



Members present: John Mackay (Chair), Lesley Barlow (Secretary), Tim Barlow (Deputy Chair), Jo Cloudsdale, Claire Dunn, Alan Kiel (Treasurer), Jenny Richardson.

Apologies received: Anne Dickinson, John Dickinson, Sarah Moore, Andrew Moore, Sheena Mounsey, Jean Slater, Keith Woolley, Margaret Woolley.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 were approved, subject to the amendment of figure £1953.50 in minute 3b) to read £1907.50.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Defibrillators (Ref 2.2): The GDF bid submitted by the BVA for a defibrillator on the outside of the Reading Rooms had been successful and the funds (£5420) should be transferred by the end of the month. The bid had also included the cost of maintenance for the first 5 years and, at the request of the Reading Rooms, funding for first aid training.

2.2 Bank Account (Ref 2.4): Final pieces of paperwork to add the new signatories were being completed – the retiring signatories would be removed as soon as possible.

2.3 February's GDF Funding event (Ref 5.2): A number of attendees at the BVA meetings had attended the funding event and gained useful insights and advice on available sources of funding.

2.4 Fraud Prevention (Ref 7.3): Plans for a Fraud Prevention event had yet to be finalised. An IT support session had been organised but, despite expressions of interest from a number of people, no one had attended.

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 (BVA, Village Lottery and Beckermet in Bloom) were shared at the meeting and would be held with these minutes, but in summary, 2023/2024 year to date activity shows:

- a) a current balance of general BVA activity of £2,985.64 with some expenses still to be processed before final year end accounts can be presented
- b) the Village Lottery now had a total of 158 members with an annual total of £3,920 split equally between prizes and worthy causes. Setting aside prize money for the remaining draws in this cycle, £1,151.50 remained available for grants
- c) Beckermet in Bloom: income from the Parish Council donation (£450), Village Lottery (£50), private donation (£30); expenditure for general expenses (£45) and a new invoice yet to be processed (£209).

3b Village Lottery: Two further formal applications had been received from residents: £300 contribution to the cost of running a joint church/school initiative for an after school club, and £150 contribution to the costs of the Soup Lunches. Both applications were approved.

The previous applications from two village residents for support towards a Tanzanian exchange visit had been based on the purchase of flights at £700. Unfortunately, those flights had now been cancelled and costs had unexpectedly risen by £650 per participant. Additional fund raising was being undertaken. It was agreed that a further £200 would be donated from the Village Lottery to help the two Beckermet residents achieve their goal.

It was noted that the 3rd resident who had received funding at the last meeting was awaiting the outcome of a bid to a third party. The Committee agreed that should the bid be unsuccessful, the chair would have the discretion to make a further award from the lottery fund before the next meeting.

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. There was still funding available this cycle (which runs to the Autumn) – a bid was being prepared from the village in connection with support for some form of teenage society. Indications were that a couple of substantial bids were likely to be submitted in the next cycle from across the Mid Copeland area which would be spread over more than one cycle of funding
2. Following the ruling out of the Allerdale consortium, an additional bid from Lincolnshire had taken the total back up to four – with a further bid expected from the Northeast.
3. Work had started at looking at the 'bigger picture' of what the area may need should the Mid Copeland bid proceed beyond the initial stage and into the next 25 plus years – the impact on infrastructure: transport, housing, health, tourism.

6. 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 undertaken.
2. Cycle path: no progress had been made but the PC continued to push those responsible for action. The cycle path had now formally been rerouted along the main road to the A595 from Sellafeld station to Seascale. The footpath to Seascale remained open.
3. Fraud Prevention: the PC would liaise with the BVA chair to ensure best use of the police's offer of a presentation/session.
4. The History Society had been supported in reprinting the history of Beckermets book. It was suggested that copies should be made available for sale at the village Plant Sale in May.
5. 20 mph speed limit: efforts were ongoing.

7. CLP update

Work to refresh the Plan (to show what had been achieved, what remained outstanding and what had proved impossible or unsustainable) had been completed, and the updated Plan had been issued via the Village Facebook page. Turning initial expressions of interest and support into concrete actions or events remained the biggest challenge – without people coming forward to carry ideas to completion, achieving the identified wish list remained out of reach. A copy had been lodged with the GDF who had been sufficiently impressed to issue it to surrounding villages as an example of good practice. An event was to be arranged to showcase the achievements to date and to encourage new participants/volunteers.

8. Matters of concern to residents.

- 8.1 Street lighting on Braystones Road was poor – the Secretary would investigate possible routes for reporting this.

9. Any other business

- 9.1 **Beckermets in Bloom:** The numbers of those involved had dwindled significantly from the first meeting but the team had cleared and seeded land in the playpark and cleared the bus stop area. It was being supported in its efforts by litter picking by a resident as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award, plans by the Parish Council to undertake some landscaping, and the forthcoming Plant Sale. It was agreed that the BVA would continue to look after the bus stop hanging baskets and that the secretary would complete an application for village lottery funding to replace and replant the baskets for the summer.
- 9.2 The Committee discussed and approved a formal thanks and £30 Amazon gift card (funded from the BVA account) for the local resident who was undertaking regular litter picking (to great effect) as part of his DofE award – the results of his actions benefit the whole community.

10. Dates of next meeting:

The AGM was likely to be July – exact date to be decided.