

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday, 19 January 2022 commencing at 19.00hrs
Venue: Thornhill Social Club**

Present: (TB) Tim Barlow (Vice Chairman), (EJ) Eric Jewitt, (MS) Michael Slater,
(KC) Kath Cook, (SC) Steve Caddy, (TC) Tina Church (Clerk)

1 Apologies

Julie Nugent (Chairman). Tim Barlow (Vice Chairman) would be chairing this meeting.

2 To declare any interest in items on the agenda

MS declared a possible conflict (as landowner) in relation to agenda item 8.

3 Public Participation

None.

4 Agree the minutes of 17 November 2021 meeting and review actions from previous meetings

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Vice Chairman content to sign and authorise for publication.

The actions were reviewed, updated, closed out or marked as ongoing as appropriate.

5 Finance

- Budget

The Parish Council agreed the proposed budget.

- Precept

The Parish Council agreed the proposed precept submission.

ACTION 1: Clerk to submit precept

- HMRC Issues

The Parish council agreed to appoint an accountant to liaise with HMRC to rectify the legacy tax and NI issues and put payroll processes in place in line with HMRC requirements.

Chairman's approval.....

- Finance Report

Report noted and Clerk's salary approved for payment.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received unpaid invoices from Water Plus in relation to Thornhill Football Club, going back to 2020. The invoices have now been paid bringing the account up to date.

The Clerk reported that a cheque written in August 2021 (£100) from Thornhill FC for rent had been received.

- Annual Rent

A question was raised in relation to whether land rent paid to the Parish Council by an individual was up to date.

ACTION 2: Clerk to check and advise MS

- Finance Sub Committee

It was agreed that a sub-committee would be formed consisting of Clerk/Chairman/Vice Chairman to provide an overview of the accounts to the full Parish Council.

It was agreed that the Chairman would check and sign the monthly finance report, ahead of submission to each meeting, once a full complement of councillors had been reached.

It was agreed that the accounts would be checked on a regular basis by a member of the Parish Council (but not the same individual every time). The Clerk welcomed this and stated that it was important the accounts were audited and transparent.

- Previous Clerk Payment

It was agreed that the previous Clerk would be paid what was owing to her once the Parish Council had received all information from the accountant. A P45 would also be issued at that point.

6 Defib at Thornhill

The Chairman (JN) is currently identifying an individual to function as guardian of the Defib. This will enable the defib to be registered on The Circuit and regular readings to be submitted using the on-line process.

The Defib pads have been replaced.

ACTION 3: Chairman (JN) to identify a new guardian until a more permanent guardian could be arranged

ACTION 4: SC to try and identify a local individual to monitor the defib on a longer-term basis

Chairman's approval.....

7 Planning Applications

Both planning applications were noted. No comments/objections raised by the Parish Council.

ACTION 5: Clerk to reply to planning letters

8 Sewer Protection Works: Kirk Beck Riverbank Erosion

Correspondence had been received from United Utilities and circulated to the Parish Council.

It was agreed that a land agent would be appointed to act on behalf of the Parish Council in relation to this work.

ACTION 6: Clerk to contact and engage a local land agent

9 Traffic Management in Beckermat

- Speeding

Advice from Paul Turner was that more data needed to be collected using the 'what3words' app to identify specific problem areas.

JN would be taking this forward.

- Emergency Storage boxes

An e-mail detailing contents of the boxes had been received.

ACTION 7: Clerk to circulate e-mail

10 Dog Issues at Bingo Wood

Concerns from the local community, relating to the aggressive nature of the dogs kept in an open compound near Bingo Wood, have been brought to the attention of the Parish Council. The concerns expressed are whether the dogs would be able to escape.

ACTION 8: Clerk to pass on concerns to the relevant people

11 Dent Road Street Lighting

A bulb, in a streetlight on Dent Road, needs to be replaced. This light has not worked for months and needs to be fixed.

ACTION 9: Clerk to report this issue and organise for the light to be fixed

12 Recruitment of Handyman

It was agreed that an advert would be placed on Facebook to try and identify a handyman to carry out maintenance tasks on behalf of the Parish Council.

ACTION10: EJ to organise

Chairman's approval.....

13 Training

CALC training course information had been re-circulated by the Clerk to the Parish Council.

ACTION 11: All to advise Clerk on which training courses to be booked

14 Progress Reports

- Salt Bin Braystones Rd, Beckermet

Bin still not received despite Clerk receiving confirmation that the salt bin was in situ.

ACTION 12: Clerk to contact Cumbria Highways again to chase

- Broken Drain

There is a broken drain opposite the salt bin causing the water to run constantly onto the road, which is causing problems, especially during icy weather. This is a long-standing problem, which has been reported and repaired several times, but it is still an issue.

ACTION 13: Clerk to report this fault again to the Highways Agency

- Noticeboards

The Beckermet noticeboards (including the Reading Rooms' noticeboard) are currently being worked on by a local joiner.

Projects

- Mill Lane Gates replacement

Gates have been replaced. Work now complete.

ACTION 14: Clerk to pay the invoice from Brown's Fencing

- Land opposite Croft House

It was agreed that TB and KC would visit a local garden centre to look at tree options for Beckermet and Thornhill.

It was agreed that a price would be obtained from a landscape gardener and a plan developed before funding could be sought.

ACTION 15: KC to arrange a consultation to discuss a design and costs

It was agreed that an application would be made to The Woodlands Trust for trees to be handed out to the children of the Parish schools to celebrate the Queens Jubilee.

ACTION 16: TB and KC to identify how many trees were needed

Chairman's approval.....

- Benches near the bus stop on School Green

The handyman could carry out the varnishing work when appointed.

15 Reports from online meetings attended by Councillors

EJ to attend the Copeland Tier 3 meeting 10 February 2022.

ACTION 17: Clerk to re-send the original e-mail to EJ

Tim had attended a meeting about Cumbria Country Council being split. There would not be any direct impact on Parish Councils at this time but may affect the precept in the future. Tim did make some notes at the meeting and would circulate bullet points.

ACTION 18: TB to circulate bullet points

16 Councillors' reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

See item 15.

17 Recruitment of additional councillors

Ongoing.

18 Forward Agenda

It was reported that the hedge near the telephone exchange in Beckermat is very overgrown and is starting to encroach on the footpath. At night this is unsafe.

ACTION 19: Clerk to report to BT

ACTION 20: Discuss at February meeting

It was reported that the area near the gas/electricity substation on Dent Road at Thornhill was very overgrown and looked unsightly.

ACTION 21: SC to advise ownership of substation

19 Date and time of next Parish Council meeting

Wednesday, 16 February 2022 commencing at 19.00hrs. Venue to be advised.

All business concluded; the meeting closed at 21.20hrs.