

Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 1830hrs at Thornhill Social Club

- 1) **Present:**
J Edwards, S Meteer, D McGhee, K Cook, K Woolley, D Humphreys,
W Johnson, S Caddy, G Threader
- 2) **Apologies:**
P Manning
- 3) **Approval of minutes**
The Chairman noted that the minutes of the 2017 Parish Meeting had
been approved at the May meeting of the Parish Council
- 4) **Public Participation**
There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 5) **Chairman's report**
 - 5.1 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.
 - 5.2 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. Following an assessment of the Parish's finances, it was
decided that the precept for 2018/19 would again be £13,000. In 2017/18
the Parish spent an additional £1,438.15 from the Reserve funds to
complete improvements to the car park at Thornhill Football Club and
on picnic benches and tables for play areas in both villages. (Note these
figures are to be confirmed by audit)
 - 5.3 The Parish Council agreed to support a proposal to construct an
extension to the Change Room at Thornhill Football Club providing the
football club made a contribution to the scheme and a grant could be
secured from the Copeland Community Fund (CCF). After preparing and
submitting the appropriate documentation the CCF have confirmed that
they will provide the full grant requested for the provision of the
extension. The Parish Council contribution will be made from the

councils Reserve funds during 2018/19. *Thanks Sam for all your hard work making this project a success.*

5.4 The Parish Council continued to be keen to progress improvements to the Parish and to focus on the issues concerning parishioners. As a result the Parish Council has worked with the Residents Affected By Moorside (RAM) group in Beckermat regarding the future development of a Community Led Plan (CLP) for Beckermat. Work on this will continue in 2018/19 with RAM taking the lead. When developed the plan will be owned and approved by the Parish Council. The development of a similar CLP covering Thornhill could also take place using the experience gained developing the Beckermat CLP. If necessary the two plans could be combined to form the Parish Community Led Plan.

5.5 The Parish Council has continued to focus on improving communications and has in place a comprehensive e-list of community members who are provided with updates on key activities. *(Thanks Peter for managing this)*. The new website for the Parish Council (set up in 2016/17) has continued to be a successful communication method and store for parish related information. Statistics show around 150 web site visits each month with the minutes and news being the most visited pages. The Parish Webmaster and the Parish Clerk have confirmed that the Council is complying with the Transparency Code of Practice. *(Thanks to the Webmaster Donna, for her work on the web site during the year)*.

5.6 The Parish Council recognises that the UK Data Protection Act becomes law on 25th May 2018, and is in the process of developing a procedure to be able to demonstrate compliance. *Thanks Peter*

5.7 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.*

5.8 Following a decision by NuGEN to fund an apprentice for Works4U who carry out Lengthsman's work, the Parish Council continued to participate in the Lengthsman scheme to help maintain the villages in the Parish in 2017/18. The Council have not yet decided whether to continue to participate in the scheme in 2018/19 and have asked NuGEN if they are planning to continue to fund an apprentice. *Thanks Jackie for co-ordinating work with the Lengthsman to address concerns and ensure the Parish obtained better value for money)*

5.9 We have granted £485 to the Thornhill Village Association for Christmas trees and decorations and summer planting of flower tubs.

5.10 The Parish Council have responded to the following consultations this year:

- Vision for Copeland Local Plan (CBC)
- Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for Beckermets Roads (CCC)
- Conservation area design guide (CBC)
- Boundary Commission proposals for Copeland Ward areas (UKG)
- Siting arrangements for New Nuclear Power Plants (UKG)
- The Strategic Road Consultation (Highways England)
- The major Road Network Consultation (Highways England)
- Geological Disposal Facility (Two Consultations) (UKG)

The responses have been compiled with accuracy in a succinct and timely manner. The benefit of making these responses is that the Parish's voice and opinions are being heard through these consultations. Beckermets with Thornhill Parish is seen as a significant player. *Special thanks for Peter and Keith for compiling the responses and to all Councillors who have provided their views.*

5.11 Siân has continued to complete her role as our Clerk with professionalism, efficiency and enthusiasm but has decided to stand down after 6 years in her role. *Thanks Sian for your hard work and dedication during the past 6 years.* A new Clerk and RFO, Gillian Threader has been appointed and will take over her responsibilities on 1st May 2018.

5.12 We worked closely with businesses in Beckermets who objected to CCC proposals that were also in conflict with the outcome of an informal consultation held in August 2016 on proposals to restrict access to roads in Beckermets. In November/December 2017, CCC held a formal consultation on an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to restrict access to the village on Morass Road and Nursery Road. The Council made their views clear on the proposals to CCC. The formal outcome of the consultation has not yet been announced.

5.13 We have continued to work with CCC on improvements to roads and paths in the Parish. Electricity North West (ENW) have completed a large proportion of the street lighting project in Beckermets but unfortunately the project is ongoing following delays by ENW in their associated project to move overhead transmission lines underground.

5.14 We have attended meetings 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. However, following the announcement by Toshiba that they were selling their shareholding in NuGEN there has been no progress on the Moorside project. The Council wrote to Trudy Harrison

(MP) regarding concerns in the Parish relating to the uncertainty associated with the delays in the project and the MP arranged a meeting with NuGEN and a number of interested parties including the Parish Council in January 2018. After a frank and open discussion NuGEN agreed to improve communications with the Parish, re-open discussions on technical items after their ownership issue had been resolved but stated clearly that they were not prepared to consider putting in place a property support scheme until their ownership issue had been resolved.

The Parish Council understands that the type of reactors that will be built at Moorside are likely to be different to those proposed in the Stage 2 DCO consultation held in 2016 although the issues raised by the Parish Council in their submission to this consultation are still appropriate and will need to be addressed (layout of site, closure of roads, dumping of spoil and response to blight). The Council is therefore committed to maintaining a good relationship with NuGEN and its owners to ensure the impact on the Parish is minimized.

The Parish Council has been told that the Grid Connections project that will support the Moorside project has been put on hold by National Grid until the way forward with NuGEN /Moorside is resolved.

The Parish Council has agreed to work closely with the Residents Affected by Moorside (RAM) group that has been formed within Beckermet. *Thanks Peter for taking the lead on the Moorside project.*

5.15 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. It also attends the 3tier meeting with CCC and CBC and the executive of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils.

5.16 The Parish Council continues to inspect planning applications and comments to CBC as appropriate.

5.17 Jacki Smith resigned from the Parish Council during 2017/18. We have kept the remaining Councillors and appointed Wendie Johnson 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 from 2019. At April 2018 we have vacancies for 5 additional Councillors (against the 14 maximum) . John Edwards and Peter Manning were re-appointed Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively at the April 2017 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 2017/18.

5.18 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 stakeholders in the Moorside project and Sellafield Limited as appropriate in 2018/19.

5.19 The Chairman noted during discussion that thanks should also be recorded to KC for her work with the History Group arranging to erect an information board near to the play area in Beckermat.

5.20 The Parish Council thanked for Chairman for providing a comprehensive report.

6) Budget Report

6.1 The final budget report for 2017/18 is attached. The Parish Council had an income of £1290.66 in financial year 2017/18 that includes repayments for utility bills from Thornhill Football Club. The total income (precept plus additional income) was £14,290.66.

6.2 The total spend by the Parish Council in 2017/18 was £15,728.81.

6.3 The total spend from the Parish Council Reserve fund was therefore £1438.15. (£15,728.81-£14,290.66)

6.4 The precepts over the last 4 years were :

2017 - £13,000.00
2016 - £13,871.94
2015 - £13,871.94
2014 - £13,891.90

6.5 During discussion JE noted that the figures quoted had not yet been audited although the financial data had all been submitted for internal audit. The meeting accepted the report

7) Date and location for next meeting

The next Annual Parish meeting will be held in April 2019 on a date to be agreed.

Beckermat with Thornhill Parish Council Final Budget Report 2017/18 – April 2018

last day 31/03/2018
 Date prepared 12/04/2018
 Precept **£13,000.00**
 From Reserves

	Original budget	
	£13,000.00	
Admin	£850.00	£534.85
Audit Fee	£150.00	£168.00
Grants	£250.00	£485.00
Parish Maintenance	£6,119.00	£8,914.54
Insurance	£600.00	£597.66
Room rent	£400.00	£260.00
Salary	£4,331.00	£4,419.60
Subs	£100.00	£0.00
Travel	£100.00	£180.00
Internet	£100.00	£96.00
Projects	£0.00	£73.16
NuGen		£0.00
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Spend		£15,728.81
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Income		£1,290.66
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YTD Balance		-£1,438.15 (17/18 Precept + income - spend)
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