



Beckermets Village Newsletter

June 2018

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Parish Council

Parish Council funding

The Parish Council spent £15,728.81 in 2017/18, and had an income of £14,290.66 (£13,000.00 precept plus £1,290.66 of additional income) that resulted in £1,438.15 being taken from the reserve funds. The budget had been exceeded because of improvements to the Thornhill Football Club car park and the purchase of new picnic tables and benches for play areas in the Parish. The above figures are subject to audit.

A £13000 precept has again been received for 2018/19, and the Parish maintains a healthy reserve fund. Residents of the Parish are encouraged to bring forward ideas to the Parish Council that will result in improvements to the community and the environment

Entry to Beckermets along Morass and Nursery Roads

The Highways Working Group of CCC and the Copeland Local Committee of CCC have now concluded their discussions on the results of the traffic surveys in Beckermets during 2017, and the consultation for implementation of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order; to stop traffic entering roads to the north and south of the village.

They have abandoned the proposal because

1. When Nursery Road was dug up and closed by the Utilities, the increase in traffic along Mill Lane was approx. 70%. This was unsatisfactory, given the presence of the school and Nursery.
2. The consultation received 96 responses, of which 69 were objections and only 16 in favour.
3. An independent safety audit had criticised it on a number of counts

They recognise that there is still a traffic issue, and are intending to look at other options; but there is no discussion just now.

Boundary Commission

Following the Boundary Commission's first public consultation on the Ward Boundaries and the number of district Councillors in Copeland, the Boundary Commission have opened a second consultation: a new Ward should be formed consisting of Beckermets, Thornhill, Braystones and Haile with around 1750

electors and that the Ward should be represented by one District Councillor.

Consultations

The Parish Council have responded to the UK Governments two consultations relating to the provision of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for nuclear waste.

One of the consultations concerns the process for selecting a suitable location for the GDF and the second deals with Technical issues. The Parish Council tries to respond to all consultations that have a potential impact on us to ensure that our voice is heard when decisions are being made. Our response is available upon request.

Lengthsman scheme

The Parish Council has agreed to participate in the Lengthsman scheme in 2018/19 to help keep the villages tidy and undertake minor repair work of equipment that is not the District or County Councils responsibility. Wendy Johnson has agreed to continue as the Parish Councils coordinator with the Lengthsman and to ensure we get good value for money. Please inform Wendy or any Parish Councillor of anything requiring attention.

Data Protection

The UK Data Protection Act comes into force on 25th May 2018 and the Parish Council has put in its policy, procedures and risk register to ensure it complies with the Act. Under the Act, people are required to tell us that they want to stay on our e-mail distribution list to receive important Parish updates/news. 11 of the current distribution have not yet given their approval to use their e mail address and consequently they will no longer receive electronic information from the Parish Council. Please contact Peter Manning if you want to be included on this distribution and have not already contacted him.

Annual Parish Council meeting

The Annual Parish Council meeting was held on 18 April 2018. At the meeting John Edwards agreed to carry on as Chairman until September 2018 and Peter Manning was re elected vice Chairman. However, the meeting identified a clear need for the appointment of some new councillors to contribute to the well-being of the villages. **This is an opportunity for you to be involved in the**

villages where you live, so please consider getting involved by coming to the meeting and/or contacting myself, Peter or any of the councillors about becoming a Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Councillor.
John Edwards 841637 & Peter Manning 841381

Joint Parish Council/RAM article on Moorside Issues

Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council and the Residents Affected by Moorside (RAM) group have agreed to work closely together; to improve communications on the Moorside project within Beckermet and the surrounding villages. As a result this is the first joint update on key issues related to the Moorside project that have occurred during the past 3 to 4 months.

NuGEN has not yet made any significant announcements relating to its ownership issue and the way forward with the Moorside project, since the last issue of the Beckermet Newsletter, and hence there has been little public information. However, they do assure us that the various parties are setting out what they need to learn and agree, prior to financial settlement. This includes both Governments. There has been speculation in the media that this may be finalised in September, but there is nothing definite. When NuGEN were asked about their plans to hold a public meeting in Beckermet, we were told "the intention was to arrange to meet the wider community when there was a substantive update to provide on the sale". Given the situation, a meeting will still be arranged at the appropriate time.

They have also told us that they have taken on board our various criticisms at and since the consultation; so, they will have given further thought to the disposal of spoil, the layout of the site, the closure of Nursery Road, and the features of a Property Support Scheme by the time of financial settlement. Of course, they could not give us any detail just now, but we look forward to receiving it.

Meanwhile, they have repeated their offer to talk to anyone who feels they are a hardship case, because of the property blight. A small number of people have already done so, and anyone interested should contact NuGen directly, Jane Berry (Land and Property Project Manager) on 0161 6729128 or email jane.berry@nugeneration.com

NuGEN have asked some Tenant Farmers in the locality to vacate their land to allow further site characterisation activities and environmental investigation work to be carried out. NuGEN have said that this work is independent of their sales process being successfully completed. NuGEN have told us that when they take possession of the land they will ensure it is properly maintained as agricultural land in advance of any construction activities. The areas acquired will be appropriately secured and maintained by a local NuGEN partner.

As reported previously, NuGEN met with members of the Parish Council, RAM and the community at a meeting

arranged by Trudy Harrison MP on 11 January 2018 to discuss improving communications, technical concerns and blight in the area. Recorded actions have been received and agreed from this meeting; they made it clear that NuGEN was not offering any property support to the community at this time. As a result, the Parish Council has recently sent a letter to Sajid Javid MP (at the time, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (now Home Secretary)) on blight in the Parish and surrounding area. The letter was drafted with the help of other Parish Councillors, RAM and other local residents. The letter was forwarded to Trudy Harrison's office for her to attach her cover letter of support; before passing it to the Secretary of State, which she has duly done. At the time of writing no response has been received.

As part of the agreement to work closer together, the Parish Council has agreed that RAM will lead the development of a Community Led Plan (CLP) for Beckermet. The Parish Council will be consulted and provide input to this at various stages throughout the project.

The provision of this plan is important in order to secure investment in the village and to maintain services at least at the levels they are today and preferably achieving the vision of making improvements to our village, its facilities and amenities.

Simon Spencer, the vice chairman of RAM, has recently approached the BVA with a proposal for using the excellent communications provided by the village newsletter, as a conduit for reporting progress and engaging with village residents. This medium will enable a CLP Steering Group to gather the views and concerns of all villagers, which will support the development of the CLP over the coming months and future years.

The CLP Steering Group, once established, will welcome your support as well as any suggestions and ideas for inclusion in the plan.

*John Edwards, and Peter Manning (PC),
Geoff Nugent and Simon Spencer (RAM)*

Beckermet Community First Responders

Our group has been running for over seven years and in that time, our members have been an invaluable resource, helping to save the lives of many people, both within and outside of the village. The purpose of being a First Responder is to provide vital, lifesaving skills to a patient until professional medical help arrives. With our village being in a rural area, professional medical response can sadly be sometimes as much as 90 minutes away when 999 has been called. Therefore, by living in a small community with our families, friends and loved ones, the value of maintaining a Community First Responder Group speaks for itself.

The Beckermet Group is looking to recruit new members as, after seven years and due to retirements and people leaving the village, our team strength has dropped from

13 active members when we first started, to six currently. We need to increase this number to enable an effective response at all times during the day and night, seven days a week. Our volunteers are ordinary people, who do extraordinary work. We provide our time by responding to the potential life-threatening conditions of our neighbours, whilst going about our normal daily business.

So, what does this mean for you? Could you be the hero next door!

Volunteering is flexible, rewarding and works around you. By doing this, you can have a real impact on peoples' lives and give back to the community genuinely valuable, lifesaving expertise to patients and provide comfort to loved ones, at what can be a very anxious time for them. No previous training or expertise is needed as full, accredited training is given, which will enhance both your medical knowledge and life skills. Anyone over 18 with a car is eligible and you need only commit as much or as little of your time as your personal circumstances permit to be an effective member of our group.

If you are interested, as we sincerely hope you are, why not drop in to one of our regular training sessions, which are both practical and enjoyable and see what it entails? **You could really make a difference and help to save lives. Contact Alan Kiel on 01946 841367 or 07042 231899 for an informal chat.**

*Volunteers needed to
join **First Responders**
Contact: **Alan Kiel** on
**01946 841 367 or 07042
231 899***

NSPCC

Following the postponement of our Race Night from November 2017, this finally took place on Friday 2nd March 2018 and proved to be very successful once more, raising a total of £1,444 in aid of this very worthwhile charity. Our next fundraising event will be a Coffee Morning at Gosforth Village Hall on Friday 29th June 2018 from 10.15am - 11.45am. There will be Home Made biscuits, a cake stall and a raffle. We hope to see you on the 29th and thank you for your continued support.
Val McKee (Chairman)

Reading rooms

The Committee would like to continue to improve the rooms and make them feasible for everyone to use. We would like to be able to use computers and have a phone signal for the rooms, however this depends on a lot of factors-money, more income from hire and use. If anyone feels they can contribute anything in the way of ideas please contact any member of the committee, James

Jacques, Sarah Moore, Kathleen Cook, Douglas McDevitte and Chris Reay.
Thank you

Rainbows meet Tuesdays except May 29th

Reading Rooms committee 1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm

W.I 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

NOTE FOR THE DIARY W I Coffee evening
THURSDAY 19TH JULY, 7PM

Parish Council. Meeting on 23rd May, 7pm
Kathleen Cook (Bookings Secretary)

Christmas is coming!!

We are considering holding a Craft/Table Top Sale in September/October to raise funds for the Reading Room. We would like to know if anyone would be interested in hiring a table to sell your wares such as knitting, sewing, card making, art, woodworking etc or just general selling of goods in time for Christmas. If anyone is interested please let us know as soon as possible so that we can organize dates etc. **Please contact James or Sallyann Jacques at the Garage or ring 841200.**

Notes from our M.P

It really was lovely to welcome Vicky Jones and her team over the finish line at the The White Mare in Beckermet last month, as she completed her half marathon. Vicky is a Mum of four children, just like myself, her aim was to raise funds and awareness for the National Autism Society. With a total of £2743.39 raised, the 13 mile run was a great success and I really do commend Vicky and team for their drive and determination.

The White Mare provided activities in their family friendly pub and the conversations that followed really helped me to understand why it is just so difficult for families to access services and support in Copeland. The awful statistic that just 16% of autistic adults are in full-time work is a stark reminder of the societal need for better understanding, support and accessible services.

Community activism - my favourite movement - has recently motivated Cumbria County Council to reconsider their plans for the proposed highway changes in Beckermet, I was pleased that the views of those living and working in Beckermet were taken into consideration. It remains my priority to reduce the traffic on the A595 and secure the funding for the Whitehaven Relief Road.

Community activism requires having an opportunity to come together - a place to meet and discuss, plan and decide actions and effect progress in your own communities. Beckermet's two pubs, The White Mare

and the Royal Oak are testament to a thriving community, providing vital meeting places in the heart of the village and long may they continue to do so.

Trudy Harrison

Beckermet Sports Committee

Thursday 28 June 2018 – Rounders and Cross Country

All ages are welcome to meet on the school playground at 5.45pm to pick teams.

Rounders will begin at 6pm followed by a Cross Country Race at 7.30pm (weather permitting!).

Hot dogs, sweets, crisps and drinks will be available.

Saturday 8th September – Duck Races – starts at 4pm

Come along and join the fun at the village playground!

Buy ducks on the day for £1 – each race winner receives £5!

There will be more fun activities and refreshments available.

Please come along and support these village events!

Julia Harrison (Beckermet Sports Committee)

Beckermet History Group

The group has at last finished one of their projects which was to have a History/Information board in the centre of the village for all residents and visitors to see. It took a long time to plan and decide what to put on it but we hope everyone will like the result.

Two stalwarts of the group erected it on the School Green this week

Kathleen Cook



Beckermet Nursery

Tel: 01946 841941

Email: beckermetnursery@hotmail.co.uk

Open Morning

We would like to invite any prospective & existing parents and carers to our open morning on Saturday 23rd June 2018 between 9.30 am – 11.30 am. Senior members of staff will be on hand to discuss any requirements you may have. Coffee and Cake will be provided. Hope to see you there.

Art & Craft

If anyone has any non-flattened boxes (shoe boxes, cereal boxes etc), kitchen roll or toilet roll middles and cardboard egg boxes we would be very grateful – thanks.

Spaces

We have one or two places available at the moment therefore if you know anyone wishing to use nursery please tell them to get in touch 01946 841941

Finally

Some of you may have seen the staff and children walking (and pushing and carrying) around the village a few weeks ago. It was our sponsored walk for 'Autism Awareness Week'. We managed to raise in excess of £903 final amount still being calculated. A very big thank you goes to all concerned and those who donated.

Tricia and Staff

Beckermet School

We will be having an Air Ambulance collection of Friday 22nd June 2018, all donations much appreciated. Bags are available from the school office or you can use black bin bags

Here at Beckermet School we are bidding for funding to upgrade our Early Years outdoor play area and we would like to consult our local community about what might best meet the needs of our growing and developing children. We have some ideas, such as a mud kitchen, climbing apparatus, story chairs and sand and water play. We would welcome your suggestions, especially as we are hoping to develop this and other areas of school in a way that enables other local groups to benefit, e.g. Brownies, Cubs, Beavers and the Village Sports Committee. If you would like to contribute your suggestions please contact the head teacher, Mrs Mayer, on 01946 841221 or e-mail your ideas to admin@beckermet.cumbria.sch.uk.

Finally the Head teacher, staff and children would like to invite residents of Beckermet and surrounding area to our Summer Garden Party being held on Friday 13th July from 1.15 pm onwards.

Lenore Thomson (Administrator)

Women's Institute

June 13 – Celia Underwood JP 'Life as a Magistrate'

July 11 – Pat from Helena Thompson Museum.

July 19 – Coffee Evening, Reading Room, 7pm

Sept 12 – Maurice Steele 'It all ended in Fire'

Oct 10 – Rev Lesley Riley 'It's a Vicar's Life'

All meetings are held in the Reading Room at 7pm.