

Minutes of Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council
Meeting held on
Wednesday, 15 November 2023 commencing at 19.00hrs
Venue: The Reading Rooms, Beckermet

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

None declared.

3 Public Participation

None present.

4 Approve the minutes of the BwT Parish Council meeting held on 18 October 2023. Review actions from previous meetings

The minutes from the October 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.

ACTION 1: Clerk to organise for waste bins at Thornhill Play Park to be emptied

ACTION 2: Potters Lonning Stiles - JN to contact owner (follow on from previous action)

5 Finance

October Finance Report

Report noted.

The Clerk advised that the most recent VAT reclaim money had been credited to the Parish Council's bank account. The VAT on the Playdale invoices to be transferred into the project account.

It was noted that the utility payments were still outstanding from the Over 35's football team.

Chairperson's signature _____

BwT Parish Council needs to look at the cost to insurance play park equipment. The photographs of all play park equipment to be sent to our insurance company to obtain a quote ahead of setting next year's budget/precept.

It was **AGREED** to take advice at the Clerk's Forum on how other Parish Councils manage their savings.

ACTION 3: Clerk to raise at next Clerk's Forum and feedback at January 2024 meeting

Approve Clerk's November salary and back pay

APPROVED for payment.

Approve Grass Cutting Invoice

APPROVED for payment.

6 Planning Applications

There were no objections/concerns expressed.

ACTION 4: Clerk to feedback to Planning Department

7 NDA Funding

BwT Parish Council to agree where to spend the funding, with a view to submitting the first funding application in January 2024. It was **AGREED** to have this item on the agenda at each meeting throughout the application process.

8 NDA Properties

An e-mail had been received from Ponsonby and Calderbridge Parish Council expressing concerns relating to the state of disrepair of some NDA properties in the local area. BwT Parish Council agreed to send representatives to a meeting with the other parishes when arranged to discuss this issue.

ACTION 5: Clerk to reply to the e-mail and obtain meeting date

9 Annual Policy Review

The two policies, listed on the agenda, were reviewed.

It was **AGREED** that the FOI policy would be separated from the publication scheme element of the document and resubmitted to the next meeting for final approval ahead of publication. A statement referring to a possible charge for processing FOI requests to be included in the Policy.

The Publication Scheme to be used as a cross reference when migrating data to the new website.

ACTION 6: Clerk to include FOI Policy on next meeting agenda

It was suggested that one Policy should be designed to encompass all communication activities eg social media, dealing with the Press etc.

ACTION 7: Clerk to take forward

10 Progress Reports

Thornhill Play Park – additional equipment

It was **AGREED** that the 50% Playdale invoice should be paid to place the order for additional equipment in Thornhill play park.

When additional funding is received it was **AGREED** to pay the RoSPA annual inspection invoice covering play park inspections for five years from 2024.

20mph Speed Limit outside Beckermet School

It was reported that an e-mail had been received advising that the police had carried out some static speed testing in the area. The feedback from the police is that no speeding had been witnessed, which may have been due to the police presence acting as a deterrent.

The police gave a commitment to carry out more static speed testing, which would hopefully give out a clear message to drivers to reduce their speed.

The BVA had received a response from the Highways Department in relation to their request for 'smiley face' speed deterrent signs in the village. These signs would only be supported if a clear speeding issue had been identified in Beckermet. To date, despite numerous complaints and research carried out, the Authorities would not accept there is a speeding issue in Beckermet.

However, a car had been recorded travelling at 90mph through the village.

BwT Parish Council has asked the Highways Department many times to meet in the hope of working together to implement some speed deterrents that both parties would be happy with. To date no response has been received.

ACTION 8: JN to seek permission to publish the police's e-mail on social media

Asset Transfer Form – Land at Thornhill

Ongoing. No update.

Sellafield to Seascale Cycle Track

Feedback was given from a meeting held with representatives from the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Society.

New Website

It was **AGREED** to opt for the enhanced Premium package for the new website to ensure enough memory space.

It was **AGREED** that historic information (not migrated to the new website) should be retained in an appropriate system.

Rubbish at Gravel Pit

Chairperson's signature _____

Cumberland Council had visited the area and taken photographs, which the Clerk had circulated. Their conclusion was there is no issue at the moment. However regular visits would be carried out to ensure no further fly tipping occurred.

Hole on side of Braystones Road

Assigned to Highways team. No timescale given for repairs to be carried out.

Nursery Wood trees obstructing road sign

Assigned to Highways team. What3words provided.

Overgrown trees at Blackbeck Roundabout obstructing view from Mill Lane

Issue reported again. What3words provided.

Trees obstructing vision over Kersey Bridge

Assigned to Highways team. What3words provided.

11 Poppy Donation

Wreath provided. It was **AGREED** to give a donation. Cheque to be signed after this meeting.

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

Feedback from meetings

MS gave feedback from the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group meeting and also from his recent visit to Finland.

Minor matters

- a Look at the possibility of re-publishing the history of Beckermeth Village book. The Parish Council could assist with the updating and publication.

ACTION 9: KC to contact the printing company

- b A suggestion was made to enter the best kept village competition in collaboration with Beckermeth Village Association.

ACTION 10: JN to take forward

13 Recruitment of additional councillors

BwT Parish Council would welcome additional representation from Thornhill.

14 Date and time of next Parish Council meeting

The December meeting will not be quorate and therefore cancelled. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 10 January 2024 at 19.00hrs in The Reading Rooms, Beckermeth.

Chairperson's signature_____

All business concluded; the meeting closed at 21.20hrs