

Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council

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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2018, 7pm, at Thornhill Social Club

1) Present

J Edwards, P Manning, D McGhee, S Meteer, K Woolley,
D Humphreys, W Johnson, G Threader, S Tucker (Clerk)

JE introduced Gillian Threader as the new Clerk and Financial Officer of the Parish Council from 1st April 2018 and thanked Sian Tucker for her work as Clerk over the past 6 years. All Parish Councillors expressed their sincere thanks to Sian and wished her every success for the future.

JE noted that Jacki Smith had decided to resign as a Councillor with immediate effect. Councillors expressed their thanks to Jacki for the contribution she had made in her role.

2) Apologies

S Caddy and K Cook

3) To declare any interest in items on the agenda

No interests were declared

4) To consider approvals of the minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the February 2018 Parish Council meeting were approved.

5) Public participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

Paul Taylor (Cumbria County Councillor, Gosforth Ward) attended the meeting

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
Thornhill Social Club	March Meeting	£20
N Power	Football Club payment	£22.33

7) Budget Update

The budget report provided by the Clerk was accepted. It was noted that £15,062.35 had been spent up to 7th March 2018 from the £13,941.16 of funding available to date (a precept of £13,000 plus £941.16 of additional income). It was 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. The reserves were adequate to cover this amount.

8) Progress Reports

Police Report

No police report had been received this month. Paul Taylor noted that he had asked the police to provide more regular and better quality reports to Councils.

Traffic & Highways Report

JE noted that he had received no comments from CCC on the traffic and highways schedule that was last updated in October 2017 and that as a result he had developed a new schedule that he had sent to Parish Councillors for comment. Councillors were asked to send JE any changes or additions by the end of the week so that he could develop the final version and submit it to CCC.

In response to a question from JE regarding the schedule for CCC informing the Parish Council of the outcome of the public consultation on Beckermat roads held in November /December 2017, PT said that the issue would not be discussed at the 27th March meeting of the Copeland County Council Local Committee. The outcome might be included on the agenda for the Local Committee scheduled for 15th May although the issue could be deferred until later in the year.

KW noted that the swing bridge had been repaired by CCC as requested by the Parish Council, following a complaint by a resident.

Website Update

DM reported that the website was up to date and has been used at the normal rate. DM noted that there was an opportunity for more information to be posted on the web site and encouraged Councillors to submit articles to her for posting on the site.

Lengthsman Scheme

ST obtained an update from Works 4 U listing the work carried out this past month. JE noted that Jacki Smith had passed on information from Works 4 U to support discussions on the value for money of the scheme and whether or not the Council should participate in the scheme in 2018/19. The Council noted that a decision was not yet required.

After some discussion it was agreed that following Jacki Smith's resignation GT would be the Parish Councils coordinator for the Lengthsman scheme and that WJ would support her in this role. Councillors were all asked to inform GT/WJ of any work they would like the Lengthsman to carry out.

SM noted that the installation of picnic tables and benches in Beckermat are outstanding. WJ agreed to progress this with Jacki Smith, SM and the Lengthsman.

WJ agreed to take over responsibility from Jacki Smith for Beckermat playground inspections.

Data Protection

The UK Data Protection Act would become law in late May 2018 and as a result the Parish Council need to ensure that a procedure is in place to enable them to demonstrate compliance. JE had compiled a note with the help of ST covering some areas that needed to be considered and members were asked to forward information to the Clerk on any of their own records that needed to be covered.

PM noted that anyone included on the e-mail distribution list used by the Parish Council (to distribute up to date news) had been asked to give their approval

for the Parish Council to use their e mail address for this purpose. There had been a good response to the request.

Following discussion It was agreed that JE and PM would develop a Parish Council Procedure /Policy statement for consideration at the April meeting. This was based on information in the public domain and provided by CALC. This would provide the basis for moving forward and could be updated, if necessary, at a later date as more information became available.

Thornhill Football Club – Change Room extension

SM reported that he had been informed the Copeland Community Fund had agreed to provide the full grant requested by the Parish Council for the provision of the extension. This was subject to satisfactory completion of some final documentation. The meeting congratulated SM on his success and hard work securing the funding.

After discussion it was agreed that SM should now secure the agreed level of funding for the project from the football club. It was also noted that SM would project manage the provision of the extension and therefore ensure that the finances were properly controlled and that the Parish Council was provided with regular progress reports.

GDF Consultations

PM reported that two consultations were ongoing regarding the GDF, one of these was related to Communities and the other was seeking comments on a Draft National Policy Statement. Following discussion since the last meeting it had been agreed that the Parish Council would only respond to the consultation relating to the Communities. As a result PM had drafted a response on behalf of the Parish Council and circulated it to Councillors for comment. PM noted that he had obtained a small number of additional comments that he would cover in the final version of the document.

The Parish Council agreed that PM should submit the final version of the document and thanked him for developing the draft and finalizing the response on behalf of the Parish Council.

Use of Land for Charity event

JE reported that following consultation with Councillors since the February meeting, he had given permission on behalf of the Parish Council, for a duck race to be held on Parish property on 15 April 2018 from 1200 to 1600hrs. The event organizers had agreed to provide insurance and first aid cover and would access the area from around 1000hrs

9) Grass cutting contract

ST reported that she had received 7 responses to the request for tenders to cut identified grass areas in the Parish. After considerable discussion it was

agreed by a vote of 4 to 2 to continue with the existing contractor (Darren Fawcett). It should also be noted that the final decision was between Darren Fawcett and Works 4 U. A 1 year contract was awarded to Darren Fawcett. ST agreed to notify the contractors of the decision.

10) Response to the Major Road Network Consultation

KW noted that at the moment there were two categories of road, those locally managed by CCC and trunk roads/motorways managed by Highways England. A proposal has been made by DfT that there should in future be 3 categories of roads namely local, major and strategic. A document detailing the proposals and asking a number of questions was the basis of this consultation.

KW noted that he had drafted a response and circulated it to Councillors for comment. After discussion it was agreed that he should submit the final version on behalf of the Parish Council. JE thanked KW for preparing the response on the Councils behalf

11) NuGEN

PM reported that JE and himself had met with representatives of RAM to discuss improving communications. As a result it had been agreed that in future the two parties may produce a joint note for inclusion in the Beckermets Newsletter. Both parties had agreed to meet regularly and to communicate more closely with each other.

JE reported that Kathryn Jackson had resigned from NuGEN but whilst he had been given the name of her replacement it had not been confirmed.

JE noted that in response to rumors in Beckermets regarding Tenant Farmers being asked to vacate land he had been told by NuGEN that this was to allow further site characterization activities and environmental investigation work which is independent of the NuGEN sales process, to be carried out. When NuGEN 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.

12) Community Led Plan (CLP)

JE noted that at the meeting with RAM it had been agreed that RAM would lead the development of the CLP for Beckermets but the Parish Council would provide input and approve the final version. It was agreed that WJ would provide the Parish Councils input to the plan following Jacki Smith's resignation from the Council. JE agreed to inform Geoff Nugent (RAM) of the decision and WJ agreed to talk to GN and Jacki Smith.

SM reminded members that any CLP must include Thornhill.

13) Planning Applications received

PM noted that a revised planning application had been received for construction of a bungalow and garage in Kirbeck Drive. After discussion with residents who lived close to the proposed property the Council had rejected the submission on the basis that the only change made was to the positioning of the buildings. The buildings were considered to be too large for the plot. Questions had also been raised about the independence of the flood risk assessment.

Comments on the application had been sent to CBC

14) Meetings at which the council is represented

The planned 3 tier meeting on 1st March had been cancelled due to the bad weather.

PM noted that he had been part of a Sellafeld Site visit on 13 March and had noted that Sellafeld were planning to demolish the visitor's center at Yottenfews.

PM noted that new arrangements for parking off site were soon to be introduced at Sellafeld and that Councillors needed to note if problems were arising with workers parking vehicles in the parish whilst they were at work on the Sellafeld site.

15) Councillors reports-upcoming meetings

The "3 tier meeting" on 15th March.

The WCSSG sub group "Risk and Hazard" meeting on 15 March.

Risk hazard meeting on 21st March

SM noted that recyclable collection changes were due to be introduced in mid April.

16) Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 18th April 2018 at Thornhill Social Club starting at 6.30pm. The meeting will incorporate the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting.