



Members present: John Mackay (Chair), Tim Barlow (Deputy Chair and acting Secretary), Bob Cloudsdale, Jo Cloudsdale, Sarah Dent, Claire Dunn, Alan Kiel (Treasurer), Ian Perry, Sue Perry, Duncan Worsell.

Apologies received: Lesley Barlow, Keith Woolley, Margaret Woolley.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on 16 October 2023 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Warm Hub Grants (Ref 2.1): Warm Hub Grant. A joint application by Jozi Brown from 'ACTion Cumbria' was submitted on behalf of Beckermet and Gosforth with each being awarded £2.2K.

2.2 Defibrillators (Ref 2.3): No success in the first set of funding from the BHF but the application remains live for the second set – the outcome of which will be known at the end of March. The option of providing £750 match funding for the London Hearts scheme currently remains open. It was agreed to await the BHF final decision, revisiting the London Hearts option at that point if necessary.

Everyone was reminded that the only defibrillator in the village is at Claire Murray's house on Morass Road – there is not one at the White Mare.

2.3 'Smiley Face' Speed Indicator (Ref 2.4): the Council had ruled that this was not permissible as their traffic monitor reports had not indicated the need for one. It was suggested that the local MP should be approached for support.

2.4 Bank Account (Ref 2.5): The Bank has requested additional information which is being supplied. It is anticipated that approval of the new signatories will be confirmed shortly – at which point, the retiring signatories would be removed.

3. BVA Financial Update

3a BVA: 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 £1,315.64.

3b Village Lottery: The Village Lottery now had a total of 156 members with an annual total of £1953.50 for prizes and the same amount for worthy causes.

Three applications had been received from residents: two related to CRCL trips to Tanzania and the third related to a prestigious selection to represent the Sea Cadets at the commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. It was unanimously agreed that each applicant should be awarded £200. All three applicants would host an information event on their return to present their trips.

Claire Dunn outlined the proposal that the village should participate in the Cumbria in Bloom event, which would coincide with the Village Show. It was acknowledged that it would involve significant work but represented an opportunity to show pride in the village. The Village Association agreed to support the initiative with a financial contribution – likely to be in the region of £50. Alan Kiel agreed to represent the BVA at the meeting to be held in the Reading Rooms on 6 February, with a presentation by the co-ordinator of Cumbria in Bloom.

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. Everyone was reminded that the bid from the Allerdale consortium had been ruled out but there were reports of a possible additional bid from elsewhere in the country, which would take the total back up to four bids.
2. GDF and other funding bodies were meeting on 21 February in the Reading Rooms.

6. CLP update

Work was being undertaken to refresh the Plan to show what had been achieved, what remained outstanding and what had proved impossible. With respect to facilities for teenagers, it was noted that a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) had been installed at Thornhill and that the outdoor gym at Gosforth was well-used. There has been interest shown in a MUGA for Beckermets.

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. Cycle path: the latest information suggested that there were plans to reroute the path along the main road by Sellafield.
3. Fraud Prevention: the PC was seeking ideas as to the best forum for promoting fraud prevention, which would be a presentation from a local Police Constable. It was suggested that options could include attendance at one of the Coffee and Chat sessions as well as a session immediately before a PC meeting or at a quiz or bingo night.

8. Matters of concern to residents.

- 8.1 Street lighting on Braystones Road was poor.
- 8.2 Speeding through the village. It was noted that there were different avenues being explored, but without success to date. Twenty is Plenty has been raised by residents previously and a suggestion made that a survey proving its popularity may be used as evidence for future proposals.

9. Dates of next meeting:

Likely to be April – exact date to be decided.

Tim Barlow
Vice Chair and Acting Secretary – Beckermets Village Association
January 2024