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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 2019, 19.00, at Thornhill Social Club

1. Present

P Manning, S Meteer, W Johnson, J Nugent, S Caddy, D Humphreys, K Cook, M Slater and G Threader (Clerk)

Apologies

None

2. To declare any interest in items on the agenda

SM declared a pecuniary interest in an item on the Finance report for £131.00 as he was claiming back the cost of ready mix concrete for the ramp at Thornhill Football Club changing room.

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

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 July 2019 had previously been agreed via email.

4. Public participation

6 members of the public were present, 1 left after the public had put forward their viewpoints.

Representatives of the TVA asked if the railings where the recycling had been were going to be reinstated, SM explained that although this had always been the agreement any evidence would be archived and a search had failed to find any relevant documentation. The members of the public explained that the TVA had given the Thornhill Matters Group some planters to put where the recycling bins had been. It was agreed that the TVA would accept responsibility for maintaining the planters and the Clerk would notify CBC accordingly.

The second issue raised was the emptying of the litter bin in Thornhill Play Park, after some discussion and a vote as to whether the Parish Council should pay CBC to empty the bin (SM voted against) it was decided the Clerk would contact CBC to enquire if the bin could be emptied once a week.

The TVA had it in mind to try to use the school field for football, and also to improve the play area. SM gave a history of the PC's thwarted efforts to take over the field, and said that the TVA would have to contact the school over that issue.

Regarding the play area, the PC was generally favourable to the idea, but would need to see specific proposals and costing.

5. Parish Council appointments

a) Appointment of new Chairman

Sam Meteer volunteered to become Chairman and this was backed by the remaining Parish Councillors.

b) Appointment of new Vice Chairman

Julie Nugent agreed to act as Vice Chair on a temporary basis, this was backed by the remaining Parish Councillors.

Wendie Johnson will remain a Parish Councillor but is taking a sabbatical after November's meeting until February 2020.

6. Finance

To Pay	Comments	Amount
Gillian Threader Clerk	September Salary - £340.23 September Internet - £15.00 Travel - £8.00	£363.23
West Coast Plant Hire	Topsoil, excavator, diesel and delivery for work at Station Crescent	£468.00
Playsafety Limited	Playground Inspections	£263.40
Sam Meteer	Ready mixed concrete for completing the ramp to the Changing Rooms at Thornhill	£131.00
Thornhill Social Club	September meeting	£20.00

The Finance report provided by the Clerk was accepted but SM expressed his concern with the cost of the work at Station Crescent as this is not Parish Council land. It was agreed that the work had been needed and that MS had done an excellent job.

7. Budget update.

.The Budget update provided by the Clerk was accepted.

8. HMRC and Tax update re salary etc.

The Clerk noted that this wasn't fully sorted due to some issues with setting the account up and that she would notify the Councillors as soon as everything was in order.

9. Progress Reports

- **Police Report**

Individual requests for Parish reports are going to cease to exist as they are too time consuming, they will be replaced by a newsletter from HQ that will be sent to all Parish Councils.

- **Roads and Transport schedule**

SM noted that he was still battling with Highways England on some issues, otherwise there are no new updates.

- **Thornhill Football Club update**

SM had received a message that West Lakes want to use the football pitch between Oct and Dec for under 13/14/15 and 18 games (approx. 5 to 6 matches starting at 3.45 and finishing by 5.45 this could extend to January). They would only require use of the toilets and hand washing facilities. West Lakes don't have their own nets or corner flags and would need to borrow these from TFC, they would also require a representative from TFC to unlock the building etc. The Parish Council agreed that West Lakes should sort out their requirements with TFC directly and that all the Council required was that West Lakes provide evidence of insurance.

- **Thornhill School Playing Field**

Clerk to write to the school again as no reply had been received to the previous letter sent before the school holidays.

- **Open Spaces**

The Clerk summarised the CBC Open Space Assessment report, Beckermets has been assessed separately to Thornhill. As the document is 111 pages it was agreed the Clerk would scan the relevant pages and forward them to the Councillors.

- **Web site update**

Community Speedwatch familiarisation date to be added to the website.

- **Lengthsman & Thornhill Playpark**

WJ outlined the work including the hours involved for work the Lengthsman has undertaken in recent months. Works 4 You have confirmed that days and hours the Lengthsman works can be recorded but the Parish Council would get less work done. It was agreed that the quote of £3k for fence panels for the Play Area was expensive and other quotes would be sought.

WJ will chase the jobs that haven't been done, painting the goalposts at Mill Field, cutting trees back on Braystones Rd (possibly too high for the Lengthsman), replacing the posts that had strimmer damage at School Green (MS already has the posts). SC asked if the Lengthsman could spray the cemetery carpark again and KC asked if the bus shelter could be cleaned up. Clerk to check with CBC as to who owns the bus shelter. WJ also noted that she would be unable to oversee the Lengthsman project after the November meeting until her proposed return at February's meeting. It was agreed the Clerk would write to Works 4 You to thank them for organising the Lengthsman to do a litter pick and clean-up of Thornhill Play Park at short notice as he had done an excellent job.

- **Community Led Plan**

The next community newsletter in October will introduce the questionnaire that is to follow in November's edition. It will also recap on the previous findings.

Other Projects

- **Play equipment Beckermest update**

The Council had agreed that it would be a good idea to provide additional fencing at the School Green play area, but until a precise proposal and cost were known no decision could be taken. SM said he would support a proposal for the fence at School Green Play area if there was a fully costed plan with details of timber sizes, spacing, nails etc. MS to make a plan of what is required with the necessary specifications to enable the Clerk to get further quotes.

- **Playsafety playground inspections results**

There were no major issues outlined in the reports but SM and SC had noted that 2 of the posts to the 4 swing set at Thornhill Play Park showed some signs of rot and would need replacing. The Clerk had been asked to obtain a quote from Playdale but this had not been received. Clerk to chase this up again and forward to SM and SC.

10. Speedwatch Update

A Community Speedwatch familiarisation event is being hosted by Paul Turner on 30th September at Seascale Methodist Church. This will introduce interested Parish and Borough Councillors to what is required by way of insurance, PPE, location selection and the returns needed. Clerk to email the individuals that have volunteered to be involved and PM to email Parishioners in Beckermest.

11. Coastal Path

PM had written to say the Parish Council were happy with the revised route.

12. A66 Improvement Project

PM has sent comments to the consultation, no further action needed at the present time.

13. Smart Meter Proposal for Mill Lane

Prior approval determination application for installation of electronic communications apparatus, Grass Verge Mill Lane CH/4/19/2297/0T1

JN said how much better the entrance was in to the village after the improvements and the mast would make the entrance to the village very off putting. SM said there is a proposal that would allow the height of the mast to be increased by 30% without further planning permission. The Councillors did not accept the report outlining the grounds for rejecting other locations. The developers did not seem to be taking the issue seriously. It was noted that there is no research on the long term effects of exposure to these masts and the proposal to site the mast opposite the nursery and primary school was a concern. It was agreed that the Clerk would email both the nursery and the school to make sure they are aware of the latest updates. SM will write a letter objecting to the proposed site of the mast in his role as Ward Councillor. PM will write to Paul Turner (County Councillor) expressing the Parish Council's concerns; and also send in to CBC a formal objection from the PC, based on today's discussion.

14. Planning Applications received

- *Grass Verge Mill Lane CH/4/19/2297/0T1 see previous item*

Objections covered under item 13.

In his capacity as Ward Councillor, SM was hoping to be present at the relevant CBC planning panel meeting.

- *Removal of condition 2 of planning permission CH4/04/2864/0G1 to provide permanent planning permission Sellafield Site, Seascale.*

No objections raised.

- *Removal of condition 3 of planning permission CH 4/10/2004/0F1 to provide permanent planning permission Sellafield Site, Seascale.*

No objections raised.

- *Store on Old Church Rd.*

No objections raised.

- *Hunter Rise*

No information had been received from CBC as to how it was progressing, following numerous inputs from the village. The issues that still hadn't been addressed include drainage, egress from Hunter Rise, and the gradient of the access. This already led to vehicles having to be parked on the main road during Winter conditions. The Parish Council had no objection to the houses, but the issues raised needed to be resolved. It was noted that the original intention for this area was to access through Fleming Drive, and stubs had been provided in the road for this purpose.

15. Documents forwarded to us

- *SL Upcoming & in Progress Planning Applications (next 12 months)*
No issues were raised.

- *Working Together Service*
No issues were raised

16. Reports from meetings attended by Councillors

- *3Tier*

PM reported that a County Councillor, a Borough Councillor and a Parish Councillor all gave talks about their roles and the issues that arose on a regular basis. There was also a discussion about sites for affordable housing. However, the Parish Council had no suitable sponsors.

- *NDA*

This was an all-day meeting attended by PM. The first part of the meeting was to discuss their strategy, and the second part was where they are up to on underground disposal. PM highlighted a couple of issues, but would circulate a full note.

- *WCSSG*

The MOD initially refused to come to a meeting and having agreed to attend failed to turn up twice, representative/s are due to attend the next meeting. PM had emailed the Councillors a summary of the meeting.

Meetings planned before next PC meeting

- *West Copeland partnership meeting 30th September 6pm Market Hall Egremont*
- *3Tier 3rd Oct*
- *UCLAN (University of Central University) 9th Oct and 7th November to discuss the development of small and medium reactors.*

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

The issue of what would happen regarding buildings like Beckermat Reading Rooms if the governors and trustees gave up had been raised at the July meeting. KC confirmed that the trustees along with the members were liable and that the Parish Council had no liability.

JN raised the positioning of 3 cars for advertising purposes at the side of the A595 noting they were a distraction to drivers, PM will contact Paul Turner to ask if he can arrange for them to be removed.

MS noted that 2 panes of glass in the phone box at Beckermat had been kicked in, Clerk to contact BT to arrange for repair.

JN raised the issue of a child who had been injured climbing the fence in to the Nursery grounds to retrieve a football. It was confirmed that there are already notices on the fence stating that it should not be climbed over. It was agreed that JN would put a note in the Parish newsletter to remind parents to ensure their children know not to climb the fence.

CBC has started the rollout of signs to implement the PSPO's in Whitehaven and other areas will follow. SM said the PC should liaise with CBC regarding the signs for the Parish and the Clerk confirmed she had received an email from CBC stating they will be in contact regarding the relevant signage for the Parish.

As the chairman was expecting to leave the area, SC led the Councillors in a vote of thanks to him for his time as Chairman and for his overall contribution to the Parish Council over 7 years.

A member of the public that wasn't present at the meeting had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council; Clerk to invite him to the October meeting.

The remaining members of the public and the Clerk left the meeting before the Clerk's salary review was discussed.

18. Date and location for next meeting

- Wednesday 16th October at Beckermest Reading Rooms 7pm.

19. Clerks salary review

The Councillors agreed to increase the Clerks salary to £389.33 per month.