



**Members present:** John Mackay (Chair), Lesley Barlow (Secretary), Tim Barlow, Cath Bibby, Howard Bibby, Kathleen Cook, Anne Dickinson, John Dickinson, Alan Kiel (Treasurer), Ian Perry, Sue Perry,. As 11 members were present, it was noted that the AGM quoracy was satisfied.

**Apologies received:** Jon Eaton.

### **1. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2023 were approved.

### **2. Matters Arising**

**2.1 (Ref 2.2) Reading Rooms WiFi:** The pole had been installed and WiFi was now fully functional.

**2.2 (Ref 2.3) Swing Bridge:** repairs had now been completed – the Parish Council had chased the construction company for the removal of the final piece of scaffolding which had come adrift from the main works.

**2.3 (Ref 2.8) Play Park:** This £87,000 upgrade had been completed and a formal opening had taken place on 15 June. A similar upgrade was now planned for the Thornhill facility at a cost of around £100,000. The Parish Council was thanked for their work in securing such excellent facilities for the village.

**2.4 (Ref 2.9) Collaboration with the RR CiC:** Discussions around the previous suggestion of a full merger had concluded that the most appropriate way forward was to maintain two separate bodies to allow the BVA to focus on its core function of supporting the village as a whole, and the CiC to focus on the RR building and ensuring its financial viability as a village facility. The Directors of the CiC planned to establish a Stakeholder Group, which would include representation from the BVA and other major groups in the village, to support its work in identifying and organising activities to be hosted in the RR. The CiC had published its room hire charges and was hopeful of being in a position to allow free use of the facility to village-based, non-profit community activities. A case had been made for meetings/training events of the BVA and the First Responders to fall into this category. The meeting recorded a formal note of thanks on behalf of the village for all the Directors' work in securing such an impressive refurbishment.

(Post Meeting note: Confirmation had been received that no charge would be levied for BVA/FR meetings/training sessions)

**2.5 (Ref 4.1) Money held on behalf of village fete:** It had been agreed with the CiC that the £150 ringfenced money held on behalf of the first village fete would be transferred to the RR CiC.

**2.6 (Ref 4.2/3) Grants:** The grants from Cumbria Community Fund and LLWR in connection with the running and temporary relocation of the Coffee and Chat sessions had been spent in full. The final balance for these sessions over the period in question included a further LLWR grant of £180 (to part-cover the additional weeks when a portaloos was required) and £175 from public donations to cover the remainder – leaving an over spend of £10.03. The meeting thanked those who had offered donations which allowed the sessions to continue while the RR were unavailable.

**2.7 (Ref 4.4) World Challenge Expedition:** the resident who had requested support for the Challenge had emailed the Chair to thank the Association for its support.

### **3. Election of Officers**

All existing post holders were proposed and seconded en bloc by Tim Barlow and Kath Cook 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  
Secretary – Lesley Barlow  
Treasurer – Alan Kiel

Vice Chair – Tim Barlow (proposed by John Mackay and seconded by Alan Kiel) – appointed unanimously.

The role of Newsletter Editor remained vacant.

#### **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 updated
- b. Removal of reference to Newsletter editor in Section 2
- c. Clarification under 6.1.1 that the BVA would 'usually' hold four meetings per year 'typically' in the months identified.
- d. Amendment in Section 7 to replace reference to a newsletter with the use of the village Facebook page. It was felt that this, combined with the use of posters in the village noticeboard and leaflets (sections 7.3 and 7.4) would be sufficient.

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 2022/2023 annual accounts, and the accounts to date for the 2023/2024 year. Details of each account activity were shared at the meeting and would be held with these minutes, but in summary:

1. 2022/2023 recorded a year-end balance of £1215.64.  
In addition to the grants and donations mentioned in minute 2.6 above, this included Parish Council grant of £1000 which had funded the Jubilee celebrations, donations from the Coffee and Chat sessions, income from Quiz and Bingo nights and public donations received at the Jubilee celebrations. In addition to Jubilee/portafoo/room hire costs, expenditure largely related to the previously agreed donations to the Church, the RR and the school – as a reflection of the Association's community ethos.
2. 2023/2024 year to date activity shows a current balance of £1930.64.  
This includes income from an additional LLWR grant and public donations mainly relating to the additional portafoo hire as well as a grant from Voluntary Action Cumbria. Major expenditure relates to Church and School hire, and the previously agreed donations to the School and Church. The figure does not include outstanding invoices for portafoo hire.

Given the healthy balance of the BVA and the current limited expenditure commitments it was agreed that the practice of dispersing future surplus from Coffee and Chat/Quiz/Bingo events to community resources such as the Reading Rooms, St John's Church Beckermat and the School should continue.

#### **6. First Responders Update**

Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the First Responders, covering the 2022/2023 annual accounts, and the accounts to date for the 2023/2024 year. Details of each account activity were shared at the meeting and would be held with these minutes, but in summary:

1. 2022/2023 recorded a year-end balance of £1508.21.  
There had been no income. Expenditure related to 4 finger oxygen/pulse meters (and associated batteries) and room hire for training sessions.
2. 2023/2024 year to date has no financial activity and the balance remains £1508.21.

It was noted that pagers were now supplied directly by the Ambulance Service.

The Beckermat Community First Response Team currently has 6 members and welcomes anyone interested in joining. It is a voluntary service with no payment being made but all training and kit are provided. The team covers Beckermat, Nethertown, Braystones, Haile and Thornhill – they may also go as far as Gosforth or Egremont (which have their own teams) if required. In the last 12 months the team has been called to 24 incidents – fewer than the previous year. Callouts cover many issues but always with the underlying need to save life as a team member is the first on scene to provide Resus and Defibrillation until an Ambulance crew arrives. The meeting recorded its thanks and appreciation to the team for such a valuable and crucial service.

It was noted that the previous suggestion for a defibrillator in the RR had been supported by the CiC, and, in order to support the work already accomplished by the Directors in refurbishing the RR, the BVA secretary would prepare a bid to the GDF to achieve this.

## **7. Parish Council (PC) matters**

The minutes of the PC meetings are always available via the PC website, the village Facebook page and in the noticeboard at the bus stop but in summary an update of Parish Council business was provided:

1. Cycle path: recent discussion on the village Facebook page had highlighted the terrible state of the cycle path just past Sellafield Station near the nature reserve. All local Parish Councils were discussing this and approaches would be made to Natural England and various wildlife trusts to secure support in requiring Sustrans to fix the path.
2. Car park at School Green playpark: this is PC land and the Council is keen to ensure that spaces are used by those accessing village amenities, rather than Sellafield employees seeking full day parking. A trial of 3 hour maximum stay between 8am and 5pm was in place with temporary signage. If this proves effective, more permanent signage will be installed. It was recognised that this may have the effect of just displacing the parking problem onto roads through the village and it was suggested that the CNC could be approached to see if they could offer support.
3. Speed limit: in light of success in other local villages, the PC, with support from the local MP, had requested a 20mph speed limit around the school – and possibly more widely across the village.
4. The PC website: the hard work by Donna McGhee in maintaining the aging website was acknowledged and a grant was being sought to develop a more modern design.

## **8. GDF update**

This had been largely covered elsewhere but additionally:

- 8.1 Further applications in connection with RR refurbishment (eg. Windows and doors) were to be made. The BVA would welcome clarification on plans for wheelchair access.
- 8.2 Analysis of recent geological surveys was still ongoing – but it was understood that this would lead to a reduction in the national number of possible candidates for such a storage facility – with a corresponding increase in the size of the pot of money available to those areas which remain in contention (increasing from £1million per year to £2.5million per year).

## **9. Matters of concern to residents.**

- 9.1 Concerns around potholes continue. There had been some improvement following the last meeting and advice on how to report potholes – but it was understood that until a pothole reached a certain depth, no action would be taken by Highways. Residents were encouraged to report potholes as frequently as possible until they were fixed.
- 9.2 It was noted that attendance at the BVA was very limited – measures to improve participation included notices in noticeboards and on the village Facebook page, as well as an email distribution list numbering about 60 recipients) for those who had submitted their email address. Suggestions on how to improve attendance are welcome.
- 9.3 Despite reassurances from the County Council that there was no evidence to suggest a need for additional measures, concerns regarding speeding on Morass Road and Braystones Road in particular continued. It was suggested that the PC should be approached to see if a green and red 'Smiley/Sad Face' light could be installed at key points – perhaps through GDF funding.

## **10. AOB**

### **10.1 BVA Bank Account**

Residents were reminded that the BVA account was a Community Account with the Santander Bank, with three signatories:

Alan Kiel as BVA Treasurer continued to be the main user of the account.

Margaret Woolley remained a resident in the village but had verbally indicated a desire to have her name removed from the account.

Peter Manning, the third named signatory, had recently moved from the village and would need replacing.

It was unanimously agreed that all 4 officers as detailed above in minute 3 should be account signatories: John Mackay, Tim Barlow, Alan Kiel, Lesley Barlow. The current practice of requiring 2 signatories on any transaction should continue.

**Resolved:** that the account be amended to remove Margaret Woolley and Peter Manning as approved signatories and to include John Mackay, Tim Barlow and Lesley Barlow as approved signatories along with Alan Kiel. This should be enacted as soon as possible.

#### 10.2 **Creation of a village lottery**

The BVA is not a fund raising body as such - but in order to be in a position to support community activities (eg. the church, the school, brownies, scouts, individual requests such as the recent World Challenge Expedition) in line with the approved Aims and Constitution, available funds are required.

The Chair proposed that a Village Lottery could be established with the following guidelines:

- i. Those wishing to participate would pay £25 at the start of an operating year: representing £1 admin fee and £2 per month
- ii. No refunds for withdrawal part way through an operating year would be permitted.
- iii. Anyone joining part way through a year would be charged pro rata based on £1 admin fee plus £2 per remaining month.
- iv. Allocation of winnings and grants would be managed by means of a 50/50 split of the current monthly pot between winnings paid out and proceeds for 'good causes'.
- v. A **monthly** draw to obtain the three prizewinners would be undertaken at the first Coffee and Chat session in the month or at another suitable date and venue as required but always in public.
- vi. All results would be made available on the village Facebook page and in village noticeboards.
- vii. The 'good cause' recipient/s would be agreed on a 3 monthly basis at the nearest BVA meeting. Agreement would be by proposal by any member present with a vote being taken to approve the proposal – the Chair having a casting vote in the event of a split decision.

The meeting was in favour of this suggestion and the Chair undertook to investigate and apply for a lottery licence (initial cost was in the region of £40 with a subsequent annual charge of £20).

10.3 The secretary agreed to clarify with CiC Directors if dogs were allowed in the RR.

#### **11. Dates for 2023/24:**

To be decided.

Lesley Barlow  
Secretary – Beckermeth Village Association  
August 2023