

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council, Monday 3 June 2024 at Beetham School.

Present were - Cllrs Meakin (Chair), Clark, Greifenberg, Knowles, Phelan, Phillips and Yates. Also WFC Cllr Audland, Parish Clerk John Scargill and four members of the public.

1.0 Apologies for absence - Cllr Marsden (holiday).

2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting - the minutes of the meeting 13 May 2024, previously circulated, were **approved** by the meeting and signed by Cllr Meakin as a correct record.

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

4.0 Announcements by the Chair - none.

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes of 13 May 2024 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:

5.1 Beetham flooding (12.1) - nothing to report.

5.2 Leighton Beck Road surface water (12.2) - nothing to report.

5.3 BPC member vacancies (12.3) - currently one West Ward vacancy.

5.4 Beetham village traffic speeds (12.4) - Graham Wheelhouse (Highways) now involved and hope to include both him and WFC in direct and formal future meetings with a view to official speed limit reduction in the longer term. Alternative speed reduction measures for Stanley Street needed to be considered. Potholes now being dealt with.

5.5 BPC Code of Conduct (12.5) - Westmorland & Furness Council (WFC) had considered all material submitted earlier by BPC re a Declaration of Interests issue arising at its meeting on 6 Feb 2023 (min 3.0). The decision of WFC's Monitoring Officer and Standards Committee, dated 10 May 2024, was that this was a matter for the police, to whom it had now been referred.

5.6 Beetham stocks (12.6) - survey of Beetham village opinion to be widened before any decision on removal, repair or replacement of this iconic village feature. Clerk action.

5.7 Beetham Playing Field gate replacement on permissive path (12.7) - proving difficult to establish true facts with a conflicting and confusing picture of historical background. Dallam Estate now agree in principle to replacement with a kissing gate or squeeze stile. Stanley St residents known to be concerned at privacy impact of reinstating FP504009.

5.8 BPC data storage (12.8) - storage facilities at both Storth Village Hall and Heron Hall had now been checked and old, unnecessary files discarded. The retained files would now be sorted, catalogued and stored for easier future reference.

5.9 Beetham war memorial (14.1) - local firm Able of Kendal had been asked to assess and quote for whatever work was needed to bring the memorial back to an acceptable state. Adjacent tarmac road surface to be included in the project. Funding sources identified.

6.0 Public Participation.

6.1 Police matters - no police report for May 2024 had as yet been received.

6.2 Higher authority report - (WFC Councillor Audland) - reassessment underway of authority buildings, including County Hall - refurbishment/change of use/disposal etc.

6.3 Matters raised by electors, and at length - Stanley St, as referred to in 5.4 & 5.7 above.

7.0 New Matters for consideration:

7.1 Keasdale Road street lamp. BPC had been notified by Electricity North West that its pole 61077L02507 was to be removed and that the BPC-owned lamp (number 270) sited there would not be allowed on the replacement pole. BPC considered that a lamp at this location was necessary and had reserve funding for a freestanding equivalent. However, new higher authority WFC had recently accepted responsibility for all parish street lighting capital and revenue costs. Clerk to advise ENW and WFC accordingly to ensure appropriate continued parish street lighting requirements were met.

8. BPC Land issues:

i. Unauthorised use of Plot 4, Slackhead – agreed to proceed without further delay to block off and re-seed the damaged area. Cllr Phillips to organise sourcing and delivery of seed and protective stones. Clerk to arrange suitable signage.

ii. Risk assessment and maintenance programme for 2024/25. Jennie Keighley and Scott Thwaites had agreed a Sandside Cutting work programme for 2024 within the BPC budget. Jennie had also carried out a comprehensive survey of Plot 4; her report circulated to all members. Clerk to organise professional survey of all BPC-owned boundary walls and fences on both sites.

9.00 Planning.

9.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:

May 2024 – June 2024 meeting.

Type A applications – WFC response deadline precedes next PC meeting – Clerk to respond. (Members on relevant ward committee to email comments to Clerk ASAP & before deadline)

SLDC ref	Address	Development	Response deadline	BPC response
2024/0849/FPA	10 Dallam Drive, Storth	Front & rear dormers	11/06/24	No objection

9.2 Decisions received from WFC

WFC decisions

2024/0401/FPA	Breeze Hill, Carr Bank Rd	Proposed demolition of conservatory & erection of new rear extension	Approved with conditions
2024/0478/FPA	Yew Tree House, Hale	Installation of 15 solar panels	Approved with conditions

(More planning information available on WFC website – westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

9.3 Minutes of Planning Committee meetings – as above.

9.4 Related matters & correspondence – none.

10. Financial matters:

10.1 Financial report:

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT		MONTH – MAY 2024		MEETING – 3 JUNE 2024	
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Premium a/c
				£	£
01/05/24	Opening balance			6,517.78	19,615.31
31//05/24	Receipts	Ground rents May - B-Jones		8.34	
		WFC - Precept 2024/25		24,362.00	
		- Council Tax support grant		407.99	
	Payments:				
	868	1466	Greifenberg – Expenses from Storth CH Fd	453.91	
	869	1467	Scargill – Clerk’s sal May (net)	647.63	
	870	1468	HMRC – PAYE May	169.12	
				-1,270.66	
31/05/24	Closing balances			30,025.45	19,615.31
31/05/24	Total funds all accounts			£ 49,640.76	
Breakdown of Total Funds at 31/05/24					
			Street lamp reserve	9,600.00	
			Sports Field path project reserve (SLDC/PMS)	450.00	
			SID2 (SLDC/PMS)	1,000.00	
			Storth Hub (£1,000 - £453.91)	546.09	
			Total reserves/allocated funds	11,596.09	
			Working funds	38,044.67	
			Total funds	49,640.76	

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

10.2 Other financial matters:

BPC Clerk. Ex-BPC member and current BPC internal auditor Jessica Harvey had been invited, and had agreed, to take over the post of BPC Clerk/RFO on the eventual retirement of John Scargill, appropriately staged and at a point in time to be agreed as convenient to all parties or as needed in the event of any earlier emergency. **Agreed** – that BPC fund Jessica Harvey’s CiLCA qualification course, together with any necessary reference books, with immediate effect at a time convenient to her.

11.0 Parish Steward:

11.1 Update on current events – nothing to report.

11.2 Additions to work programme – clearing out Slackhead ginnel.

12.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies – none.

13.0 Parish Matters (for information only):

- reports of car parking in A6 bus stop spaces by Heron Theatre patrons. As a result of previous such reports, police had committed to monitor.

- BPC unable to fill the vacancy for a second representative on Beetham Exhibition Trust.

14.0 General correspondence:

- From CALC 20/05/24 re Good Councillors’ Guide 2024 edition – circulated.

- From CALC 20/05/24 - re Cumbria Nature Recovery Measure Workshops – circulated.

15.0 Reading Matter received – Westmorland & Furness News – summer 2024.

16.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (July 2024) and additional to items referred to above: none.

17.0 Date of next meeting - BPC monthly meeting – Mon 1 July 2024 at Storth Village Church.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm.