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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2020, 19.00, at Thornhill Social Club

Present

S Meter, D Humphreys, K Cook, M Slater, Eric Jewitt, J Nugent

& G Threader (Clerk).

Apologies

WJ & SC

2. To declare any interest in items on the agenda

SM declared a pecuniary interest in item 12, other projects, tree planting, as he had purchased the trees and posts on behalf of the PC. The relevant receipts were passed to the Clerk.

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

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 January 2020 were approved.

4. Public participation

None

5. Finance

To Pay	Comments	Amount
Gillian Threader Clerk	February Salary - £389.33 Internet - £15.00 Travel - £8.00 Ink cartridge for printer - £10.25 Paper for printer - £3.99	£426.57

Sam Meter (purchased on behalf of PC)	Cherry trees	£108.25
Copeland Borough Council	Quarterly charge for emptying the bin at Thornhill Play Area (January to March)	£30.55
Thornhill Social Club	February meeting	£20.00

The Finance report provided by the Clerk was accepted.

6. Budget update.

The Budget update provided by the Clerk was accepted after the Clerk updated the spend figure.

7. HMRC and Tax update re salary etc.

The Clerk explained that she has been paid net of 20% of her salary for July, August, September, October, November, December, January and February to offset the tax owed (£593.50). The Clerk explained she had received a letter from HMRC but had been unable to get through to them on the phone but would update the PC as soon as the situation was resolved.

8. Smart Meter Mast update

JN explained that it was lucky she was at home when the work on the site for the Smart Meter Mast started, she was able to persuade them to stop the work while she contacted Arqiva. Work had started due to a legal loophole as CBC had sent the refusal a day to late, CBC blamed a computer error for the error, and apparently a similar situation has already happened in the North East. The Clerk had given JN the original plans that note that they try to keep away from residential areas. JN had been in touch with the senior planning officer from Daly International and a meeting had been proposed with a planning office from Daly and a planning officer from Arqiva, it was proposed to invite Trudi Harrison. Mike Starkie had said he would write to Trudi Harrison. SM paid tribute to all the work that JN and her husband had done on this issue as without them the mast would already be in place .It was agreed that SM, JN, EJ as a resident, the chairman of the nursery and Paul Turner would attend the meeting, JN agreed to make the arrangements. The Councillors discussed all the sites that had previously been suggested as more suitable as these would be raised at the meeting. JN suggested paying a farmer but MS said they wouldn't want to have to pay the farmer an annual fee. MS suggested that the mast was not an infrastructure but Paul Turner had tried to get CCC to stop the mast but they stated it was an infrastructure so they were unable to stop it. KC suggested starting a petition,

SM suggested that people say they won't accept a smart meter if the mast goes ahead on Mill Lane.

9. Middlebank Suspension Bridge

EJ had looked at the bridge and reported that all the work had been completed to a good standard.

10. Dent Road Gas and Electricity Sub Stations

SC had asked SM to raise the unkempt condition of the areas immediately around the gas and electricity sub stations and how unkempt they look compared to the nice trimmed hedges close by. SM to draft letters with addresses for the Clerk to send.

11. Poor Condition of some roads in Beckermat village

EJ was concerned about the condition of a number of roads in the village as the top surface has started to go and a few small potholes have appeared. EJ wanted to know if this was in hand, i.e. are there plans in place to address the situation. EJ said all that was happening at the moment was patching and he listed the following areas that need attention; Morass Road especially at the bottom, Millfields up to Braystones Road, Station Close and Fleming Drive are not too bad but joint with Fleming Road not good. It was agreed the Clerk should write to Paul Turner and ask if there are any plans for resurfacing (not just surface dressing) also to ask the current position regarding the proposed traffic calming and signage that was promised last year.

SM to chase the give way St Bridget's old Church Road markings and also the original junction that was asked for and the white school markings.

12. Progress Reports

- **Cumbria Police Report**

The generic report that covers the Parish didn't contain any relevant information.

- **Roads and Transport schedule**

SM has requested the salt bin, this has been passed on and is showing online as "will be looked at".

Please see item 11 for more on roads and transport.

- **Football club update to include Additional Team wanting to use the changing room**

The Clerk had received a request from a new football team wanting to use the Football Club facilities. TFC had been consulted and had no objections, the new team had agreed to the terms and conditions and the Clerk will get signed copies of agreements for the changing rooms, the extension and the keys.

A cabinet had been left when a previous team had stopped using the facilities, the owner had been contacted and given a week to remove the cabinet, this hasn't happened so SM will remove it. The old posts from the swings at Thornhill

Play Area are stored in the extension but SM believes there is still plenty of room for the new team.

- **Web site update**

The member of the public maintaining the website reported that there were approximately 500 visits per month and a more in-depth report would be given at the March meeting.

- **Lengthsman and Works 4 You**

SM had emailed Works 4 You for an update but the relevant person replied saying they were on holiday and asking to meet on the 24th. There was a discussion on whether the PC should finish with the Lengthsman scheme with immediate effect, SM called for a vote, 5 in favour and 1 abstention. Clerk to write to Works 4 You with the decision and to ask for the posts for the swing bridge to be returned to where they had been otherwise Works 4 You would be billed for them.

- **Thornhill Playpark (Litter Collection)**

This is now resolved and the weekly collection has been taking place since late December. The payment of £2.35 per collection for the period January to March is included in this month's budget and financial reports. It was agreed that the PC would continue with this until there is an increase in price.

- **Community Led Plan**

JN reported that WJ is putting together the results of the recent questionnaire.

Other Projects

- **Play equipment (current situation)**

MS apologised for not having done the monthly inspection but noted the posts for the swings had been finished with plastic collars filled with cement. MS was unhappy with the condition of the gates at Mill Lane playing field and wanted another opinion, EJ volunteered to go and look and will report back at the next meeting. Thornhill Playpark has had the new posts fitted by Playdale, these are on a galvanised steel plate to keep the posts off the ground and have a 20 year guarantee. The old posts are stored in TFC. SM will do the wet pour under the parallel bars.

- **Defibrillator sign for TFC**

The Clerk reported that the farm supplies in Egremont could only order 2 signs to go side by side, they were unable to order one sign with the defibrillator sign and the wording required. The Clerk had been given the

details of a local printers and will get a quote from them so a decision can be made on which option is most suitable.

- **Tree Planting (update re cherry trees)**

SM said he had planted the 3 cherry trees he had purchased and they are all secured with posts and ties.

- **Seat in Beckermat Cemetery**

The Clerk hadn't received any response from the poster in the noticeboards asking if anyone wanted to sponsor a bench. After a discussion JN proposed that the PC buy a refurbished bench so long as the total cost including delivery installation and VAT did not exceed £500. This was carried unanimously and the Clerk to get the exact cost as previously only estimates had been provided.

- **School Green Fence quotes for consideration**

The Councillors were provided a list of the 5 quotes (no names or business details were provided) giving price details, and noting if references or examples of work had been provided. After discussion SM proposed one of the quotes and all the Councillors were in favour. Clerk to contact the person who had provided the successful quote.

13. Grant Application for Community Led Plan printing

JN explained she is waiting for the person that does all the finances for the CLP to provide the required financial information to complete the grant application.

14. Planning Applications Received

Steam Generation Plant (amended scheme of 4/17/225/01) Sellafeld Ltd, Seascale CH/4/20/2044/0F1

EJ has taken the plans for the above application, there were no other comments.

Bankfield extension

KC has taken the plans for the above application, there were no other comments once the contents of the application had been clarified.

Midtown Farm (Hunter Rise) update

There were still concerns over both the drainage and how icy Hunter Rise gets when there is a frost. SM said Hunter Rise would be a priority 3 for gritting as it's a non-priority road and would only get gritted after a frost. It was generally agreed that the salt bin near the top of Hunter Rise would be insufficient in bad weather. SM note that United Utilities were happy for the excess water to drain in to Morass Road via SUDS (sustainable drainage system). KC noted that the proposal showed the village was served by the number 30 bus which is incorrect. SM invited the Councillors to send in their own comments to the planning department.

15. Reports from meetings attended by Councillors

January 27th West Coast Partnership meeting, KC will attended and the notes had been circulated.

WCSSG (West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group) 4TH February, MS attended and said the NDA had 11.6 million to give to local communities in the next 6 years but there were no further details. MS also noted that there was nothing to report regarding the Parish. MS agreed to go to future WCSGG meetings.

JN attended SFM on 21st January and apologised for not having circulated her report.

Meetings planned before next PC meeting

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

KC asked for confirmation that the PC owns the bus shelter in Beckermet as there are 2 notice boards within the bus shelter that the PC could utilise, KC will get the keys and a decision on what to use the noticeboards for can be made at the next meeting.

The other Councillors had nothing further to report.

17. Date and location for next meeting

- Wednesday 18th March at Beckermet Reading Rooms