

# ***BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL***

**MINUTES** of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council, Monday 8 January 2024 at Storth Church.

**Present were** – Cllrs Meakin (Chair), Greifenberg, Phelan and Yates. Also BPC Cllr-elect Marsden and WFC Cllr R Audland, Parish Clerk John Scargill and one member of the public.

**1.0 Apologies for absence** – had been received from Cllrs Clark (work), Knowles (unwell) and Phillips (work).

**2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting** – the minutes of the meeting 4 December 2023, previously circulated, were **approved** by the meeting and signed by Cllr Meakin as a correct record, subject to clarification re item 10 – that the Christmas tree donation referred to was for the Beetham Church tree.

**3.0 Declarations of interest by members present in respect of items on this agenda** – none.

**4.0 Announcements by the Chair** – Alan Marsden was introduced to members and welcomed as a new BPC member, having signed his Declaration of Office.

**5.0 Matters arising from the minutes of 4 December 2023 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:**

**5.1 Beetham flooding (5.1)** – Recent heavy rains resulted in renewed surface water in Leighton Beck Road, with a deep and impassable section for a time near the Beetham war memorial. As regards any future remedial measures, BPC agreed to mark current water outlets although it was acknowledged that, as one point of emergence was dealt with, overflowing water would always find another.

**5.2 Leighton Beck Road surface water (5.2)** – as 5.1 above.

**5.3 BPC member vacancies (5.3)** – following the appointment of Alan Marsden as a BPC member for Beetham East Ward, one West Ward vacancy remained.

**5.4 Four Lane Ends verge (5.4)** – repair of the damaged grass by AONB volunteers is anticipated in the near future.

**5.5 Sandside Cutting wall at properties 3 & 12 Rose Hill Grove (5.5)** – the waller had been informed of the acceptance of his quote and asked to complete the work as soon as possible.

**5.6 Beetham village traffic speeds (5.6)** – the village tests would begin soon, managed by Cllr Phillips. Following completion of the A6 bridge repairs, the temporary 30mph restriction had been removed and the original restriction of 50mph restored under normal procedures, much to the concern of residents and local users who would continue to press for a reduction. An eventual change to 40mph seemed likely, but this could take time.

**5.7 BPC Code of Conduct (5.7)** – The WFC Monitoring Officer had now been in touch and had received all required documentation.

**6.0 Public Participation.**

**6.1 Police matters** – a Police Report for November 2023 had been received and circulated on 7 Dec, 2023.

**6.2 Higher authority report** – (WFC Councillor Audland) – commented on the flooding and traffic speeding problem (see 5.1, 5.2 & 5.5 above).

**6.3 Matters raised by electors** – none.

## 7.0 New Matters for consideration -

**7.1 Beetham stocks** - apparently in need of attention, but ownership unknown. Clerk asked to arrange inspection and assessment of repair work needed.

**7.2 BOOM** - is a project managed by the University of Cumbria in conjunction with the local AONB to promote rare native species within the AONB area. **Agreed** - that the BOOM Partner Site Agreement relating to planting Maidenhead fern in Sandside Cutting, be **approved**.

## 8. BPC Land issues:

**i. Unauthorised car parking at Plot 4, Slackhead** – still no response to BPC solicitor’s letter to the offender; Clerk to progress with suggestions for dealing with the situation, going forward.

**ii. Tree management etc** – the Beetham ivy problem had now been satisfactorily dealt with.

Mr Weinholt of Erica Cottage, Storth, had expressed safety concerns about some Sandside Cutting trees bordering his property and had requested sight of BPC’s latest (July 2023) professional tree assessment survey, a copy of which had been sent to him, together with a copy of the BPC Tree Management Policy document. It was agreed to follow this policy on tree management and ensure the 2024 tree risk assessment looked closely at all the relevant trees.

## 9.00 Planning.

**9.1 Applications under consideration by BPC: December 2023 – Jan 2024 meeting.**

Type A applications – SLDC response deadline precedes next PC meeting – Clerk to respond.

SLDC ref	Address	Development	Response deadline	BPC response
2023/1028/ADV	Heron Theatre, Beetham	Installation of a non-illuminated sign.	9 Jan 2024	No objection

## 9.2 Decisions received from SLDC

## SLDC decisions

SL/2023/0654	White Lodge, Hillcrest Dr, Slackhead	White Lodge, Hillcrest Drive, Slackhead	Approved with conditions
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(More planning information available on SLDC website – [southlakeland.gov.uk](http://southlakeland.gov.uk))

**9.3 Minutes of Planning Committee meetings** – as above.

**9.4 Related matters & correspondence** – none.

## 10. Financial matters:

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT			MONTH – DECEMBER 2023	MEETING – 8 JANUARY 2024	
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Premium a/c
01/12/23	Opening balance			11,500.64	19,474.42
30/11/23	Receipts	Ground rents May - B-Jones		8.34	
		Electricity NW – wayleaves		81.89	
		Barclays Bank – interest to Dec 2023			50.00 est
	Payments				
837	1555	Pandora – data logger hire	400.00		
		VAT	80.00		
			480.00		
838	1556	Beetham Church – Xmas tree donation	60.00		
839	1557	Thwaites – minor felling & ivy	100.00		
		VAT	20.00		
			120.00		
840	1558	Scargill – Print/stat’y Oct-Dec	88.70		
		VAT	16.44		
			105.14		
841	1559	Scargill – Clerk’s sal Dec (net)	647.63		
842	1560	HMRC – PAYE Dec	169.12		
				-1,581.89	
31/12/23	Closing balances			10,008.98	19,524.42

31/12/23	Total funds all accounts	£ 29,533.40
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<b>Breakdown of Total Funds at 31/12/23</b>	Street lamp reserve	9,600.00
	Sports Field path project reserve (SLDC/PMS)	450.00
	SID2 (SLDC/PMS)	1,000.00
	Total reserves/allocated funds	11,050.00
	Working funds	18,483.40
	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>29,533.40</b>

**Resolved - that the above payments be APPROVED.**

**Other finance matters:**

- the external auditor's advice re the BPC Assets Register to be implemented – as from 31/03/24.  
 - the BPC Finance Group had met on 3 Jan 2024 to consider the BPC budget for 2024/25 and a first draft produced, subject to clarification from WFC re its street lighting charges. **Agreed** – that a provision be inserted until the situation became clearer. Also some changes, requested by the Clerk, to his annual expense allowances – to be resolved before budget finalisation (31/01/24 deadline).

**11.0 Parish Steward:**

- 11.1 Update on current events - none.
- 11.2 Additions to work programme - none.

**12.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies:**

Cllr Meakin - noted the retirement of a key member of AONB staff. Recruitment of a replacement was in progress.

**13.0 Parish Matters (for information only) :**

Cllr Marsden - reported the poor condition of the Stanley Street, Beetham, road surface.  
 Cllr Phelan - had some observations re the BPC website - to be addressed by Cllr Meakin/Clerk.

**14.0 General correspondence - none.**

**15.0 Reading Matter received - none.**

**16.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (February 2024) and additional to items referred to above - BPC Budget 2024/25 as finally agreed.**

**17.0 Date of next meeting - monthly BPC meeting, 7pm Mon 5 February 2024 at Beetham School.**

**The meeting closed at 8.25-pm.**