

Ms G R Threader (Clerk)
10 Parkside Road
Cleator Moor
Cumbria
CA25 5HF

gillrthreader@gmail.com
07743-783383
01946-430917

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th October 2019, 19.00, at Beckermets Reading Rooms

1. Present

S Meteer, J Nugent, D Humphreys, K Cook, M Slater & G Threader (Clerk)

Apologies

W Johnson and S Caddy

2. To declare any interest in items on the agenda

None

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

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 September 2019 were approved and SM formally thanked P Manning for all his time and help during his time with the Parish Council. It was agreed a letter of thanks would be sent to Peter.

4. Public participation

One member of the public was present to enquire about the planning development at Hunter Rise.

5. Finance

To Pay	Comments	Amount
Gillian Threader Clerk	October Salary - £389.33 Internet - £15.00 Travel - £8.00	£412.33
PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit Fee (inc. £40 VAT)	£240.00
Waterplus	Water for TFC	£46.37
Beckermets Reading Rooms	October Meeting	£20.00

The Finance report provided by the Clerk was accepted.

6. Budget update.

.The Budget update provided by the Clerk was accepted.

SM wants a more realistic budget, he pointed out that the current budget was £17950.00 and the precept is currently £13000.00. There was a discussion about what was a reasonable amount to leave in the reserve account, SM suggested 10k and JN suggested 15k. MS suggested lowering the precept but it was generally agreed that it would be better to spend some of the reserves. SM said the precept had been held at £13000.00 for a number of years now but the PC could ask for an increase if necessary. The budget and balance in the Parish Council accounts would be discussed in February.

7. HMRC and Tax update re salary etc.

Clerk explained that software is set up and she is just waiting for the amount of tax payable to be confirmed. The Clerk also explained that she has been paid net of 20% of her salary for July, August, September and October to offset the tax owed.

8. Progress Reports

- **Cumbria Police Report**

Clerk said she had just been referred to the crime statistics link in the emails that cover West and South West Cumbria if a more detailed report of crime statistics were required.

- **Roads and Transport schedule**

SM met Highways England on the 2nd October at Thornhill about a problem and the situation is being monitored and there is very little money available. In relation to traffic calming at Beckermest SM said part of the work is planned for the next financial year and Paul Turner is involved. KC expressed a concern over the parking situation at the church corner on Morass Rd, stating that when 3 cars were parked the situation was an accident waiting to happen. JN asked about the consultation and SM said it wouldn't be before the CCC highways budget for 2020 / 2021 JN said she has written to Paul Turner regarding the outstanding traffic related work in the village.

- **Football club update**

SM checked that the Councillors had received the email he forwarded from Westlakes stating they were no longer interested in using the football club facilities.

- **Web site update**

SM commented on what a great job was being done on maintaining the website, the other Councillors agreed and the Clerk will pass on their thanks.

- **Lengthsman project**

KC went to the recent meeting, the main points noted were that the outstanding jobs for the Parish Council were not weather dependent, therefore once the grass cutting has finished hopefully the work would get done. There is no money for an apprentice to the Lengthsman and the part time staff finish on the 25th October. At the end of the current 2 year Lengthsman scheme Egremont Town Council will not have 3.5k to put into the scheme so the future of the Lengthsman is uncertain. KC said the report from Works 4U was only 5 lines and didn't break down hours or work completed by the Lengthsman. MS said the Lengthsman hadn't contacted him about the agreed work in Beckermat, MS said he had serious concerns that the Parish Council were not getting value for money from the scheme. It was noted that the weeds in Thornhill Cemetery carpark appear to have been sprayed. The branches at Braystones Rd, the bus shelters and notice boards are all outstanding jobs. It was agreed that the Lengthsman wouldn't be asked to cut the grass by the cherry trees in Beckermat, Clerk to arrange for the contractor to trim the area on an agreed date so local residents have the opportunity to move their vehicles. SM confirmed that he had asked KC to take on the care of the Lengthsman project and she has agreed to do so. The next Lengthsman meeting is the 10th of December.

- **Thornhill Playpark (Litter Collection)**

Clerk had not had a response to the application for a weekly collection, JN thought it was money well spent and Clerk should request Monday collection if possible.

- **Community Led Plan**

JN said she knew she knew the questionnaire was going out with the next newsletter and it was really to reinforce that last year's findings were still what people wanted.

Other Projects

- **Play equipment quotes etc.**

SM said he had looked at a number of brochures and the options were stainless steel, wooden posts on steel bases or wooden posts straight in to the ground. After a discussion about costs and the quotes received MS proposed the wooden poles on steel bases with the 20 year guarantee from Playdale, this was seconded by KC. It was also agreed that the quote for the 2 toddler swings was accepted as delivery and installation fees for these were being waived if they were ordered with the posts. SM said an extra wet pour repair kit was needed so that he could repair an area under the parallel bars and this was agreed by the other Councillors. MS suggested getting steel cups for the equipment being repaired in Beckermat but at 71.88 each before VAT it was decided against. SM asked the Clerk to confirm with Playdale that the old posts could be left so the Parish Council could use them for something else.

- **Wreath for Beckermat Cemetery**

Last year the Parish Council donated £50 for a wreath for Beckermat Cemetery and KC proposed the same was done this year, MS seconded this. Clerk to arrange with SC.

- **Transparency Information Copeland**

SM explained that this was about councils being transparent regarding their assets and finances, the councils that had not met individual standards were not named. The report did not include Beckermat with Thornhill this year due to the higher income from the grant for the changing room. It was felt that the details on the Parish Council website were comprehensive and met all the relevant requirements.

9. Community Led Housing in Beckermat

SM said there were no groups in the Parish to take on and build community housing, he pointed out that Distington got a million over 10 years for the village and thought some of it was going on a community led housing scheme on the old British Legion site. As there is no future for a project of this kind in the Parish it was agreed that this would no longer be an agenda item.

10. Community Emergency Planning

The Clerk summarised the document she had forwarded but it was generally agreed that the Parish was in a slightly different situation due to its proximity to Sellafield. SM said KC was on Copeland's list of contacts for the Reading Rooms.

11. Connecting Cumbria's Hidden Coast

The document that had been sent out summarised which body was responsible for each part of the project.

12. Smart Meter Proposal for Mill Lane update

KC asked how often the planning meetings were, SM explained that they are monthly and open to the public (unless an item is sensitive or confidential) and details can be found online at mod.gov. KC wanted to know if it was possible to find out how many letters had been received opposing the siting of the mast. JN asked if the proposal can just go ahead without further consultation, SM said he had asked to speak at the planning meeting relating to the mast application but was unsure if they could just go ahead with the mast.

13. Planning Applications received updates; Hunter Rise

KC said there were a number of issues to resolve but JN thought some of them had been addressed. There were no official updates to the planning application at Hunter Rise.

14. Documents forwarded to us

Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch AGM.

No comments made.

Sellafield Planning Applications

No comments made.

Local Focus Hub Meeting

No comments made.

West Copeland Area Partnership Minutes

No comments made but KC will attend the next meeting.

High Sheriff Award

No comments made.

15. Reports from meetings attended by Councillors

- *3 Tier 3rd October*

Attended by PM, the points were; Councils not displaying all the info required by Law on their websites.

Copeland Hidden Coast Project has started. First event will be Sep 2020 or spring 2021, and then annually.

Only 40 communities in Cumbria have a proper written emergency plan, but emphasis is going away from this need- as long as communities can respond.

Next meeting scheduled for Nov 28 at Copeland centre.

- *.UCLAN (University of Central Lancashire)*

Meeting looked at value of public expenditure.

- *BVA*

No one from the Parish Council attended, JN said her understanding was that the Nursery were trying to get signs from Sellafield (to slow traffic down). SM asked for the speed limit to be dropped to 20 mph and the speed limit area to be extended 2 years ago and still nothing has been done. JN would put a speed bump on the road to slow traffic down. MS thought traffic and parking would get worse when site passes were taken off shift workers, JN to seek clarification on this.

Meetings planned before next PC meeting

JN volunteered to attend the next SFM meeting and it was agreed that the current list of Parish Council representation at meetings would be an agenda item at November's meeting.

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

KC asked what the Parish Council planned to do about the grass round the cherry trees. It was agreed the Clerk would arrange a time the regular contractor could trim

the area so that residents could be notified giving them the opportunity to move their vehicles.

MS attended the traffic meeting CRASH for an update on Speedwatch. Speed cameras cost 4.5 k and it was suggested this could be shared between parish councils, there is also a cost for annual recalibration. Volunteers would be required to go to their local Police Station to issue warning tickets for speeding. MS said he is no longer interested in being a volunteer for Speedwatch. It was noted that Sellafield Civil police have a speed camera and they could possibly be asked to help if the issue was thought to be from Sellafield traffic. SM stated that anyone can report speeding online or by phoning 101, JN suggested an article in the village newsletter to make people aware of this.

MS said he had not done the drawings for quotes for the fencing at the play area as the Lengthsman had still not done the other outstanding work there. KC said the person that had originally done the other fencing there would probably be prepared to quote for the work. SM said he would get the necessary information together so that quotes could be obtained.

KC asked who owned the swing bridge, SM confirmed CCC own it.

DH had received complaints about parking in Thornhill, SM asked if the individual had reported it and suggested that DH could report it himself.

It was agreed that November's agenda would include an item for the proposal of new councillors.

17. Proposed dates for Parish Council meetings 2020

There were no objections to the dates put forward by the Clerk.

18. Date and location for next meeting

- Wednesday 20th November at Thornhill Social Club