Chairman's approval.....

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 18 May 2022 commencing at 19.15hrs Venue: Thornhill Social Club

Present: (JN) Julie Nugent, Chairperson, (TB) Tim Barlow (Vice Chairman), (MS) Michael Slater, (KC) Kath Cook, (SC) Steve Caddy, (TC) Tina Church (Clerk)

1 Apologies

E Jewitt.

2 To declare any interest in items on the agenda

None declared.

3 Public Participation

The Chairperson welcomed members of the public to the meeting and reiterated the importance of having local representation from Thornhill on the Parish Council to join the effort to improve their local area.

The Thornhill residents and TVA representative, in attendance, wanted to discuss play park funding and to learn more about the role and activities of the Parish Council.

The general message from the Thornhill residents in attendance was that they wanted to make a difference to their community by getting involved in projects and possibly joining the Parish Council.

The Chairperson welcomed their interest and suggested those interested might like to attend/observe future Parish Council meetings.

4 GDF - Property Value Price Implications

Two representatives from the GDF developer (Nuclear Waste Services), Gillian Johnston, Community Engagement Manager and Chris Keenan, Head of Property and Land, were in attendance to talk about potential impact on property prices in Beckermet should GDF be progressed.

In addition to speaking about property prices, and as the Thornhill residents were in attendance to discuss funding for the playpark, Gillian Johnston gave an overview of the plans relating to the GDF and the community investment funding application process. She also briefed the meeting that new members are being sought to join the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership from the youth, tourism, farming and business sectors.

Concerns have been raised, relating to the past poor communication process with local communities in relation to the NuGen Moorside project, hence the invitation to the GDF developer to attend the Parish Council meeting to explain the property value protection scheme as part of the GDF siting process.

Chris explained that property prices are being tracked both nationally and within the search area. There will be a scheme in place to give communities comfort using an accurate and up to date baseline of property prices and using the best learning from other Government schemes in the public sector.

Once the scheme has been finalised details will be made available and transparent with a view to talking to the Parish Council again in the future to enhance community engagement.

The two representatives from the GDF developer left the meeting.

5 Approve the minutes of 20 April 2022 meeting and review actions from previous meetings

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Vice Chairperson (TB) to sign and authorise the minutes for publication.

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

The Chairman's report to the Annual Parish meeting had been amended in line with discussions at the April 2022 meeting.

ACTION 1: Clerk to arrange publication of the Chairman's report on the Parish Council's website

6 Zurich Insurance Renewal

Renewal quote accepted.

ACTION 2: Clerk to pay invoice to renew insurance cover

SC left the meeting at this point.

7 Finance

April Finance Report

The Finance report was noted.

Approve Clerk's May salary

APPROVED for payment.

VAT Reclaim 2021/22

VAT reclaim money received. Claims now up to date.

AGAR submission

After a successful internal audit, the AGAR forms were completed.

However, as part of the internal audit process it was discovered that the year-end expenditure figure of £14,110.81, should have been £14,551.45. The difference in figures to be recorded in the minutes to ensure transparency.

The AGAR paperwork was correct and would be circulated to the Parish Council with a commitment to sign off formally at the 14 June meeting. The Parish Council is still on target to meet the 1 July 2022 submission deadline set by the external auditor.

Special thanks to Sarah for completing the internal audit for the Parish Council.

8 Thornhill Change Rooms post site visit

Gate access to Changerooms/anti-social behaviour

The Parish Council had visited the change room area and pitch. It was agreed that the access gate would be locked to prevent unauthorised vehicular access.

ACTION 3: Clerk to liaise with each representative of the football teams and grass cutter to arrange for a lock and allocation of keys

Signage

Appropriate signage at the football pitch to be organised in relation to access etc.

Dog Fouling

During the site visit it was observed that there were people walking their dogs on the rough grassed area near the football pitch. This is an ongoing problem despite there being signs in place to say no dogs allowed.

Thornhill is not included in the PSPO remit. TB has spoken to Shirley about adding Thornhill to enable more signs to be put up or enforcement officers engaged.

The Clerk is currently trying to establish ownership of the land adjacent to the football pitch with a view to possibly buying the land for community use. It was agreed that the Parish Council's contractor would be asked to cut the grass ahead of the jubilee.

ACTION 4: JN to arrange for grass to be cut

Draft letter of response to Claimant

The wording, in the draft letter was read out. No evidence has been presented to the Parish Council. Legally the Parish Council nor our contractor are responsible.

ACTION 5: Clerk to sign the letter on behalf of the Chairperson and send to the claimant

9 Planning Applications

None received.

10 Traffic Management in Beckermet

The What3Words locations had been confirmed and would be set up in the next few weeks to start tracking the speed of vehicles through the village.

The installation of mirrors would not be permitted on public walls and could only be installed on private walls.

11 Play Parks Update

Play park equipment had been removed from Beckermet.

Quotes had been received and a funding application for £84,838 for new play park equipment in Beckermet had been submitted via the GDF community partnership funding process. A decision is expected on 8 June.

Once the funding has been secured for Beckermet a funding application (of a similar amount) would be submitted for new play park equipment in Thornhill.

The Chairman stressed the importance of community representation from Thornhill to ensure their needs and aspirations were being met and would be looking for support from Thornhill residents and the TVA. It was agreed that children in both villages would choose the equipment they want as part engagement with the community.

12 Standing Orders

It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council that its Standing Orders were out of date (using 2012 model). The Clerk had received advice from CALC on how to proceed from a national and Parish specific perspective.

ACTION 6: Clerk to obtain up to date standing orders from NALC and circulate to Parish Councillors for review ahead of the 14 June meeting

ACTION 7: Item to be included on agenda for 14 June meeting

13 Cumbria Media Letter

Letter circulated. It was decided it wasn't the right time to look at a new website design and any changes would need to be in consultation with our current website manager.

ACTION 8: Clerk to reply to letter

14 Election of Parish member to Lake District National Park Authority

Letter circulated. No applicants from the Parish Council.

ACTION 9: Clerk to reply to letter

15 Progress Reports

Fly Tipping

Clerk had sent an e-mail to CBC representative setting a deadline date of end of May for removal. No reply to e-mail received.

If deadline date not met, then the issue would be escalated to our local MP for assistance.

Salt Bin Braystones Rd, Beckermet

Criteria requested but not received. Clerk followed up and was informed that the job would need to be re-opened. Clerk currently waiting for a phone call to discuss criteria.

Tidy up of Gas substation at Thornhill

Issue reported. Waiting for area to be tidied up.

Street lighting, Dent Road, Thornhill

Issue reported. Waiting for replacement bulbs to be installed.

Sewer Protection Works

No update received from land agent.

Broken Drainage

Still not resolved despite job been classed as complete. JN has photographs of the water problem.

Handyman recruitment

Ongoing. One CV had been received. List of tasks still to be completed.

Road Recovery Vehicle in car park

Vehicle removed.

Police reporting process for local issues

The Parish Council used to receive monthly reports from the police. The last contact with the police was in relation to the damage at the changerooms. The police service had offered to include Thornhill as part of their regular patrols of the area, which was well received but to differ the patrol times.

ACTION 10: Clerk to pass comments re patrol time requirements to the police

Blocked footpath on Potters Lonning

Chairman has received an e-mail about lack of access.

A suggestion was made to place hardcore in the area to prevent the mud, which would require further consideration and possible community involvement to tidy the area.

ACTION 11: JN to discuss with EJ and look at the area

ACTION 12: Discuss at June meeting

Code of Conduct Training

Dates available in June. JN booked on to 25 May course.

Projects

Land opposite Croft House

Ownership is still to be established and no definite plan received on the mosaic. Project ongoing for several more months then would need to look at alternatives.

The Parish Council has cut the grass for many years so would continue with current arrangements.

Benches near the bus stop on School Green

Handyman to do when appointed.

Planting of tree opposite school for Jubilee

Kath still working on this project. Still seeking guidance and permission to proceed from the relevant authority.

ACTION 13: KC to send contact details to JN to make contact to expedite a response

16 Reports from meetings attended by Councillors

EJ had attended the WCSSG and had circulated notes to the Parish Council.

17 Recruitment of additional councillors

Chairman suggested the residents in attendance might like to attend the next Parish Council meeting on 14 June 2022 and stressed the importance of increased representation and feedback from Thornhill.

One of the residents asked for future meetings be advertised on the relevant Facebook pages eg, TVA and Thornhill School

ACTION 14: JN to organise joining Facebook pages

18 Forward Agenda

When the Reading Rooms is closed for refurb meetings will be held in Thornhill Social Club reverting back to a Wednesday evening where applicable.

19 Date and time of next Parish Council meeting

Tuesday, 14 June 2022 commencing at 19.00hrs in The Reading Rooms, Beckermet

All business concluded; the meeting closed at 21.29hrs