

Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council

Mrs S Tucker (Clerk)
2 Orchard Lane
Tallentire
Cockermouth
Cumbria
CA13 0NQ

siantuckerbwtpc@gmail.com
01900825524

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 2018, 7pm, at Beckermet Reading Rooms

1) Present

J Edwards, P Manning, D McGhee, S Caddy, S Meteer, K Woolley,
D Humpreys, K Cook and S Tucker

2) Apologies

J Smith,

3) To declare any interest in items on the agenda

All Councillors declared an interest in item 11, the Parish Precept for 2018/19 and signed a dispensation form that was then approved by the Clerk.

JE, PM and KW had obtained a dispensation from the Clerk to allow them to be involved in any discussions relating to the Moorside/ NuGEN project. The dispensation is valid for 4 years.

KC declared an interest in Item 8, the History Group Notice Board. SM declared an interest in item 9, Boundary Commission proposals for Copeland Ward areas.

4) To consider approvals of the minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the December 2017 Parish Council meeting were approved.

5) Public participation

Wendy Johnson attended the meeting and at the end of the meeting asked the Clerk to provide her with the appropriate forms to apply to become a Councillor.

6) Finance

It was resolved that the following payments requested to be made by the Clerk, should be made:

To Pay	Comments	Amount
Sian Tucker Clerk	January Salary - £368.30 Internet - £15 Travel - £8	£391.30
Beckermets Reading Rooms	January Meeting	£20
Egremont today	Adverts for; Grass cutting Contract Clerk	£47.52

In addition at the request of KC, the Parish Council agreed to pay Copeland District Council the sum of £55 for planning permission required for the erection of the History Group Notice Board in Beckermets (item 8e).

7) Budget Update

The budget report provided by the Clerk was accepted. JE noted that £14,087.24 had been spent up to 11th January 2018 from the £13,941.16 of funding available to date (a precept of £13,000 plus £941.16 of additional income). JE noted that although this suggested that the funding limit had been exceeded the expenditure included a total of £4062 of spend on picnic tables and benches for the play areas plus improvements to the Thornhill Football Club car park and part or all of this sum will be recovered from the Parish Council Reserve funds at the end of the financial year. PM noted that the reserves were adequate to cover this amount.

8) Progress Reports

Police Report

Cumbria Constabulary had issued a Police report that covered the period 12th September 2017 to 12 January 2018. Councillors noted the report.

Traffic & Highways Report

JE reported that he had not received any comments on the traffic and highways report that was last updated in October 2017. JE asked Councillors to send him any comments/changes or additions they would like to be included in an up to date schedule.

JE noted that he had been told by CCC that the outcome of the consultation on the proposed Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for Beckermat would not be formalized until it had been considered by the Highways Working Group and CCC's Copeland Local Committee and this may take until April.

Website Update

DM reported that the Parish news page had been updated following an outage in December 2017.

Lengthsman Scheme

No report was available but it was agreed that SM should work with the Lengthsman to complete installation of the benches and picnic tables as soon as weather permitted.

Positioning of the History Group Notice Board in Beckermat

KC noted that she had submitted the application to CBC for planning approval.

Play Area Maintenance

SM noted that he had completed the work on repairing the Multi Play Unit at Beckermat.

Data Protection

PM noted that the UK Data Protection Act would become law in May 2018 and that as a result the Parish Council needed to ensure that procedures were in place to enable them to demonstrate compliance. After some discussion it was agreed that the Data Protection Officer would be the Clerk and that she would put in place the necessary procedure. PM noted that anyone included on the e mail distribution list used by the Parish Council to distribute up to date news would need to give their approval for the Parish Council to use their e mail address for this purpose. It was agreed to include Data Protection as a regular agenda item until all actions associated with compliance were completed.

Action- PM to explore what was expected under Data Protection

Thornhill Football Club – Change Room extension

SM reported that all necessary documentation to support a grant application had been submitted to the Copeland Community Fund by the 15th January deadline. The CCF is expected to decide in the next few weeks whether or not to approve the request. JE thanked SM for progressing this and asked him to keep the Council informed of any information as it became available.

Participation in Copeland Pride of place scheme

KW provided information on the Copeland Pride of Place initiative that is being promoted by the Elected Mayor of Copeland, Mike Starkie to make the community proud of Copeland. After some discussion the Parish Council agreed to participate in the scheme and KW agreed to be the lead Councillor for promoting the initiative in the Parish.

Rights of Way

PM noted that a Parishioner had expressed concern about the condition of the Middlebank suspension bridge over the river Ehen. PM and SM had both subsequently inspected the bridge and confirmed that it required attention. JE had reported the matter to CCC Rights of Way Department and had asked them to confirm what action they would take. The Parishioner concerned had also contacted CCC. The Parish Council agreed that if CCC declared that they had no funding available to maintain the bridge the Parish Council should ask NuGEN for help.

Conservation Area Design Guide

PM noted that he had reviewed the changes made by CBC and was disappointed to find that the Parish Councils representation, compiled from residents, had been rejected- except for one item regarding slate roofs. SM pointed out there had been a significant clarification of the rules that already applied, so enforcement would be easier.

Braystones Station

ST confirmed that she had sent a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to Trudy Harrison MP, in response to her request for the Parish Council to consider adopting Braystones Station. The CRUG representative was willing to pick up his former duties. ST said that so far no response had been received from Trudy Harrison MP, or from the railway company.

Grass Cutting Contract for 2018/19

ST reported that she had spoken to St Bees Parish Clerk and obtained their list of potential contractors for similar work. ST noted that she had also submitted an advertisement for the work in the Beckermest with Thornhill Parish that would be included in the February addition of Egremont Today. The closing date for tendering is 2nd March, 2018.

Appointment of a new Clerk for the Parish Council

ST reported that she had submitted an advertisement for the position in the February edition of Egremont today and that she had notified CALC of her decision to stand down at the end March 2018. JE noted that he would not be available for the February meeting of the Parish Council when they would need to agree interview arrangements so that the new Clerk would be identified and available to attend the March meeting of the Council.

Other Projects

SM noted that Copeland in conjunction with Active Cumbria had agreed to hold preliminary discussions aimed at identifying new areas for social housing. After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would support any discussion on suitable areas in Thornhill.

9) Boundary Commission proposals for Copeland Ward areas

PM noted that he had circulated the proposals made by the Boundary Commission, which seemed to be acceptable to this PC. However, because Ponsonby Parish was split into two Wards (Gosforth and Beckermest) it might appear to be sensible for those in the Gosforth Ward to be transferred to Beckermest Ward. If this change is made the total number of electors in the revised Beckermest Ward would be 2406 (2332 in the proposed Beckermest Ward plus 74 transferred from the Gosforth Ward in Ponsonby Parish). After some discussion the Parish Council agreed that this should be the basis of the submission to the consultation and PM agreed to prepare and submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council.

SM pointed out that CBC were also making a submission, which was substantially different.

JE thanked PM for carrying out the assessment of the proposals and for preparing the response on behalf of the Parish Council.

10) Response to Highways England Strategic Road Consultation

KW noted that he had agreed to develop a response on behalf of the Parish Council and that he would circulate a draft for comment in the next few days. The Council agreed with this approach. JE thanked KW for agreeing to act on behalf of the Parish Council.

11) Parish Precept for 2018/19

After some discussion the Parish Council agreed to request a precept for 2018/19 of £13,000.00. This is the same as that received for 2017/18. ST agreed to inform CBC.

12) NuGEN

JE noted that PM and himself had been attended a meeting with NuGEN and Trudy Harrison MP on 11th January 2018. The meeting was also attended by representatives of RAM and a small number of residents who had contacted the MP directly about their concerns. This included KW. JE, PM and KW had prepared a note on the meeting that had been circulated to Councillors.

PM noted that there had been a frank and open discussion on improving Communications and addressing the concerns raised during the Consultation in 2016. This included site layout, disposal of spoil, road alterations and (as a matter of some urgency) property support. Although NuGEN were sympathetic to improving communications and in time addressing the technical issues, they were less sympathetic to putting a property support scheme in place as soon as possible; thus, accepting that property in areas affected by Moorside were suffering blight. NuGEN made it clear that until they had a new owner they were not in a position to address the concerns although they were prepared to meet individuals to discuss their personal circumstances. Further discussions are planned with Calum Nicholson the Researcher for Trudy Harrison MP.

PM noted that a UKG consultation had begun in mid December 2017 on Siting arrangements for new Nuclear Power plants in the period 2025 to 2035. This covered plants coming on line after 2025 and consequently would apply to Moorside. A review of the document had shown that it included nothing on the need to address property support or blight of those affected by proposed developments. It was agreed that the Parish Council should respond to the consultation that was scheduled to end on 15 March 2018.

Socio economic benefits should also feature.

PM agreed to draft the response.

13) Parish Action Plan

JE noted that at the meeting with NuGEN on 11 January 2018, they had emphasized their willingness to provide community support to make the Parish a “better place to live”. The Parish Council agreed that JE should ask JS to move forward with the development of a Community Led Plan so that it was clear what the community would like investors in the Parish to support.

14) Planning Applications received

ST noted that a planning application for an extension to SIXEP at Sellafield had been received but difficulties had been experienced opening the electronic copy. ST was asked to obtain a hard copy from CBC for circulation to those interested. It was recognized that Councillors were unlikely to have any significant comments.

15) Meetings at which the council is represented

PM noted that he had recently attended the Risk and Hazard Working Group and JE noted that he had recently attended the Spent Fuel and Nuclear materials Management Working Group on behalf of the Parish Council. The Geological Disposal Facility was likely to feature again in the near future. There would be debate on what constituted “the local community”, and how the whole process should proceed/be managed.

PM noted that he was scheduled to attend the West Cumberland Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) on 6th February 2018

16) Councillors reports

PM noted that JE and himself had been invited to a discussion on the future plans for Sellafield but the date for the meeting had not been set. (Now Feb 2)

17) Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 14th February 2018 at Thornhill Social Club starting at 7pm.