

Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council

Mrs S Tucker (Clerk)
3 Wilton Mews
Wilton
Egremont
Cumbria
CA22 2PJ

s.tucker3@btinternet.com
01946 820607

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 19th April 2016 at 1900hrs at Thornhill Social Club

- 1) **Present**
J Edwards, D McGhee, S Meter, K Woolley, K Cook, P Manning,
J Smith, S Caddy, Clerk
- 2) **Apologies**
D Humphreys
- 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 2017/18 would again be £13,000 (noting that Copeland has not agreed an extra payment of £871.94 for 2017/18). In 2016/17 the Parish spent an additional £1400.00 from the Reserve funds to improve the car park at Thornhill Football Club. Note that further work is planned in 2017/18.
 3. The Parish Council was keen to progress the improvements to the Parish and to focus on the issues concerning Parishioners. As a result the Parish Council developed an action plan based on responses received from a questionnaire that was circulated within

the Parish. As part of this we have focused on improving communications, developing the relationship with key stakeholders to ensure Parishioners views are represented and improving the environment in the Parish.

4. 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.*
5. The Parish Council continued to participate in the Lengthsman scheme to help maintain the villages in the Parish. After considerable discussion the Council agreed to continue to participate in the scheme in 2017/18 following a decision by NuGEN to fund an apprentice for Works4U who carry out the Lengthsmans work. *Thanks Jackie for agreeing to co-ordinate work with the Lengthsman.*
6. A new website for the Parish Council has been set up and has proven to be a useful communication method and store for parish related information. We are very pleased with the new web site and changes made during the year. *Thanks to the Webmaster (Donna McGhee) for her work on this.*
7. We haven't granted any money towards Parish projects or groups in the year. We have made donations of £99 to both the Thornhill over 60s afternoon club and the Thornhill Old age Pensioners Association. We have installed a new notice board at Thornhill and provided a support bench in the Thornhill bus shelter.
8. The Parish Council have responded to several consultations this year, covering a range of topics including those run by NuGEN, National Grid and the Cumbria Success Regime (Health Care for the Future). 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. *Thanks Peter and Keith.*
9. Siân has continued to complete her role as our Clerk and RFO with professionalism, efficiency and enthusiasm. *Thanks Sian*
10. We have worked closely with CCC Highways on traffic in the villages and various improvements have been made to paths and roads. In August 2016 the Parish Council supported by CCC organised a consultation on CCC proposals to restrict traffic access through Beckermet. Although the residents voted against restricting

access on Morass Road and Nursery Road we have been informed that CCC intend to go ahead with changes. The Parish Council have supported the businesses in Beckermat who have objected to the CCC proposals that are in conflict with the outcome of the consultation. The Parish Council has made their position clear to CCC and at the time of writing are awaiting a response to a letter sent in March 2017.

11. Around 50% of the street lighting in Beckermat has been replaced in 2016/17 by CCC in conjunction with Electricity North West. The Parish Council has been advised that the remaining lights will be replaced in 2017/18 after a legal issue has been resolved. The Council has continued to maintain a good relationship with the Highways England and Keir.

12. We have met with NuGen on a number of occasions during the year both as the Parish Council and as individuals representing the Parish Council to obtain information on their plans for the Moorside site. As part of developing a response to the NuGEN Stage 2 DCO consultation we met with the local MP, Elected Mayor, CCC and Copeland District Council and held discussions with Stogursey Parish Council and a representative of West Somerset District Council. All of these meetings were targeted at making sure the views of our parishioners were clear and known to key stakeholders in the Moorside project and establishing any lessons learnt in other similar projects (Hinkley C). The issues of most concern to residents can be summarised as follows:

The layout of the Moorside site and the proximity of buildings to Beckermat.

The places selected to dispose of spoil and the impact on roads/access.

A property support scheme.

13. The Parish Council has supported the Residents Affected by Moorside (RAM) group that has been formed within Beckermat. The Parish Council recognises the importance of maintaining a relationship with NuGEN whose response to the Stage 2 DCO consultation has been significantly delayed and at the time of writing we are awaiting a reply on all 3 issues. *Thanks Peter for taking the lead with NuGen.*

14. 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 that was introduced in 2016/17.

15. Barry Taylor and Peter Sherwood resigned from the Parish Council during 2016/17. We have kept the remaining Councillors and appointed Jackie Smith as a new Councillor. In response to a suggestion from the Parish Council, Copeland District Council have advised us that following a Community Governance Review carried out in 2016/17 the maximum number of Parish Councillors will be reduced from 14 to 12 on April 1st 2017. As a result we have vacancies for 3 additional Councillors. John Edwards and Peter Manning were re-appointed Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively at the April 2016 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 2016/17.
16. 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, National Grid and Sellafield Limited as appropriate, especially as the Moorside project moves forward.
17. During discussion PM noted that the Parish Council had tried hard to maintain a regular bus service through Beckermeth but after extensive discussions with both providers of the service and CBC and other Parish Councils it had not been possible to maintain a service. JE thanked PM for the work he had done on this issue.

5 Budget Report

first day	01/04/2016
last day	31/03/2017
today	18/04/2017
Precept	£13,871.94
From Reserves	£1,400.00

	Original budget	
	£13,871.94	
Admin	£500.00	£842.04
Audit Fee	£250.00	£120.00
Grants	£1,000.00	£198.00
Parish Maintenance	£5,800.00	£7,804.91
Insurance	£600.00	£578.04
Room rent	£400.00	£340.00
Salary	£4,100.00	£4,331.70
Subs	£300.00	£82.99
Travel	£180.00	£180.00
Internet	£100.00	£96.00
Projects	£641.94	£0.00
NuGen		£267.40
	Spend	<u>£14,841.08</u>
	Income	<u>-£2,275.53</u>
	Balance	<u>£2706.39</u>

1. £1400.00 has been spent from the Parish Council Reserve on the Thornhill Car park project.
2. The Parish Council has had an income of £2,275.53 in financial year 2016/17 that includes repayments for utilities of £1,479.20 from Thornhill Football Club
3. Total spend from the Precept in 2016/17 was £11,165.55 when the total income and the spend on the car park were taken in to account.
4. The precept balance of £2706.39 (£13,871.94 - £11,165.55) will be transferred to the Parish Reserve fund for expenditure on future projects.
5. The precept over the last 4 years:
2016 - £13,871.94
2015 - £13,871.94
2014 - £13,891.90
2013 - £12,750.00

6 Date and location for next meeting

The next annual meeting will be held in April 2018.