grant application could be made – this means completion in time for centenary celebrations in September 2023 is unlikely.

9. Newsletter

This had been covered under previous sections.

10. Matters of concern to residents.

None reported.

11. AOB

Nothing to report.

10. Dates for 2020:

To be decided.

Lesley Barlow
Secretary – Beckermet Village Association
July 2022