

Chairperson's signature



**Minutes of Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council
Meeting held on
Wednesday, 20 September 2023 commencing at 19.00hrs
Venue: The Reading Rooms, Beckermet**

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

1 Apologies

E Jewitt

2 To declare any interest in items on the agenda

MS declared an indirect interest in Agenda item 10 (river bank erosion).

3 Public Participation

The Chairperson welcomed and thanked members of the public (MoP) for attending this meeting.

**4 Approve the minutes of the BwT Parish Council meeting held on 19 July 2023.
Review actions from previous meetings**

The minutes from the July 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.

5 Finance

July and August Finance Report

Report noted.

The Chairperson thanked the Clerk for processing the VAT reclaims in a timely manner.

Approve Clerk's August and September salary

APPROVED for payment.

Approve room hire costs at The Reading Rooms

APPROVED for payment.

Clerk's Remuneration



It was **AGREED** to move the Clerk up the pay scale as of 1 September 2023. The Clerk's allowances would also be reviewed as they had been static for a number of years.

ACTION 1: TB to co-ordinate a review of allowances

The current Clerk has been in post for two years and the Chairperson recognised the work and progress made by the Parish Council since the Clerk had joined.

6 Planning Applications

The Parish Council noted that the three applications on the September agenda had been dealt with by e-mail during the summer recess. The Clerk had returned a 'no comments or objections' statement to the Planning Department.

7 Frequency of Parish Council meetings

It was **AGREED** that, starting from 2024, the Parish Council would meet nine times a year, (removing December and April in addition to no meeting in August), with the caveat that additional meetings could be organised if required and there was no detriment to the budget setting and precept submission requirements.

ACTION 2: Clerk to check if the Annual Parish meeting has to be held in April or can it be held in May as was the case in 2023

ACTION 3: Clerk to propose amended 2024 meeting dates at the October 2023 meeting

8 Invitation to attend CALC AGM on 30 September 2023

It was **AGREED** that there would be no representation from BwT Parish Council at the CALC AGM.

ACTION 4: Clerk to advise CALC

9 New Website

The Clerk had circulated documentation and proposals to full council ahead of this meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place on the reasons why a new website was required.

Each website package has cost implications but all are compliant with the Transparency Code and accessibility requirements etc.

It was noted that there would be a lot of work involved in data migration and would need to be in line with the Parish Council's Retention Policy.

The old website would need to be closed down once a new website was set up.

It was **AGREED** to select the 'Standard Package' pending the Clerk checking this package would meet the needs of the Parish Council.



10 Progress Reports

Thornhill Play Park

The project was going well apart from a theft of tools etc from a lock up being used by the Play Park installation company.

The feedback from the installation company, passed to the Parish Council, was that the children in the village had been fantastic; asking questions and exemplary behaviour during the installation.

A harness has been purchased for the inclusive swing, which would be allocated to the parents (to share) of those children who needed it. An additional harness would be purchased as a spare, with the possibility of it being kept in the village shop.

The original costing figure has increased, as additional levelling work was required. A mutually agreed figure, for the additional work, has been agreed between the Parish Council and the installation company.

The park will be opened on Saturday, 30 September with refreshments being provided for the children. Details of the event to be posted on Facebook.

The Parish Council is delighted to have had the opportunity to provide a fantastic new play park for all children in Thornhill and hoped the park would give many years of enjoyment.

It was **AGREED** that the documentation held by the TVA relating to the old play park equipment could be destroyed.

Parking in Beckermat

Temporary signs had been erected in the play park car park at the start of the summer holidays. On the whole the signs have had a positive impact on the parking issue with the exception of one car.

It was **AGREED** to erect permanent signs (using the same wording) and to have a conversation with the owner of the vehicle.

ACTION 5: TB to order and erect signage

The TVA member left the meeting at this point.

20mph Speed Limit outside Beckermat School

The volume of traffic, and speeding through Beckermat (particularly on Morass Road), has been an issue for many years. The Parish Council is aware and has continuously investigated options to try and alleviate the problem.

The Parish Council Chairperson has written to the Highways section of Cumberland Council but has received no response. In addition the Chairperson has also spoken to the Ward Councillor to escalate the issue again and to obtain the highest speed figures from a traffic survey carried out in the village.

In terms of the 20 mph speed limit outside Beckermat school, it appears that Cumberland Council do not want to pursue a reduced speed limit. However local

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Ward Councillors are pushing for a 20 mph speed limit outside all schools in this area.

Due to the high cost of submitting a speed reduction application (£4000 per school), an application would be made encompassing all schools currently without a 20mph speed limit.

It is envisaged this would take approximately one year.

Members of the public, in attendance from Beckermet village, stressed the importance of obtaining a 20 mph speed limit for the whole village. The MoPs would take this issue forward with the full support of the Parish Council also working in parallel to push the issue. The local MP is also supportive of a village speed reduction.

Asset Transfer Form – Land at Thornhill

Still waiting for a response from Cumberland Council. JN has requested a phone call to discuss.

Kirk Beck River Bank Erosion - Beckermet

There will be compensatory payments to the PC but no figure has been advised.

ACTION 6: Clerk to follow up

Sellafield to Seascale Cycle Track

An MoP, in attendance, has raised a job to have the vegetation cleared near the nature reserve. Cumberland Council advised that a timescale for clearance could not be given as the job had been passed to a contractor.

It is important the clearance work is carried out at the right time of year to protect the wildlife.

Sustrans have advised the MoP that a plan would be in place by April 2024 to deal with the erosion and deterioration of the cycle track.

Rubbish at Cop Lane

The rubbish is still there. Cumberland Council own the land but have not removed the rubbish despite numerous requests to the land owner and the local MP.

ACTION 7: MS to obtain what3words location and pass to the Clerk

11 BVA Update

TB updated the Parish Council on BVA activities. The minutes have been circulated to those people on the current distribution list and are also available on the Parish Council's website.

JN informed the Parish Council she had passed information (received from CALC) to the BVA relating to defib funding.

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12 Poppy Options

SC to look at other display options in addition to the poppy wreath already ordered.

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

Feedback from meetings

a TB gave feedback from the local Parish Council Forum he had attended.

b JN gave feedback from a GDF meeting she had attended with particular reference to the process relating to the siting areas in 2026.

JN also briefed on the NWS Community Led Plan process for the 6 councils and the extreme pressure being placed on Parish Councils to interface with their communities. BwT Parish Council was unaware of this requirement, as no briefing had been received from NWS. and was not what BwT was told originally. On that basis BwT Parish Council had requested that the engagement process be reviewed by NWS.

c JN gave an update from a Teams meeting relating to the Canadian siting process.

14 Recruitment of additional councillors

Ongoing. BwT Parish Council still needs additional representation from Thornhill.

15 Date and time of next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at 19.00hrs in Thornhill Social Cub.

All business concluded; the meeting closed at 21.55 hrs