

BECKERMET WITH THORNHILL PARISH COUNCIL (BwTPC)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022/23

It certainly doesn't seem a year since I put pen to paper to write my first Chairman's report.

After the trying times that Covid brought to us all, it is lovely to look back on a year that no longer had any restrictions.

As I look back, I am very proud of what we, as a very small Parish Council, have achieved in the last 12 months. Let's start with the decision we made to award both villages a grant to use to celebrate the late Queen's Jubilee. After Covid we found ourselves with a small surplus of funds and what better way to spend it than by holding various inclusive celebratory events for everyone to enjoy. After two years of restrictions, I think everyone was ready to get back out there and mix again amongst their communities. The grants were used to create something for people to look forward to and it was fabulous to see the parishes celebrate the Jubilee in spectacular style, it truly was a delight to see.

In terms of financial management, we raised the yearly precept by a small amount to cover ever increasing costs to ensure that the parishes are both well kept. I am happy with the way the parish funds are working hard for both communities.

Following a previous independent inspection of the park we found ourselves requiring a much needed refurbishment of the play park in Beckermets. Thanks to a successful application to Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership, we were awarded just over £84K for new play park equipment. After working with the children from Beckermets we completed the final design and the PC agreed to pay for the slight shortfall in cost. Several months on we can see that it was a decision well made. It is a pleasure to walk past the play park and see it full of happy children enjoying the benefits of being outdoors. On behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank the partnership for their support, and we look forward to having an official opening of the play park soon.

Not forgetting Thornhill and the children there, I was invited to go and spend some time at the school to talk about a new play park for them. Tim and I spent a lovely hour talking to the children, sharing different designs and listening to what they wanted their play park to look like. After also speaking to some parents, a design was finalised that we are confident will meet the needs of all children. Another application for funding was submitted to Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership in April and will go to the funding Panel in early June. Everything crossed that we will be successful, and will see a much needed play park refurbishment at Thornhill later this year.

My place on the Mid Copeland Community Partnership has continued throughout this last year, allowing me to act as a spokesperson for both villages. I have attended regular GDF events that have been held in both Beckermets and Thornhill and it is encouraging to see lots of parishioners come along to find out a little bit more information. It was great to see Thornhill benefit from a GDF grant, this allowed much needed improvements to the Social Club access. Beckermets Reading Rooms is also receiving a substantial grant for refurbishment.

I would like to give thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Donna McGhee and Sarah Moore who have once again given us their time. Thanks also to others in both Beckermets and Thornhill who help by planting, checking both defibrillators, park inspections and various other tasks.

There are still several vacancies on the Parish Council, and it would be lovely to see some new faces interested in making a difference to both of our communities. It is important that

BECKERMET WITH THORNHILL PARISH COUNCIL (BwTPC) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022/23

we continue to try and recruit more representation especially from the residents of Thornhill Parish. We are a friendly, inclusive group with the common aim of improving where we live and making decisions on where our yearly precept is spent. Please, come along to a meeting and see for yourselves.

I could not carry out this role without the support of others. I would like to end my Chairman's report by giving my thanks to our Parish Clerk Tina who does the most remarkable job for us all and the 5 extraordinary parish councillors who continue to give up their free time to help improve the community in which we live.

Julie Nugent
Chairman, Beckermest with Thornhill Parish Council

