

**Minutes of Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council
Meeting held on
Wednesday, 10 January 2024 commencing at 19.00hrs
Venue: The Reading Rooms, Beckermet**

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

1 Apologies

J Nugent. TB to chair this meeting.

2 To declare any interest in items on the agenda

None declared.

3 Public Participation

A member of the public in attendance to discuss the possibility of Beckermet entering Cumbria in Bloom for best village. This would be an opportunity for the whole village to get involved through the BVA, school and the local church.

There are two talks booked in February with representatives from Cumbria in Bloom (6 Feb and 12 Feb) to discuss the entry criteria. It was **AGREED** that TB would join the 6 February talk.

The Parish Council is supportive of this idea. The MoP left the meeting.

4 Approve the minutes of the BwT Parish Council meeting held on 15 November 2023. Review actions from previous meetings

The minutes from the November Parish Council meeting were approved as a true and accurate record. Chairperson to sign.

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

15/11/2023(A9) - KC advised that the printing company still had the design information used for the original book organised by the History Society. KC provided the costs associated with a reprint.

The question was raised whether this was in the Parish Council's remit and whether there would be VAT implications if the Parish Council buys and sells the books.

It was **AGREED** that the BVA would place a notice on the Beckermet Village Facebook page to gauge if there is any interest in buying a book.

Chairperson's signature _____

5 Finance

November and December Finance Report

Report noted.

Approve Clerk's December 2023 and January 2024 salary

APPROVED for payment.

Agree 2024/25 Budget and precept

Budget discussed in detail.

It was **RESOLVED** (by vote) to increase our precept by 10% to £15,400 having had no increase to our precept in previous financial years.

ACTION 1: Clerk to submit precept to Cumberland Council

Approve Netwise Invoice

APPROVED for payment.

The Clerk advised that Cabinet Office funding (for a new website and .gov.uk e-mails) isn't available at the moment. However the funding could be applied for retrospectively when it becomes available.

The Parish Council would need to purchase a new laptop at some point as the keyboard on the current laptop was becoming difficult to use. The purchase of a new laptop could be incorporated in the IT upgrade required to implement and manage our new website.

Approve footpath clearance invoice

APPROVED for payment.

6 Planning Applications

There were no objections/concerns expressed.

ACTION 2: Clerk to feedback to Planning Department

7 NDA Funding

Transfer to the February meeting for more detailed discussion on the packages of work to be put forward and identify an appropriate deadline.

ACTION 3: Clerk to include on February meeting agenda

8 FoI Policy

The Freedom of Information Policy (FoI) was **APPROVED** for publication. The Parish Council reserves the right to charge the applicant for time consuming requests.

ACTION 4: Clerk to arrange publication

Chairperson's signature _____

9 Fraud Prevention Talk

An approach, from the Police Fraud Prevention Officer, had been made to the Parish Council asking for assistance in setting up a community talk relating to:

- Keeping ourselves safe against fraudsters (on line etc)
- Identify the tricks fraudsters use
- Provide general fraud prevention advice
- Answer any questions from the community

The Parish Council is supportive of this initiative and would promote the event.

It was **AGREED** to invite the Fraud Prevention Officer to deliver the community talk prior to the March Parish Council meeting (6.30pm).

10 Progress Reports

20mph Speed Limit outside Beckermeth School

Discuss at February meeting.

Asset Transfer Form – Land at Thornhill

No information has been received, from Cumberland Council, pertaining to the transfer form already submitted months ago.

ACTION 5: Clerk to re-submit the form again and request an update

Sellafield to Seascale Cycle Track

The Clerk had been contacted by the Cycle Mayor who had indicated that Sustran's are carrying out a feasibility study on an alternative route for the coastal cycle track, which is severely eroded.

The study is just the start of the process and local stakeholders would need to be involved in future plans. eg landowners etc

The Clerk invited the Cycle Mayor to attend the next Parish Council meeting on 21 February 2024 in Thornhill Social Club.

An email had been received from Cumberland Council, relating to ownership of the land, adjacent to the cemetery near Thornhill. This request could be part of the background work being carried out to identify an alternate route for the coastal cycle track.

ACTION 6: Clerk to confirm Parish Council ownership of this piece of land

New Website

Discussed under agenda item 5. Work, on our new website, will ramp up over the next few months.

Hole on side of Braystones Road

Ongoing. Assigned to Highways team.

Chairperson's signature _____

It was noted that an additional grit bin has appeared.

Nursery Wood trees obstructing road sign

Ongoing. Assigned to Highways team.

Overgrown trees at Blackbeck Roundabout obstructing view from Mill Lane

Ongoing. Assigned to Highways team.

Trees obstructing vision over Kersey Bridge

The Highways team have visited the area and will not be taking any further action.

11 Councillors' reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council/Report Minor Matters

Feedback from meetings

MS gave feedback from the GDF meeting he attended in December.

Minor matters

- The loan defib from Thornhill has been returned. The Parish Council's own defib is now repaired and in situ.
- The bushes/trees at the corner of the play park at Thornhill are overgrown and causing an issue for pedestrians using the footpath.
ACTION 7: SC to cut bushes back and check if there is likely to be any interference with telephone lines
- There is a problem with the water level at Iron Bridge despite the recent works carried out to rectify this issue.
ACTION 8: Clerk to report the issue
- The park bench at Thornhill isn't fastened down. Need to identify where it should be located in the play park and secure.
ACTION 9: Clerk to speak to JN
- The Cherry trees in Beckermat to be cut down.
ACTION 10: MS to do

12 Recruitment of additional councillors

BWT Parish Council would welcome additional representation from Thornhill.

13 Date and time of next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 21 February 2024 at 19.00hrs in Thornhill Social Club.

All business concluded; the meeting closed at 20.59hrs