

Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council

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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th June 2018, 7pm, at Thornhill Social Club

1. Present

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

2. Apologies

K Cook

2. To declare any interest in items on the agenda

No interests were declared

3. To consider approvals of the following minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd May, 2018 were approved.

4. Public participation

Julie Nugent, Mike Slater and Eric Jewitt attended the meeting. JE invited comments from the participants but none were made.

5. Finance

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

To Pay	Comments	Amount
Gillian Threader Clerk	June Salary - £326.82 Internet - £15 Travel - £8 Norton Subscription £29.99	£379.81
Thornhill Social Club	June Meeting	£20
Egremont Town Council	For Lengthsman scheme	£1091.00

6. Budget Update

The budget report provided by the Clerk was accepted. JE noted that VAT had been returned from HMRC to the value of £1248.99 which should be shown in July's budget report.

7. Progress Reports

- **Police Report**

PC Helen Wheelan had supplied a report on the 6th June. The Council noted that there were 4 tool thefts on 25/05/18, two in Beckermest and two in Thornhill. The Clerk was asked to invite Sgt Graham Hawley to the July PC meeting to discuss future traffic plans for Beckermest in the event of the A595 being closed due to accident/incident. *(Secretary's note: it has since been agreed that the PC will send a letter to GH about the matter)*

- **Roads and Transport schedule**

SM had updated the schedule of traffic and road issues in the Parish and the Council spent some time discussing progress that had been made on items. It was agreed that items 1, 3, 4 and 6 be deleted and that items 9 and 11 should be included in item 2. JE thanked SM for sorting out the schedule and keeping it up to date.

JE noted that he had contacted CCC about holding discussions on traffic related issues in Beckermest and that he had been told by Paul Turner (CCC Councillor) that he would contact the Parish when CCC had developed their ideas.

EJ asked the Parish Council if they would discuss maintenance of the Rights of Way at a future meeting. *(Secretary's note: although it was agreed to include this item on the July agenda EJ has since asked if it could be covered at the September meeting)*

- **Progress on changing room extension at Thornhill FC**

SM noted the Copeland Community Fund had not yet paid their contribution into the Parish Council bank account although the money was expected to be paid in to the account shortly. SM noted that work on the extension had not yet started.

- **Historic England War Memorial consultation document**

JE noted that Historic England had sent out a short document for comment relating to the War Memorial located in the Beckermeth/Thornhill Cemetery. PM noted that the Historic England document showed that the War Memorial was owned by the Parish of St Johns, Beckermeth. It was agreed that PM would respond to Historic England clarifying that the Parish was now Beckermeth with Thornhill.

JE commented that KC had noted that the lettering on the War Memorial might need to be restored. After a short discussion the Council agreed that this should be considered at a future meeting to avoid the issue getting confused with discussions relating to the Commemoration of World War 1.

PM noted that he had written to KC on behalf of the PC to thank her and the History Society for their work on producing the History Board in Beckermeth.

- **Website Update**

DM noted that she had added the War Memorial and History Board to the PC asset register.

Following discussions at the May meeting of the Parish Council it had been agreed that the previous charge of 5p per sheet for information requested under the Freedom of Information act should be changed to a discretionary charge.

DM noted that there had been around 550 visits to the website last month by around 180 different people.

- **Lengthsman project report**

WJ said the invoice for participation in the 2018/19 scheme was expected shortly; payment had been approved under item 5. The list of jobs for the Lengthsman was now extensive and as a result it may take some time for it to be completed. WJ said W4U had suggested that they might need to charge extra for the amount of work the PC had requested and that she had agreed that W4U would contact her before undertaking any work that would incur additional charges. JE noted that any additional funding would need to be agreed by the Parish Council.

- **Dyke fires in the Parish**

KW told the PC about an incident when a Chinese lantern had caused a dyke fire, luckily a farmer's wife had spotted this and the fire brigade attended. KW thought it was important to alert villagers to the dangers of setting off Chinese lanterns. It was agreed that DM would put a note on the website. MS suggested e-mailing the local hotels that do weddings as Chinese lanterns are often set off at weddings. PM agreed to inform Sellapark House of the concerns.

- **Participation in the (Pride in Cumbria litter pick)**

The Pride of Copeland Great Cumbrian litter pick is scheduled to take place on the 6th July and KW suggested a village litter pick on the same day. The general opinion was that litter was not a big issue in the Parish as volunteers usually looked after this

issue. DM suggested a note on the website to make people aware of the event. It was agreed that Thornhill Councillors will inform the TVA of litter pick and that GT would inform Sarah Moore (BVA).

- **Proposal for 2 benches for OAP's at Thornhill**

DH had proposed the purchase of 2 benches for the OAP's at Thornhill but he wanted them to be for OAP use only. SM said he would support 1 bench if it was available for public use and following discussion the overall opinion was that any bench(s) should be for use by all and not just the OAP's. DH agreed to approach Home Group to see if they would agree to have bench(s) put up on their land and said he would come back to the meeting. The Council noted that the benches purchased by the Council in 2017/18 that were manufactured from resin and installed on a concrete base, seemed to be fit for purpose. SM thought the cost would be approx. £600 per bench.

- **Update on development of Community Led Plan**

WJ said there was nothing to report. The next meeting of the team responsible for developing the plan was on 21st June.

- **Other projects**

JE said the Clerk had received an email regarding the ROSPA annual playground inspections and that if booked before the end of June the inspections would be carried out in August at the same rate as 2017. The PC agreed that the Clerk would book the inspections with "Playsafety".

JE noted that he had received a request for the Parish Council to purchase a flag to fly on Merchant Navy Day on the 3rd September. It was agreed that the Parish council should celebrate the event in this way although it was not clear if there was a flagpole anywhere in the Parish. SC agreed to check this before submitting a request for the PC to buy a flag.

8. Grant application from Beckermat Nursery

Beckermat Nursery had applied for a grant of £1,800 towards the cost of refurbishing the nursery kitchen at a total cost is £2,800. PM noted that at the request of the Parish Council the nursery had asked NuGEN if they would like to make a contribution to the overall cost but they had not received a reply. After some discussion the Council agreed to grant the nursery £1,400 towards the overall cost. MS questioned if people realised the Nursery was a charity and in response DM said an article to make people aware could go on the web site under Parish News. PM agreed to do a write up for the web site after the cheque had been sent to the nursery.

"Always Another Way" had applied for a grant of £500 towards the cost of running a fun day in Thornhill. After some discussion the Parish Council agreed by a majority vote to grant the organisation £375.

9. NuGen update

JE noted that Jane Berry had recently left NuGEN and that her role was now being filled by Chris Keenan. CK was originally brought in to NuGEN as a consultant to support the development of a property support scheme.

JE said that he had just received a response to his letter to Sajid Javid (Secretary of State) relating to the fact that the area, in and around the Parish was blighted by the Moorside project. The disappointing response had been provided by Richard Harrington MP from the Governments Business Department and forwarded to him by Trudy Harrison MP for Copeland. JE said that he would decide how to respond to the letter outside the meeting and copy Parish Councillors the response. JE noted he would also discuss a response with RAM representatives.

MS noted that the North West Grid Connections project was also blighting the area and that some of the existing pylons would need attention before the new line was installed. PM noted that the Grid Connections project had been put on hold when work on the Moorside project had stopped in 2016, but blight associated with this project was an important point to remember in any future discussions with UK Government representatives.

10. Planning Applications Received

Ref: CH/4/18/2212/0F1.....Removal of condition one of 4/10/2336/0F1 to provide permanent planning permission for two storey general office accommodation, Sellafield site, Seascale

JE noted that the Parish Council response to the above application had been passed to Sellafield Limited and that PM had dealt with issues raised in their memo from Howard Rooms. JE thanked PM for dealing with this matter.

JE noted that the Clerk had received a holding response to a request for an update on the planning application that remains ongoing, for a dwelling on the land next to 6 Kirkbeck Drive. The buyer had originally put in planning permission for a small property and has since changed that to a large dwelling and a garage. The Parish council and some local residents had raised concerns about the application.

11. Discussion on proposals to commemorate WW1

JE noted that since the May meeting, Councillors had voted in a secret ballot by e mail against spending about £4,000.0 on a proposal by SM to commemorate the ending of WW1. Since this vote JE had asked Councillors if 1) they support the PC doing something to commemorate the end of WW1 and 2) if yes, what was a reasonable total spend? JE noted that the conclusion of his survey suggested that the Parish Council should commemorate the end of WW1 and in order to gain the support of Councillors in favour of doing this, invest a total of up to around £1250.

JE had put forward a number of Options in a note to councillors that had been updated following welcome comments received, particularly from KC. The note had summarised the estimated costs associated with each option.

After considerable discussion it was agreed in principle to move forward on the following basis;

- 1) For each school, purchase a Perspex "Tommy" from Help for Heroes and arrange for them to be engraved to show they were presented to the school by the Parish Council.
- 2) Additionally for each school purchase a plaque to be wall mounted that utilises the poem SM had in his original proposal.
- 3) For each village purchase a Silent Soldier from British Legion to be erected at a suitable location.

Since the meeting it has been estimated that the total cost of the proposal should be around £1,000.00.

Following discussion the following actions were agreed:

- 1) WJ (with the help of JN) and SC would check with Beckermat and Thornhill schools respectively that they are happy with the proposals for their schools.
- 2) WJ (with the help of JN) and SC will decide where to install the Silent Soldiers and to make arrangements for installation at the appropriate time
- 3) GT to confirm if planning approval is required and if there is any impact on the Parish Council insurance.
- 4) JE to finalize the costs, delivery, details etc. and seek approval for the expenditure before placing orders.

JE thanked SM for his earlier work on the project and his proposal that had led to the Council moving forward with the proposal above.

12. Councillors' reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council, other items including items for future agendas

JE noted that he would be attending a Risk and Hazard Working Group (for PM) on 20th June and a Spent Fuel Management Meeting on the 17th July.

13. Appointment of new Councillors

Julie Nugent and Mike Slater said that they would like to be appointed Councillors. JE noted that there were vacancies and if they completed the appropriate paperwork they could be co-opted on to the PC at the July meeting.

14. Date and location for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 18th July 2018 at Beckermat Reading Rooms.