

# Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council

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## Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 18.30hrs at Thornhill Social Club

- 1) **Present** P Manning, S Meter, D Humphreys, D McGhee, M Slater, K Cook, W Johnson, S Caddy and G Threader (Clerk)

**Apologies** K Woolley and J Nugent

### 2) **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### 3) **Chairman's report**

The Chairman's report was accepted, but members also wanted to record that the Council had been invited to a residents meeting on Hunter Rise, and subsequently sent a letter of objection to the construction of 28 houses. The application has since been withdrawn, although could be re-submitted.

### **Acting Chairman's Annual Report for 2018/19**

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.
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 The Parish achieved all of its work within the precept of £13,000, plus approximately another £7000 which was withdrawn from the reserves. This was because the council was willing and able to support a number of good proposals that had come forward. Following an assessment of the Parish's finances, and the fact that the reserves are still about £30,000, it was decided that the precept for 2019/20 would again remain at £13,000.
3. The Parish Council paid £4437 towards the construction of an extension to the Change Room at Thornhill Football Club. The Copeland Community Fund (CCF) contributed £14812.
4. The Beckermet Nursery received £1400 towards the cost of a new kitchen.
5. £885 was paid for items to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.
6. £375 was paid to support a Thornhill fun day.
7. £1734 was paid for a defibrillator for Thornhill.
8. 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 Beckermet regarding

the future development of a Community Led Plan (CLP) for Beckermet. Work on this will continue in 2019/20 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 Beckermet CLP.

9. 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. Recipients were contacted to see if they wanted to continue to receive the newsletter, in view of the new Data Protection Regulations, and over 90% agreed to continue. The circulation has been appropriately updated to ensure compliance.
10. The 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.
11. 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, gardening, etc; and have agreed to support the lengthsman scheme for a further 2 years. We have also undertaken some maintenance ourselves.
12. The Parish Council have responded to the following two consultations this year: Whitehaven Bypass; Environment Agency consideration of Sellafield discharges.
13. Gillian Threader took over from Sian Tucker as the Council Clerk and Financial Officer. They have undertaken the role with professionalism, efficiency and enthusiasm.
14. We worked closely with businesses in Beckermet 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 Beckermet. 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 was finally announced in May 2018, when the proposal was abandoned. CCC are intending to offer alternatives for the village, but nothing has yet emerged.
15. We have continued to work with CCC on improvements to roads and paths in the Parish. Unfortunately, budget restrictions mean that things have not been tackled as well as in the past.
16. We 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. The Council wrote to Trudy Harrison (MP) regarding concerns in the Parish and we met on several occasions. She also held a surgery here for villagers. Ultimately, NuGen withdrew from the project and ceased to exist at the end of February 2019. We met until the bitter end to ensure restoration of the site.

17. 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. Parking in the village has become a bit of a problem, but on balance no extra measures have been sought. 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. We keep in touch with developments regarding the Coastal Footpath. Following a review with Historic England, we are the official owners of the War Memorial, a historic monument. We feel it is important to be represented at these meetings, both to ensure that our voice is heard, and to assist the meeting holders.
18. Attempts to restart the project to find an underground repository for nuclear waste have been led by the NDA (RWMD). We attended the opening meeting in Penrith, but did not make a submission as we do not wish to express an interest in becoming a host for the project.
19. The Parish Council continues to inspect planning applications and comments to CBC as appropriate.
20. We were pleased to welcome Julie Nugent and Michael Slater onto the Council during the year, but chairman John Edwards resigned in the Summer of 2018 as he was leaving the parish. Peter Manning took over as Acting Chair.
21. We will continue to work closely during 2019/2020 with the BVA, TVA, CBC and CCC as appropriate on different issues affecting the Parish.

Peter Manning  
Acting Chairman, Beckermeth with Thornhill Parish Council  
April 2019

#### **4) Date and location for next meeting**

The next annual meeting will be held in April 2020.