



Members present: John Mackay (Chair), Lesley Barlow (Secretary), Tim Barlow (Deputy Chair), Alan Kiel (Treasurer), Geoff Nugent, Julie Nugent, Jean Slater, Duncan Worsell.

Apologies received: Anne Dickinson, John Dickinson, Ian Perry, Sue Perry, Keith Woolley, Margaret Woolley.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on 27 July 2023 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Grants (Ref 2.6): Warm Hubs grants were set to be slashed for the 2023/24 winter – from £100k last year for the whole of Cumbria to just £10k this year for Cumberland and Westmoreland. Contacts made by the chair had allowed the village to participate in a group application to a separate scheme which resulted in a £10k grant to be shared by participants. Another scheme (Utility Aid via ACT) was mentioned.

2.2 Constitution (Ref 4): **agreed** that the Constitution should be expanded to include the means by which a vote would proceed (majority of members present with the chair having a casting vote in the event of a tie).

2.3 Defibrillator (Ref 6): initial approaches had been made to the GDF who had advised of alternative sources of funding in the first instance. One source (London Hearts) had only just become available and required match funding of around £1500 – details had been lodged. Interest had been registered at another source (British Heart Foundation) but the scheme would not be open until early November. The chair and secretary indicated their willingness to co-ordinate the required checks on the equipment once installed.

Post meeting note: BHF: we have been unsuccessful in the initial round but remain in the scheme for a second tranche of funding due by the end of March.

2.4 'Smiley Face' speed indicator (Ref 9.3): In anticipation of seeking funding from GDF, the secretary had approached the Highways department for advice on requirements for a 'smiley face' speed awareness monitor. It was also reported that the Parish Council is seeking measures to manage speeding – including 20 mph speed limits.

Post meeting note: Council had responded that they were satisfied that there was no need for 'smiley face' speed monitors in the village and would not give permission for this to happen.

2.5 Bank account (Ref 10.1): Steps were being taken to update bank signatories.

2.6 Dogs in the RR (Ref 10.3): Booking conditions for the RR allow for well-behaved dogs at the discretion of the person taking on the booking.

2.7 Village Lottery (Ref 10.6): Just under 150 members had participated in the first draw – on this basis around £1700 per year would be available for village good causes and the same amount for prize money. Applications for funding would be open to any individual or group in the village. An application had been received from St John's church for a contribution of £100 to help with ingredient costs and rent associated with the Soup Lunch. This was approved unanimously.

3. BVA Financial Update

Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the BVA 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, 2023/2024 year to date activity shows a current balance of £3,433.

The £100 held on behalf of the Village Fete had been returned.

4. First Responders Update

Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the First Responders accounts to date for the 2023/2024 year: no financial activity and the balance remains £1508.21.

5. GDF update

1. It was reported that the first round of aerial surveys was about to start but would be weather dependent.
2. The bid from the Allerdale consortium had been ruled out but there were reports of a possible additional two bids from elsewhere in the country. In 2026, the process would be reduced to the two most favourable bids.
3. The GDF had hired the refurbished Reading Rooms and had been delighted with the facility.
4. Refurbishment of Thornhill Playpark had been completed.
5. GDF is encouraging all parishes to have their own Community Led Plan – similar to the one drawn up in Beckermest before and during lockdown.

6. CLP update

Steps were being taken to refresh the Plan which was now over 2 years old and revisit the original goals and wish list, many of which had been achieved and/or resolved. Areas around youth/sports facilities may need further exploring but would require input from other individuals and organisations in the village. A meeting was being arranged to discuss 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. A new PC website was being explored.
2. As already mentioned, steps were being taken to persuade relevant bodies of the need for traffic management measures in the village.
3. Car park at School Green playpark: temporary signs to ensure that spaces are used by those accessing village amenities, rather than Sellafield employees seeking full day parking had been successful. More permanent signage is now being investigated.
4. Cycle path: the recent Storm Agnes had worsened the already terrible state of the cycle path just past Sellafield Station near the nature reserve. The Parish Council was adding its weight to the various approaches being made to address this but responsibility for the path lies squarely with Sustrans.

8. Matters of concern to residents.

None.

9. Dates of next meeting:

Likely to be January – exact date to be decided.

Lesley Barlow
Secretary – Beckermest Village Association
December 2023