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## **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 19.00, at Beckermat Reading Rooms**

### **Present**

S Meter, K Cook, M Slater, E Jewitt, S Caddy, J Nugent  
& G Threader (Clerk).

### **Apologies**

WJ and DH

It was noted that WJ had tendered her resignation and it was agreed the Clerk would write thanking WJ for her hard work as a Councillor.

### **2. To declare any interest in items on the agenda**

None

### **3. To consider approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 19 February, also to include any matters arising from February's minutes.**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 February 2020 were approved.

### **4. Public participation**

None

### **5. Finance**

<b>To Pay</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Gillian Threader Clerk	March Salary - £389.33 Internet - £15.00 Travel - £8.00 Expanding files for 20/21 - £12.80	£425.13
Ian Rumney	Fence at School Green Play Area	£897.51

Beckermet	March meeting	£20.00
Reading Rooms		

The Finance report provided by the Clerk was accepted.

## **6. Budget update.**

The Budget update provided by the Clerk was accepted.

## **7. Budget Proposals for 2020/2021**

The Councillors unanimously agreed the budget proposals put forward by SM.

## **8. HMRC and Tax update re salary etc.**

The Clerk explained that she has been paid net of 20% of her salary from July to date to offset the tax owed (£671.35) but had been unable to get through to HMRC by phone due to the current situation with Covid 19.

## **9. Coronavirus COVID- 19 including; NALC/CALC Information for Local (Parish and Town) Councils High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy Covid-19 Cumbria's approach to coordinating the community response Neighbourliness - Coronavirus**

JN explained that she had set up a group of approximately 15 volunteers each with 30 to 50 houses, leaflets had been delivered to part of the village already outlining how the volunteers could help and JN noted that good feedback had already been received from Millfield. There was a discussion about whether Thornhill needed a similar scheme but the Councillors decided that with a shop and bus service in Thornhill nothing further was required at this point. SM noted that funds for support during the pandemic could be sort from Cumbria Community Foundation.

## **10. Smart Meter Mast Update**

JN had arranged a meeting for 1pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> March with planners and project managers from Arqiva plus a planner from CBC and various other local representatives. JN will confirm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> as to whether the meeting will go ahead due to the expected travel restrictions. JN proposed that there should be a couple of alternative sights considered again. SC explained the masts can be made to look like telegraph poles and maybe a different design would be possible depending on location.

## **11. Dent Road Gas and Electricity Sub Stations update**

The Clerk reported that she had not received any replies to the letters sent, SM asked the Clerk to write again and to follow up by phone.

## **12. Progress Reports**

- **Cumbria Police Report**

There was nothing relevant to the Parish in the generic report for the area. SM reported that he was still chasing up on the trees that had been cut down in Thornhill.

- **Roads and Transport schedule**

The clerk had not received a response from Paul Turner regarding his response to both traffic calming measures and the white lines, SM asked the clerk to write again. SM had lodged all the white lines in Beckermest as needing to be redone but only some e.g. Kirkbeck Drive had been redone and others such as Low Church Road end had been left. SM said the response he had received to the request for a salt bin had been turned down as there was salt at the top of Station Crescent. MS said there is no salt there and SM will follow up again. EJ noted that pot holes had been filled on Morass Road but it was all patching rather than replacing the poor road surface.

- **Football club update**

The clerk reported that the over 35's had signed the agreements for the use of the buildings and pitch but hadn't been given the keys as they hadn't paid as per the agreements. SM had been contacted about a downspout leaking at the TFC and found the cause to be a broken bracket, SM will purchase and replace the bracket, there had also been a report of a problem with flies but SM hadn't found a problem when he had gone to investigate the leak.

- **Web site update**

The member of the public maintain the website provided the following report:

*As of 08:30 Tuesday 17th March, the website stats this year are:*

*Jan: 538 visitors making 647 visits in total*

*Feb: 510 visitors making 630 visits in total*

*Mar: 192 visitors making 406 visits in total*

*The most popular downloads are the meeting minutes.*

*As you can see from the above figures, the website has a regular, small but worthwhile following.*

- **Lengthsman and Works 4 You**

MS confirmed that the posts had been returned as requested and SM confirmed this item can be removed from future agendas.

- **Thornhill Playpark (Litter Collection update as new price from April)**

The weekly litter collection has increased as predicted to a cost of £5.95 per week from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and it will now be billed annually. It was agreed that the Clerk would cancel this as SM had found a local resident who is prepared to empty the bin.

- **Community Led Plan**

WJ has collated the findings from the completed questionnaires and the details will be sent out in either the next newsletter or the one after.

## **Other Projects**

- **Play equipment (current situation)**

EJ had checked the gates to the Millfields playing field and suggested that 2 posts were needed, SM asked EJ and MS if they could measure up the gate and make a diagram that the clerk could send to 2 of the contractors that the PC have used.

- **Defibrillator sign for TFC**

The Clerk was still waiting for confirmation of the costs from the 2 possible suppliers. Clerk to follow up again.

- **Seat in Beckermat Cemetery**

The Clerk confirmed that although she had sent a 2<sup>nd</sup> email and had been promised a cost in time for the meeting this had not been received. Clerk to chase the Parks department again.

- **School Green Fence update**

The fence had been completed on the 17<sup>th</sup> and everyone was happy with the work, SM will change the side of 1 spring and EJ volunteered to sand the tops. SM has emailed CBC requesting the relevant PSPO sign should now be put in place.

- **Enhancements to flagpole base at Thornhill**

SM proposed making some aesthetically pleasing improvements to the base of the flagpole by adding some Cotswold stone. He explained that the builders in Egremont had already donated 5 bags and were the Councillors happy for him to purchase some more, all the Councillors agreed to this. SC had sorted out a flag for VE day and KC suggested badges for all the school pupils but after discussion this was dismissed as the schools would be closed.

- **VE Memorial and Celebrations**

SM asked the Councillors if they were in agreement to spending something to commemorate VE day, the Councillors then looked at the email that had been sent with memorial planters and benches. It was agreed that the clerk would request prices and photos so that the matter could be discussed further.

## **13. Grant Application for Community Led Plan printing**

JN apologised that she still hasn't been sent the necessary financial details to complete the application, item will be left on the agenda for the next meeting.

## 14. Planning Applications Received

- *Removal of condition one of planning approval 4/10/2195/0F1 to provide permanent planning permission Sellafield Site, Sellafield (removal of time limited planning conditions, single storey modular building to serve as waste retrieval facility)*
- *Removal of condition 3 of planning approval 4/14/2234/0F1 to provide permanent planning permission Sellafield Site, Sellafield (section 73 application removal of planning condition- construction of four storey high office accommodation)*

SM explained he had received an email from the Chairman of Ponsonby PC regarding the first of the above lots of planning applications. The original planning was storage for 30 years ending in 2021. JN commented that she had been at a meeting about the extended planning and it contained a caveat that once there was somewhere else to store the waste it would be moved. SM asked if the Councillors wanted to object and it was agreed that EJ would look at submitting a written objection and the clerk gave copies of both the above applications to EJ.

## 15. Reports from meetings attended by Councillors

None

### Meetings planned before next PC meeting

JN said her next 2 meetings had been cancelled and EJ said he had had no reply to his attempts to obtain a date for the next 3 tier meeting.

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

EJ raised the issue of benches on Potters Lonning, KC and MS confirmed that there used to be a bench at either end. EJ will check to see who owns them before any further decisions are made about replacements.

KC noted that there was a lot of moss on the roof of the Beckermat bus shelter, also that the benches and noticeboards still need varnishing.

SM noted that his CBC meeting had been cancelled, SM also said that the trees at Kersey Bridge were going to get trimmed back. It was also noted that garden refuse collections had been stopped as a precaution to help ensure there would be enough staff for the teams on general rubbish and recycling collections.

It was agreed that due to the emerging Coronavirus Pandemic situation, planned Parish Council meetings be postponed until further notice and that any necessary decisions required during this time be delegated to the Chairman in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and Clerk to the Council.

## 17. Date and location for next meeting

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at Thornhill Social Club

- **Annual Parish Meeting at 18.30 followed by Monthly Meeting**

**Please see item 9, subject to the necessary legislation being in place there will not be a meeting in April**