

First Parish Meeting for the Election of Parish councillors.

Notice of Parish Meeting

1 Notice is hereby given that the first Parish Meeting for the Parish of St John's will be held in the district School, Beckermert on Tuesday the 4th day of December 1894, at seven o'clock in the evening.

2 The business to be transacted at the Meeting will be as follows:-

a. to elect a Chairman for the Meeting

b. to elect Parish councillors

3 the number of Parish Councillors to be elected at the meeting is - nine
(with form of nomination paper etc.)

signed this 23rd day of November 1894

John Bragg } Overseers

John walker }

1/ On the motion of Captain Freebody seconded by Mr J A Smith, Mr J D Thompson was unanimously elected Chairman of the meeting.

11/ On the Chairman's call for nomination papers to be handed in, the following candidates were nominated for Parish councillors:-

Mr J R Atkinson, Bankfield

Mr J Bragg, Beckermert

Mr Isaac Cook, Grange

Mr J Dennis, Scurgill

Mr Charles Mossop, Moss-Dolts

Mr John Mossop Wodow Bank

Mr I Satterthwaite, Ghyll Bank

Mr J A Smith Beckermert

Mr R Smith Beckermert

MR W Trippiear Beckermert

Mr John Walker, Beckermert Mill

111/ On the chairman putting the candidates to the meeting and a show of hands being taken for each candidate, the following, having received the highest number of votes, were declared elected, no poll having been demanded.

Mr John R Atkinson

Mr Richard Smith

Mr Isaac Cook

Mr Charles Mossop

Mr John Mossop

Mr John Walker

Mr John Bragg

Mr I Satterthwaite

Mr John A Smith

18th April 1921 Special Parish Meeting. The following resolution is passed by this meeting:-

That this Parish Meeting hereby consents to and approve of the use as a Cemetery of a portion of the Parish land situated at Beckermot Moor measuring 1.0sq acres and described on the plan submitted herewith, and the transfer by the Parish Council to the Whitehaven Rural District Council of the said piece of land for the purpose indicated.

25th July 1921 'to state that the Parish Council are of the opinion that the footpath should now be extended from St Thomas Cross to the new houses at Thornhill.'

26th June 1922 'Resolved that the Postmaster at Whitehaven be wrote to see if a letter box can be fixed at Thornhill for the convenience of the inhabitants of that district.'

' also that the Railway Company be wrote to consider about having a Halt or Station near to cop Lane signal box for the convenience of Thornhill and district.'

' letter from the Whitehaven Rural District Council with statement of apportionment of cost of sewerage for Thornhill was before this meeting.' St Johns £3579 Lowside quarter £421

11th May 1925 ' proposed that Mr John C Lowrey be re-appointed a School Manager for 3 years - re County Education circular Carlisle'

25th May 1925 'proposed that Mr James E Smethurst Thornhill be appointed Assistant Overseer and Clerk to the Parish Council at a salary of £60 per annum'

29th June 1925 'letters were read from the Post Office Authorities at Whitehaven with regard to the delivery of letters at Thornhill stating that the circumstances did not warrant or justify a separate delivery at present. Proposed that our member of Parliament be wrote with regard to the above to see if he could get anything done in the matter'

'A vote of thanks was accorded to the Clerk A R Buchanan on relinquishing the Office of clerk to the Council, having been Clerk since the Parish Councils were elected in year 1894 (31 years)'

12th November 1925 'proposed that a letter be sent to the RDC of Whitehaven asking them to intercede on our behalf with respect to the travelling to and from school of the Thornhill and out district school children in the winter months'

29th January 1926 ' letters were read from Whitehaven RDC with respect to the school children of Thornhill and out side districts of the Parish with copies of letter from Director of Education on the same matter' no details were written.

25th October 1927 'proposed that a letter be sent to the Whitehaven RDC asking for street lighting in the Parish as the streets and roads are a danger at present.'

6th January 1928 'reply received that lighting to streets at Thornhill was in hand and would be completed in due course.'

20th April 1928 ‘proposed that Clerk write to managers for permission to use Thornhill C C School for council meetings.’

18th October 1929 ‘proposed that a letter be sent to County Council through the RDC asking that the footpaths on the High Road at Thornhill be Tar-Macadamised as their present state was very unsatisfactory Also to remind them of the Warning signs required on the High Road as there had been another accident in October, the Police Officers child being knocked down by a Motor Car.’

13th December 1929 ‘proposed that the Parish Council write to the County Council through the RDC asking them to alter the Parish Boundary so as to include the whole of Thornhill Housing site in the Parish of St Johns, the dividing line to be continued from Low Mill Cottages up Lowmill Lane to the top of Dent Road Thornhill.’

1st July 1931 ‘Letter from Whitehaven RDC with respect to the lighting of roads Cringlethwaite - Scurgill - Sherwens Terrace also for two street lamps from main road Cringlethwaite to Sherwens Terrace asking for councils views on the matter also whether gas or electric would be most suitable. This council approve the whole scheme and recommend electric light be installed. The Clerk was instructed to write and inform the Whitehaven RDC to that effect, also to ask that the lighting be carried on from Cringlethwaite to the Thornhill Housing Estate.’

23rd September 1932 ‘proposed that the Council approach RDC with a view to take over the field now occupied by Mr Dawson, situated near the Housing site at Thornhill, for the purposes of Allotments and hen Runs.’

7th March 1933 ‘proposed that a letter be sent to the Whitehaven RDC asking them to reconsider their decision with respect to letting the field adjoining Thornhill Housing Site for the purpose of Allotments and Hen Runs.’

29th September 1933 ‘The Clerk read the letter from Whitehaven RDC with respect to providing and maintaining seats at suitable points on the Thornhill Housing estate. Also from the Cumberland Motor Service with respect to seats for the use of passengers at Carleton Road end and Low Mill Road end.’

‘that the clerk write to CCC for permission to erect seats on the Highway “East Side” between Thornhill and Railway Bridge crossing main High Road to the Beckermets Mines.’

26th January 1934 ‘Tender for six seats at a cost of £2-10-0 each delivered be accepted and the same to be supplied before the 1st of March 1934’

27th February 1935 ‘letter read from Clerk of the Ennerdale RDC re enclosing piece of waste land at Thornhill’ ‘that clerk write that the fencing of the Waste land be left in the hands of Mr Brown the Surveyor at the same time suggesting an unclimbable fence about 4’6” be used for the same’

‘letter from Ministry of Health re Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the King’ ‘proposed that a Jubilee Mug and a Tea Bag be given to every Child in the parish of St Johns Beckermets on the occasion of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George the Fifth. The cost of same to be born by the Parish council. Children of 14 years of age and under to participate in

the gift. The Clerk to get tenders from the Egremont Co-op Society and Kitchens Whitehaven for mugs. Tenders for bags, eatables at a cost of 3 ½ each from local confectioners.’

‘ proposed that a suitable tree be planted in the enclosure at Thornhill for the occasion.’

20th march 1935 ‘ Mr Dixon to get the number of teas and mugs from the school children and to include the whole Parish. Also to inform the clerk of Egremont that Cringlethwaite and Scurgill would be included in the St Johns distribution.’

‘ proposed that the tea Bags be purchased from Mrs Douglas of Egremont at a cost of 3 ½ each to be delivered at Thornhill C.C. School.’

17th April 1935 ‘ clerk read letter from Ennerdale RDC with respect to the allocation of £22-12-6 to the Parish council for silver Jubilee Celebrations.’

8th may 1935 ‘proposed that the Silver Jubilee Tree be properly railed in and some stone or other fixture with an inscription thereon to commemorate the event.’

10th July 1935 ‘ the statement of accounts in connection with the Jubilee was read. Proposed the same be adopted and cheques be signed. Total amount of expenditure £24-2-6.’

2nd January 1937 ‘proposed that hand bills be posted around the Parish calling a Parish Meeting on 5th February to appoint representatives on the committee to make arrangements for the forthcoming events on May 12th 1937’ (Kings coronation)

4th June 1937 Statement of coronation Celebrations ‘The statement was presented to the Council which had already been passed by the Thornhill Coronation Committee , the Chairman read the statement to the meeting and remarked that everything was carried out in a most satisfactory manner and congratulated the Committee’

5th June 1947 ‘ The Clerk read letter from Ennerdale Rural District Council re the Whitehaven and Sellafield via the Egremont Branch Line is to be discontinued, after some discussion it was proposed the letter lay on the table.’

22nd March 1948 ‘The Clerk was instructed to interview the Police and draw attention to the excessive speed of vehicular traffic travelling between Egremont and Sellafield’

28th March 1949 ‘ proposed that the Clerk write to Mr Dodds County council assistant Surveyor regarding footpath round the housing estate at Thornhill also the path from Iron Bridge to Thornhill also that the hedge be cut back’

23rd May 1951 ‘Letter was read from Ennerdale RDC and the Surveyor reported that repairs were being carried out to many properties on Thornhill but shortage of timber is restricting replacement of repairs to fencing.’

23rd July 1951 ‘proposed that the Clerk write to Mr Harrison Ennerdale RDC and ask what procedure applies to the letting of Houses at Thornhill and what conditions apply to tenants interchanging houses’

3rd December 1951 ‘after some discussion it was decided the clerk write to Ennerdale RDC re the keeping of Poultry Huts and the sanitary condition of Thornhill Estate’

15th September 1952 ‘proposed that something ought to be done about the Coronation, Mr Lamb (chairman) decided as we had no word from ERDC yet that it would have his attention.’

20th October 1952 Coronation ‘after some discussion it was suggested that tea fireworks, sports and engagement of band. Proposed that a public meeting be held in a fortnights time Monday 3rd November 1952. proposed that handbills be printed giving notice and that a letter be sent to Mr Berry director of Education re mugs for Coronation.’

3rd November 1952 ‘Coronation discussed at some length and proposal and suggestions made for the Public Meeting to be held the same evening’

1st December 1952 ‘Mr Lamb remarked on Public Meeting held re the Coronation and said a Chairman Secretary and Treasurer and Committee were formed.

23rd February 1953 ‘letter read from the Beckermat Coronation committee, proposed that the allocation be the same as last, Egremont £3 Beckermat £1-10-0’

7th September 1953 ‘Coronation letter read from Mr Lace saying he had sent a statement of accounts to ERDC proposed that a copy be presented to the parish Council and in a Public Meeting on Monday 14th September’

27th October 1953 ‘Mr Sarginson explained the Coronation balance sheet and had thanked all who had taken part in the same, the hard work that all had put in, explaining it was a credit to all concerned.

18th January 1954 ‘proposed that the Clerk write to the Cumb. County council regarding the bad roads on Thornhill especially one opposite the Bus Shelter.’

31st October 1955 ‘Civil Defence This was discussed and it was agreed the Parish Council had some responsibility in the matter. It was decided to wait and see if ERDC had anything more to say on the matter’

26th June 1961 ‘proposed that some litter baskets be purchased now a Fish and chip shop had been opened at Thornhill, Clerk to obtain samples and prices. Also to find out particulars of Litter Act, notice to be given to the fish Shop to ask customers not to throw their papers on the street’

24th July 1961 ‘Letter from Mr Swift regarding Town and County Planning Act 1947-1959 use of Land at Thornhill Egremont for development as a housing site

9th October 1961 ‘It was agreed that the Clerk write to ERDC for better lighting at Thornhill, the electric fittings and reflectors were old and out of date.

22nd January 1962 ‘Letter from Mr Brady Clerk to ERDC was read and said he had submitted to the last meeting of Work and General Purposes Committee and the Committee has received requests from a number of Parishes for improved street lighting and it is proposed to deal with all the applications when preparing the 1962/1963 rate estimates. Our application has been noted and will be considered.’ ‘The surveyor has notified the Electricity Board to Substitute 5.0 am for 4.0am for early morning lighting’

7th May 1962 ‘Application for off-licence Thornhill Post Office. This was already granted previously to our Parish Meeting.’

10th September 1962 ‘Freedom from Hunger Campaign His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh has launched a Nation-wide appeal for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign which is part of a world wide attempt to help the hungry peoples of the world. the ERDC have set up a local committee and have asked for our support. Mr Sarginson read the letter and asked the Council members their views on this matter. After some discussion it was agreed to give every consideration to this matter and support the ERDC in their action.’

11th February 1963 ‘After much discussion the Chairman was requested to contact ERDC and point out that on Thornhill there was no street lighting on St Johns Road owing to faults and that on New Road no provision for lighting had been made.

4th march 1963 ‘Freedom from Hunger Campaign the Chairman informed the Council of information from Mr Barrett who intimated that the Campaign would be completed about mid March and that it was intended that all monies be paid to the RDC account this week. Our total was 38-1/-10

23rd September 1963 ‘The Council thanked Mr Wrightson for the information regarding the intention of the Methodist Church to erect within the Church grounds a new hall for the use of the Methodist Youth movement and for other village functions approved of by the Trustees.’

20th July 1964 ‘Speed limit Thornhill. proposed that the Clerk write to the County Council requesting the 30mph limit be restored.’

21st September 1964 ‘It was agreed that the Surveyor ERDC be informed that the Parish Council does not agree that all the buildings (garages and out buildings) are up to standard and that a close watch should be kept on new and existing buildings.’ ‘ That the surveyors be asked for a progress report on street lighting Thornhill.’ ‘ that he be asked to investigate if the parking of buses and lorries contravenes the by-laws.’

15th February 1965 ‘ Kersey Road, proposed that the Clerk contact the Divisional Surveyor regarding the bad condition of the footpaths.

‘proposed that the village Policeman be contacted requesting him to discourage children from playing in the bus shelters.’

‘Winston Churchill appeal fund. It was agreed that the Parish council should support the appeal by organising a house to house collection. Mr Booth agreed to contact the clerk of ERDC for further information and order envelopes for the collection. It was further agreed that Mr Sarginson organise the delivering of envelopes by the scholars of Thornhill School and that the Clerk try to arrange with secretary of Beckermat Women’s Institute for members to collect the gifts.’

24th May 1965 ‘ the Clerk reported that the sum of £28-18-6 was collected in the Parish, It was agreed that the Clerk thank the collectors.’

‘It was noted that the ERDC had commenced erecting the new street lights on the old estate and that the County Council had repaired the sidewalk on

Kersey Road.’ ‘ It was pointed out the need for a sidewalk on Dent road, it was agreed the Clerk contact the Assistant County Surveyor.’

19th July 1965 ‘ Dent Road sidewalk. The Council was informed that the County council was unable, due to lack of funds, to effect the suggested improvement. The divisional surveyor had been instructed to add this as an item to be considered when future annual estimates were prepared.

‘ It was agreed that the clerk contact ERDC and raise the following points. The position of the painters hut which obstructs the view to Thorny Road for traffic on Dent Road; the painting of the Thornhill council Houses without carrying out repairs first; the position of a street light at the junction of thorny road and dent road which may interfere with the improvements suggested by the Parish council; to ascertain whether or not provisions have been made to erect lights in the School Road.’

20th May 1968 ‘ two matters raised at the Parish Meeting were discussed. 1/ lowering of sidewalks for access to garages. The estimated cost by the County council was understood to be £17-18, a report in the press intimated that the estimate for the Whitehaven borough was £7-10-0. It was suggested that the ERDC may send a questionnaire to the residents of Thornhill asking if they would be prepared to have the work carried out if a more reasonable figure could be obtained. 2/ the matter of lorries and motor cars mounting the grass verge on the Knoll. The clerk reported that the County council had stated that the cost of removing the verge would be excessive, and if removed would cause a traffic hazard of two cross roads on the already busy bus route on The Crescent.’

‘re increased rents for improvements to Thornhill council Houses - representations had been made to councillors mainly in protest that the Council may carry out the improvements and repairs against the wish of the tenants. It was agreed that this was investigated and reported back.’

17th June 1968 ‘ the council was informed that the majority of tenants had voted against the improvement scheme and that the RDC had shelved its plans for the time being.’

28th October 1968 Registration of commons. ‘The notice of provisional registration of Common Land and Village greens was read and contents noted. Relevant entries V.G.4 The Park Thornhill, C.L.9 Gypsy square Carleton, C.L.10 The Rakes Beckermat.

17th February 1969 ‘A letter of complaint about the erection of more pigeon huts in Foxfield at Thornhill had been received from several residents. The clerk was instructed to ask ERDC to inform the Parish council if further applications should be received for permission to erect more huts; The Clerk also to inform the residents of the action taken. It was regretted that as permission had been granted for those already erected the Parish council was unable to do anything more.’

