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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th January 2021 19.00 Virtual meeting via Zoom (no physical location)

Present

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

Apologies

None

2. To declare any interest in items on the agenda

None

3. To consider approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 21 October, also to include any matters arising from October's minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 October 2020 were approved but the following points were noted. EJ has cleaned the Beckermets noticeboard and will varnish it when the weather improves. The member of the public who SM thought might be interested in becoming a Councillor had been approached by EJ but isn't interested at this time.

4. Public participation

None.

5. Finance

The Clerk had provided 2 Finance reports, 1 for payments that were agreed via email and paid during November and December and 1 report for payments yet to be made in January.

The Finance reports provided by the Clerk were accepted.

Finance Report – January 2021

To Pay	Comments	Amount
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Gillian Threader Clerk	January Salary - £389.33 (- 20% £77.87 for tax) Internet - £15.00 Box of paper for the printer for printer - £14.74 Zoom 1 months fees - £14.39	£355.59
NPower	Electricity for TFC 1 st Sept to 30 th Sept (bill date 15 Oct)	£9.05

Finance Report – November and December 2020

The payments listed below have all been approved and paid

To Pay	Comments	Amount
Gillian Threader Clerk	November and December Salary - £778.66 (- 20% £155.74 for tax) Internet - £30.00 Travel - £16.00 Reconditioned ink cartridge for printer - £13.99 Stamps - £9.12	£847.77
NPower	Electricity for TFC 1 st Oct to 31 st Oct (bill date 15 Nov)	£9.54
WaterPlus	Water for TFC	£43.70
Glasdon	Benches for Potters Lonning	£1047.43
CALC	Training courses for Clerk £55.00 Good Councillor Guides £28.00	£83.00
Darren Fawcett	Grass Cutting Contract	£2721.60
CBC	Installation of bench in Beckermet Cemetery	£165.60
S Meter	Brackets for bumper seats in play area	£41.86

Gillian Threader	Vouchers as thank you to the person who empties the bin in Thornhill play area	£100.00
Julie Nugent	Flowers and hamper for the member of the public that maintains the website	£54.46

6. Budget update

The Budget update provided by the Clerk was accepted.

7. Precept and Budget

SM explained that approx. £1800.00 would be needed from reserves if all the invoices were in by the end of the financial year for current projects. SM proposed that the Precept remained at £13000.00, JN seconded this and all Councillors were in agreement.

SM proposed that the budget be accepted, this was seconded by EJ and unanimously accepted by all the Councillors.

8. CiLCA (certificate in local council management) training for the Clerk

The Clerk outlined her request for funding to take the CiLCA which would increase her knowledge of the correct procedures and could lead to the PC gaining the General Power of Competence. Membership, books, training and exam fees are expected to be between £700 and £1,000.00. SC asked if the other Parish the Clerk works for would pay half, the Clerk explained that due to their small precept half wouldn't be possible but they had agreed in principle to some financial help. It was agreed the Clerk would obtain more information before the next meeting.

9. Covid 19 update

No update other than meetings are likely to remain virtual for the foreseeable future.

10. Website and OS update

SM noted the member of the public that maintains the website had asked for her thanks to the Clerk for helping resolve the PSGA and OS license issues be minuted. The website now has a number of updates and further work is already underway.

11. Electric charging points

SM had researched who had provided the electric charging points in Dalston, he then approached them for more information. 2 points could be provided at no cost to the PC, the provider gets the revenue. Providing 2 spaces would mean 2 car parking spaces would be lost. TB said no-one had raised this in the CLP, SC queried the suitability of the location by a children's play area and KC suggested waiting and seeing what the pubs do when they open. All the Councillors agreed electric vehicles are the way forward but that the PC should wait until public opinion is sought. JN and TB will raise the issue in the next newsletter.

12. Dog fouling in the School Green Play Area

SM has written to CBC and there will be extra patrols and SM has also chased up the CC dog exclusion signs. SM asked that anyone that knows individuals walking dogs on School Green pass the details on. JN has cleaned the dog waste up and has posted on the Beckermets Facebook page actively encouraging people to report any individuals taking dogs on to School Green. SM was reluctant to push the Copeland solicitor due to the current workload.

Request for dog waste bin Braystones Road

A request had been received from Low Side Quarter via a Braystones resident for a dog waste bin at the pumping station layby on the Beckermets – Braystones road. SM had visited the area and thought a bin may be better placed near the telephone box in Braystones. There is already a post in place that would hold a bin.

SC suggested getting a general purpose bin due to the amount of litter in the area, he also questioned if the location is on a collection route. SM agreed to write to Copeland Borough Council to request a bin at Braystones.

SM has written to the Low Side Quarter Clerk to see if the seat on the grass by the layby belongs to them and if yes would they be prepared to transfer it to BWTPC.

13. Planning Applications

4/20/2513/0F1- The Old Vicarage, Oaklands, Beckermets

No comments or objections were noted to the plans to move from Bed and Breakfast to residential usage.

- **Update Hunters Rise**

As planning has been granted and other related actions are road/access related this will be taken off future agendas.

14. Traffic in Beckermets

Following on from emails exchanged with Paul Turner County Councillor, to set up a meeting there is a new team leader specifically for Copeland. SM rubbished the speed data due to how it is collected, the tubes put across the road for measuring speed and number of vehicles have to be anchored, this is often done to existing signs where traffic would normally have to slow down anyway. SM to ask PT when the £16k agreed as part of the Hunters Rise planning will be used. Suggestions from the PC include a gateway, possibly a speed table on Morass Road and also lined out for pedestrians between the old kerbeck stores and Mill Lane junction. Reducing the speed limit on Mill Lane to 20mph near the School and reducing the speed limit at the top end of Morass Road to 20. JN thought the lower amount of traffic had actually led to more speeding. JN and TB agreed that good communications and being proactive were the way forward. SM to write to PT asking for a site visit.

15. Progress Reports

- **Roads and Transport schedule**

SM had flagged up a pot hole in Thornhill that hadn't been filled but noted that extra lines in Beckermets including Old Church Road would be getting done.

MS confirmed that the salt bin had not arrived, SM has been promised that a salt

bin will be delivered. MS noted that a drain further up the hill was blocked as he had tried to clear it with rods, SM will follow up on the salt bin and report the drain issue.

- **Football club update**

SM had not received any updates regarding the “Empowering our Communities” grant application.

- **Community Led Plan**

TB explained they had met a few times recently and had taken data from the questionnaire, the BVA is involved and they are looking at ways to work with the Reading Group to form a village hub.

JN thanked the PC for the grant which covered the £192.00 cost of printing the questionnaires.

Other Projects

- **Benches for Potters Lonning**

The weather is currently unsuitable to lay the concrete bases, EJ will assist MS once the weather conditions are suitable.

- **Defibrillator for Beckermat**

The defibrillator at the White Mare belongs to the first responders and is not available for public use. SM wants information as to who owns and maintains this defibrillator to see if it would be possible for it to be shared with the public. TB has already done some research and thinks sharing won't be possible and that the village needs a publically accessible defibrillator. JN has found a trained member of the public who is prepared to have a defibrillator on their wall and to undertake the relevant checks. SM wanted to verify that the defibrillator at the White Mare couldn't be used by the public before any further decisions were made so the item would be carried to the next agenda.

- **Gate for Millfields – update**

SM has been to look at site and is now trying to get the necessary work organised.

- **Play equipment – update and recommendations for repairs**

MS has removed some items that were rotten and beyond repair. There is still some equipment that requires repairs and JN will complete an inspection but noted that the balance beams on the swing bridge were rotten and couldn't be repaired, JN also thought a piece of new equipment would be nice. SM said the budget would have to be taken in to account.

SM asked if anyone had made the alteration to the catch on the entrance gate that had been recommended in the inspections, this is still an outstanding action.

- **Beckermat Cemetery – update re Stonemason**

The Stonemason has confirmed the monument will be cleaned as soon as possible and the lettering will have to wait for suitable weather.

- **Any other updates**

SM noted that no work had started on the fence to the football field as the contractor was waiting for drier weather to prevent damage to the farmers field. SM believes the path through the football field is a permitted right of way and needs a more user friendly access. SC and SM agreed a kissing gate would be a suitable option. SM will price up for the next meeting where a grant for the work can be discussed. The contractor will be contacted and asked to leave that section of fence until a decision is made.

SM asked the Clerk to chase up information regarding the planters at Thornhill to allow the website asset list to be updated.

SM noted a member of the public had contacted him before Christmas suggesting that the grass area at Millfields could be planted with apple trees (the member of the public has offered to finance the cost of the trees). Permission would be needed from Highways and there are regulations to ensure any planting does not interfere with vision. EJ thought future maintenance could be an issue especially with grass cutting. KC suggested a large tree like a pine/spruce that could be decorated at Christmas and JN thought this would be a lovely idea, however, SM pointed out that there would be restrictions on the type of tree that could be planted so that might not be possible but maybe this could be done at School Green. KC will look in to the type of trees that that would meet approval from Highways.

16. Reports from (online) meetings attended by Councillors

JN had attended an online meeting for Magnox reprocessing, there are 460 tons left to reprocess and a decision will be made in June. Essential work is still taking place and the situation is reviewed daily. A location for an underground GDF is still being investigated but no location has been confirmed.

Covid is still an issue with 80 plus contractors testing positive but safe working practices and testing are in place.

Meetings planned before next PC meeting

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

KC asked if varnishing the seats by the bus shelter was still on the to do list, it was agreed that the bus shelter was in a fair condition after the clean-up but the Thornhill noticeboard still needed cleaning and varnishing. SM said he would look at the list of work needed and it would be discussed at the next meeting along with available contractors.

JN asked about the work being undertaken at the bottom of the cycle path near the picnic bench, TB noted a very messy area near the bridge that leads to the beach, both area appear to be part of the work on the Coastal Path as the Ravenglass to Whitehaven section is due to open shortly. Clerk to get an update.

18. Date and location for next meeting

- Wednesday 17th February virtual meeting via Zoom