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

Present

S Meter, D Humphreys, K Cook, M Slater, Eric Jewitt, S Caddy
& G Threader (Clerk)

Apologies

WJ and JN

2. To declare any interest in items on the agenda

None

3. To consider approval of the minutes from the meeting held on November 20. Also to include any matters arising from November's minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 November 2019 were approved with 1 small amendment. The issue of parking at TSC blocking access to the defibrillator was discussed and it was agreed that the best option was to get a sign made. Clerk to get quote and provide details to SM so he can write to TSC re siting the sign.

4. Public participation

1 member of the public was present.

5. Finance

To Pay	Comments	Amount
Gillian Threader Clerk	December Salary - £389.33 Internet - £15.00 Travel - £8.00 Black ink printer cartridge - £8.99	£421.32
Darren Fawcett	Grass cutting contract annual payment Total includes £432.00 VAT	£2592.00
NPower	Electricity supply to TFC	£34.88

Water Plus	Water supply to TFC	£39.74
Thornhill Social Club	December meeting	£20.00

The Finance report provided by the Clerk was accepted.

6. Budget update.

.The Budget update provided by the Clerk was accepted

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 as the first amount asked for was obviously incorrect and has not been updated. The Clerk also explained that she has been paid net of 20% of her salary for July, August, September, October, November and December to offset the tax owed (£437.76). Clerk confirmed there would be approximately £200 to pay in excess of the money deducted from her salary, after discussion it was agreed this could be paid into the Parish Council's current account once the relevant figure was obtained.

8. Appointment of New Councillors

None but the member of the public requested the 2020 meeting dates.

9. Parish Precept 2020

MS asked if the Councillors considered there was enough in the reserves to cover any big projects, after discussion it was agreed the reserves would be sufficient. The automatic calculation sent from CBC leaves the precept at £13,000 the same as last year. It was agreed the Clerk would complete and submit the necessary documents to apply for the precept.

10. Progress Reports

- **Cumbria Police Report**

The lack of individual Parish reports was commented on and it was felt there was very little information relevant to the Parish in the available generic reports.

- **Roads and Transport schedule**

SM had reported all the road markings in Beckermest via email the day after he received an email to say they had been re done. This was followed by an email saying there had been an error and a further email to say a contractor would do the junctions but the work was weather dependent.

MS said he thought yellow rumble strips and a 30mph sign on Morass Road would help slow traffic down. Capita is to survey the routes in to Sellafield (Moor Row, St. Bees etc.).

In February 2019 SC had mentioned the junction at Thornhill on to A 595. SM asked if the survey had been done and was told a technician had done a priority request but no further information on dates.

- **Football club update**

Clerk confirmed a cheque to cover the utility bills listed in the finance report had been delivered to her earlier today.

- **Web site update**

Clerk passed on the information supplied by the person who maintains the website. Usage is slightly lower this month and the web hosting company will be increasing their fees in the New Year.

- **Lengthsman project**

The Councillors introduced themselves to the Works 4 You coordinator who was present to provide information and answer questions. She said the reason for her attendance was the impression that the PC was not very happy while other Parishes were enthusiastic and she wanted to know what can be done better in the future. SM said the PC paid £1200 for the Lengthsman and it seemed to have gone downhill, he gave the issues with the concrete ramp at TFC as an example where extra men were brought in but didn't seem to be working. Also the bin in the play area at Thornhill used to get emptied but residents have been doing that and now the PC will have to pay CBC for this service. The latest issue is the playpark in Beckermat where the poles have still not been installed. SM said 8" sleeves were needed and the Lengthsman has sourced these.

The Works 4 You representative read out a list of jobs completed by the Lengthsman. SM said some of the jobs on the list had not been done and a litter pick had been done by the TVA. DH mentioned the overhanging branches on Wodow Road. Works 4 You will reintroduce a monthly list of jobs. SM said the PC is not getting value for the money spent, some of the jobs were the responsibility of other authorities (although the PC may have used the Lengthsman when they couldn't get the authorities to do the work). Works 4 You offered to send a list of what work other parishes got. MS said a few were not happy with the scheme and he had stored the timber for the work at the playpark which should have been done by August and still wasn't complete. KC noted the paint on the goalposts was not satisfactory and should have been metallic. Works 4 You said the jobs being done were the same as in previous years and as nothing had been said why would they change that. MS said he wasn't happy and SC said they would discuss the situation after Works 4 You had left. MS said the newer Councillors wouldn't know what had been going on in the past. It was agreed that the Clerk would send out the information that would be forwarded by Works 4 You and a further discussion would take place at next month's meeting. SM thanked KC for her work on taking on looking after the scheme for the PC.

- **Thornhill Playpark (Litter Collection)**

This is an ongoing situation due to a long term sickness from one of the relevant individuals. Clerk has forwarded all the relevant emails to the person now dealing with this at CBC.

- **Community Led Plan**

JN will bring her funding request to the January meeting.

Other Projects

- **Play equipment (current situation)**

The playground equipment for Thornhill should be delivered and erected approximately mid-February subject to weather and the supplier. Beckermet is still waiting, see the notes under Lengthsman project.

- **Grass round cherry trees**

JN had said she would trim, no further update.

- **Tree Planting**

SM had asked anyone with any interest from November's meeting to bring proposals to this meeting. KC wanted to replace the 2 cherry trees that had been lost (1 at school green and 1 at the site above) with new cherry trees. SM thought there might be a 3rd cherry tree to replace and this would be checked, he had sourced plum cherry trees at £25 to £35 each from Singletons, these are already approximately 9ft high. The Councillors voted to accept this proposal.

SM proposed hedging down the right hand side of the football field with 3ft high beech for 10 yards and 1 tree either silver birch or ash, the total cost would be in the region of £150. KC asked why the 1 larger tree, DH raised the possibility of the hedge interfering with the view from the bungalows although he thought some of the older people might help maintain it. SC said the cattle would pull it over and make the fence hard to maintain. MS said there were enough problems with trees in the Parish. SM asked for a vote mentioning climate change and national tree planting week. The Councillors voted against this proposal.

- **Seat in Beckermet Cemetery**

Clerk has written but clearer images were requested, Clerk to take and send further photographs.

- **Monument in Beckermet Cemetery**

It was agreed that this would be raised again in April as cleaning and restoration are not winter jobs.

- **Update on List of Contractors**

KC to get an update from a contractor who has previously done work for the PC so they can be added to the list if interested in further work. Also, MS has a cousin who is a builder that maybe interested in being added to the list.

- **Grass cutting contract**

There was a consensus among members that grass cutting had been satisfactory and it was agreed the Clerk would contact the contractor to obtain a quote for 2020.

- **Replacement Plaques**

Nothing to be done until the spring when varnishing can take place.

- **School Green Fence**

SM has done the specification and will have the full details in the New Year so quotes can be obtained.

11. Copeland Local Plan

Cut-off date for comments is the 20th January 2020, SM recommended that Councillors go online and put in comments as an individual if they wanted any input.

12. Planning Applications

- *Sellafield Ltd.'s upcoming and in progress planning applications (21/11/2019)*

No objections were raised.

13. Documents forwarded to us

- *Cumbria Police – West Cumbria News*
- *Cumbria Arts & Culture Network Newsletter*
- *Creative People and Places – Community Consultation*
- *Notes of meeting of West Cumbria Partnership*
- *Cumbria Police – Egremont, Cleator Moor and Rural Sector report (see progress reports)*
- *December CALC Newsletter*
- *CALC Repairs to property relating to affairs of the Church*
- *Cumbria Coastal Strategy – Public Engagement – Parish Councils*
- *Parish Precept (see item 9)*
- *West Copeland Area Partnership*
- *Sellafield Ltd' s Upcoming and in Progress*

It was agreed that the Clerk will just email a list of the emails that would come under this item and Councillors can request any they want forwarding. No issues were raised from the list of documents given above.

14. Reports from meetings attended by Councillors

Lengthsman/Works 4U Dec 10th

See notes under Lengthsman Scheme.

West Copeland Partnership Dec 2nd

The minutes of this meeting had been sent out to the Councillors.

3 Tier

No-one from the PC attended this meeting.

Meetings planned before next PC meeting

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

EJ volunteered to help KC with the Lengthsman, KC readily agreed to this.

MS raised the problem of overgrown trees on both sides of the river at Lowside Quarter obscuring visibility, SM will report to Cumbria Highways.

MS noted that there is no salt on the Braystones Road on the way out of the village, SM asked MS to provide a sketch of the location so a letter could be sent to Cumbria Highways.

MS also said the main road at Oaklands is very wet due to poor drainage and standing water cannot be seen in the dark, SM to write to Highways England.

MS additionally noted that 2 cyclists had been knocked off their bikes at Yottenfews roundabout, the lines had been taken off and not replaced.

SM said on Tuesday 2 trees had been cut down in the south east corner of Thornhill playing field that backs on to Thorntrees Drive. Due to the lack of access it appears to have been a resident and SM has reported the matter to the Police.

16. Date and location for next meeting

- Wednesday 15th January at Beckermat Reading Rooms.