

**Minutes of Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council
Meeting held on
Wednesday, 21 February 2024 commencing at 19.00hrs
Venue: Thornhill Social Club**

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

1 Apologies

None.

2 To declare any interest in items on the agenda

KC and EJ declared an interest in the History Society book agenda item as members of the history society.

3 Public Participation

Members of the public in attendance to discuss Beckermet in Bloom and Cherry Trees in Thornhill.

A MoP informed BwT PC that cherry trees are hitting the double decker buses in Thornhill Village. BwT PC to include trimming these trees in the package of work currently being planned.

The MoP left the meeting.

4 Approve the minutes of the BwT PC meeting held on 10 January 2023. Review actions from previous meetings

The minutes from the January Parish Council meeting were approved as a true and accurate record. Vice Chairman to sign.

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

18/01/2023(A4) – Issue to be reported to Highways. An inspection to be requested to check if the tree growing out the bridge is affecting the structure and integrity of the bridge.

18/10/2023(A4) – date to be organised in April

5 Finance

January Finance Report

Report noted.

Chairperson's signature _____

It was **AGREED** to pay TSC for the hire of the room for this meeting. Cheque to be signed after this meeting.

Approve Clerk's February 2024 salary and allowances

APPROVED for payment.

Rent Review

It was **AGREED** not to increase rent in the next financial year. Tenants to continue to pay the utility bills, in a timely manner, as per current contracts.

ACTION 1: Clerk to write to tenants to inform them of this decision

History Society Books

Following on from the January 2024 meeting, and further discussion at the February meeting, it was proposed, and seconded, that BwT PC would provide the History Society with a £150 donation to help with the re-publishing of the History of Beckermest books.

VAT Reclaim – end of December 2023

The Clerk advised that the VAT reclaim money has been received. The next reclaim would be to the end of March 2024.

6 NFLA Letter

A letter has been received from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities and circulated to full council. The letter requested a Parish Council local interest survey be carried out in relation to the siting of the Geological Disposal Facility. It was **AGREED** that a response would not be sent at this moment in time.

7 Planning Applications

There are no comments/objections on the planning applications.

8 NDA Funding Update

It was briefed that the funding request application form was still in the design stages.

To apply for funding, two quotes had to be provided, as part of the application process.

In addition to the landscaping work in both villages, an electricity point to be installed in Beckermest car park, resurfacing of the swing park at Mill Lane and a slate plaque to be erected on completion of the landscaping work.

It was also suggested that the area near the cemetery car park, belonging to the Parish Council, could be made into a picnic area.

ACTION 2: JN to contact local landscape companies to request quotes

9 Communication Policy

Chairperson's signature _____

The updated Communications Policy has been drafted and circulated to full council.

Some minor changes to be made ahead of publication.

ACTION 3: Changes to be sent to the Clerk

10 Fraud Prevention Talk

The date of the Fraud Prevention talk is 15 May 2024 ahead of the Parish Council meeting.

11 CALC Local Council Awards Scheme – apply for accreditation

Defer to the March meeting.

12 Progress Reports

20mph Speed Limit outside Beckermets School

Ongoing. No update.

Asset Transfer Form – Land at Thornhill

Form submitted again. This form has been in the system since the end of 2022. A point of contact has been identified to check progress.

Sellafield to Seascale Cycle Track

Ongoing. No update.

New Website

The Netwise invoice has been paid. The next part of the process can now be completed using the link already sent to the Clerk.

Hole on side of Braystones Road

Ongoing. Assigned to Highways team.

Overgrown trees at Blackbeck Roundabout obstructing view from Mill Lane

Reported to Highways team.

Beckermets in Bloom

An MoP briefed BwT PC on ideas for the Beckermets in Bloom project eg bug shelter, planting wild flowers, compost area, trees. A landscape drawing was handed out at this meeting with the areas of focus being:-

- Develop the entrances to the village
- Enhance the centre of the village eg around the bus stop area
- Develop the outside appearance of our Community Hub

BwT PC, in principle, was supportive of providing funding (when available) to this project if needed. A visit to take place on Saturday at 10am, to discuss ideas and suitable locations, especially avoiding the river area in the play park.

Chairperson's signature _____

The MoP left the meeting.

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

Feedback from meetings

MS/KC gave feedback from the Ponsonby and Calderbridge Parish Council meeting they had attended to discuss derelict properties being demolished which are owned by the NDA.

A joint Parish Council letter would be sent to the NDA expressing concerns relating to the derelict state of some buildings. MS agreed to represent BwT PC at future meetings relating to this issue.

JN briefed that she would be joining a visit to Nottingham to visit the Geological Society.

Minor matters

A garden sofa has been dumped near Bingo Woods.

ACTION 4: Clerk to report

More rubbish has appeared in the gravel pit.

There is a gate missing leading from the play park to a private residence at Beckermat Play Park.

ACTION 5: TB to chat with the resident to ascertain if a gate is needed

The chevron sign on Dent Road at Thornhill needs fixed.

ACTION 6: Clerk to report

14 Recruitment of additional councillors

BwT Parish Council would welcome additional representation from Thornhill.

15 Date and time of next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 19.00hrs in The Reading Rooms, Beckermat.

All business concluded; the meeting closed at 21.28hrs