

Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council

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Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2016 at 2030hrs at Thornhill Social Club

- 1) **Present**
J Edwards, D McGhee, D Humphreys, S Meteer, P Sherwood,
B Taylor, K Woolley, K Cook, Clerk
- 2) **Apologies**
P Manning, S Caddy
- 3) **Public Participation**
There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 4) **Chairman's report**
 1. The Parish Council met 11 times in the year, once per month except for the month of August. Meetings were held in Beckermet or Thornhill.
 2. We met all of the statutory requirements for budget setting, provision and auditing of accounts, quorate meetings and proper conduct of Parish business. The Parish achieved all of its work within the precept of £13,000 (noting the extra one-off Copeland payment made the total received £13,871.94). Following an assessment of the parish's finances, it was decided that the precept for 2016/17 would again be £13,000 (noting that Copeland has again agreed an extra payment of £871.94 for 2016/17 but have indicated that this will be the final year for this payment)
 3. Regular on-going responsibilities such as grass cutting in the parks and playing fields have been properly discharged and we have arranged for statutory safety inspections of play equipment in the parks. Repairs have been done in all the play areas where needed.

We have utilised the Lengthsman for many repairs and also completed a number ourselves. *Thanks Sam.*

4. Our website for the Parish Council has proved to be a useful communication method and store for parish related information. We are very pleased with the changes made to the website during the year. *Thanks to the Webmaster (Donna McGhee) for her work on this.*
5. We haven't granted or donated any money towards Parish projects or groups in the year. We have arranged for a new noticeboard to be installed at Thornhill and for a bench support to be installed in the Thornhill bus shelter.
6. The Parish Council have responded to several consultations this year, covering a range of topics including those run by NuGen, the NDA and the County and Borough Council. These responses have been compiled with accuracy and in a succinct and timely fashion. The benefit of making these responses is that the Parish's voice is being heard in these consultations and this has been reflected in the changes that have been made to documents that have been consistent with our responses. *Thanks Peter.*
7. Siân has continued to complete her role as our Clerk and RFO with professionalism, efficiency and enthusiasm. *Thanks Sian*
8. We have worked closely with CCC Highways on traffic in the villages and various improvements have been made. Around 50% of the street lighting in Beckermest is in the process of being replaced at the time of writing by CCC in conjunction with Electricity North West. The Council have been advised that the remaining lights will be replaced in 2016/17 although this is yet to be confirmed. The Council has continued to maintain a good relationship with the Highways Agency and EM Highways and improvements are ongoing to some of the roads that are their responsibility.
9. We have met with NuGen on a number of occasions during the year either as the Parish Council and as individuals representing the Parish Council to obtain information on their plans for the Moorside site. During the next few years the NuGen/Moorside project will be of major significance to parishioners and the Parish Council recognises the importance of maintaining a relationship with NuGen to ensure the concerns of residents in the Parish are properly addressed. *Thanks Peter for taking the lead with NuGen.*

10. Representatives of the Parish Council have met with Sellafield Limited on several occasions throughout the year to keep abreast of issues that affect the Parish. The Council also attends the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholders Group and three of its sub groups covering Spent Fuel Management, Risk and Hazard Management and Emergency Arrangements. In 2015/16 the Parish Council participated in discussions associated with the introduction of new emergency information system and the increase in the radius of the zone as well as discussions regarding traffic through Beckermeth that continues to be an issue.
11. Ed Matthews resigned as Chairman of the Parish Council and Colin Boothroyd as Vice Chairman in April 2015. We have kept the remaining Councillors and appointed two new ones Peter Sherwood and Keith Woolley during the year but four vacancies remain. John Edwards and Peter Manning were appointed Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively at the June 2015 meeting of the Parish Council. I'd like to thank all of you for the effort you've put into supporting the work of the Parish Council in 2015/16.
12. For the upcoming year, we are keen to progress the improvements to the Parish and are developing an action plan based on responses received from a questionnaire being circulated within the Parish to ensure that the Council's activities are focused on the needs of the parishioners. We will also continue to work closely with the BVA, TVA, CBC and CCC as appropriate on different issues affecting the Parish. We are looking forward to continuing to meet NuGen and Sellafield Limited as appropriate, especially as the decision points are coming up for the Moorside site.

5) Financial Statement

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| first day | 01/04/2015 |
| last day | 31/03/2016 |
| today | 14/04/2016 |
| Precept | £13,871.94 |
| From Reserves | £0.00 |

| | Original | Current | Balance against Budget | Spend % |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------|
| TOTAL | £13,871.94 | £13,871.94 | £10,564.27 | 76% |
| Admin | £200.00 | £500.00 | £-499.43 | -100% |
| Audit Fee | £400.00 | £400.00 | £174.00 | 44% |
| Grants | £1,300.00 | £1,200.00 | £0.00 | 0% |
| Parish Maintenance | £4,600.00 | £5,725.94 | £5,424.01 | 95% |
| Insurance | £1,000.00 | £1,000.00 | £575.69 | 58% |
| Room rent | £320.00 | £320.00 | £259.00 | 81% |
| Salary | £4,100.00 | £4,100.00 | £4,068.00 | 99% |
| Subs | £350.00 | £350.00 | £287.00 | 82% |
| Travel | £180.00 | £180.00 | £159.00 | 88% |
| Internet | £96.00 | £96.00 | £117.00 | 122% |
| Projects | £1,325.94 | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% |

6) Date and location for next meeting

The next annual meeting will be held in April 2017.