

# ***BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL***

MINUTES of a remote (Zoom) meeting of Beetham Parish Council held on Monday 7 Dec. 2020.

**Present were** – Cllrs Brian Meakin (Chair), David Crayston, Becky Dewar, Brian Dean, Peter Greifenberg, Margaret Knowles, Bob Pickup and Steve Yates. Also C Cllr Pete McSweeney and Parish Clerk John Scargill. One member of the public (Mrs P Houghton) for item 7.1.

**1.0 Apologies for absence** – Cllr Clark.

**2.0 The minutes of the previous meetings**, held on 9 Nov 2020, had been circulated by email. These were approved by members present and authorised for signature by Cllr Meakin.

**3.0 Declarations of interest by members present in respect of items on this agenda** – Cllr Dewar declared a remote but possible interest in item 7.1, although this was considered by members to have no material bearing on the matter in hand.

**4.0 Announcements by the Chair** – none.

**5.0 Matters arising from the minutes 9 Nov 2020 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:**

- 5.1 Beetham flooding (5.1)** – C Cllr McSweeney reported that CCC had received substantial central government funding for flood control work in the county, from which Beetham should benefit. A meeting with local residents was to be organised in the early part of 2021.
- 5.2 Leighton Beck Road surface water (5.2)** – see 5.1 above. Ongoing.
- 5.3 Beetham ghost footpath (5.3)** – no further progress – legal discussions ongoing.
- 5.4 Beetham A6 speed limit revision (5.4)** – the head teacher of Beetham School was to present a petition to CCC at its next (remote) meeting on 9 December, which would be open to members of the public. CCC had already agreed in principle that a reduction of the current speed limit was needed but, realistically, this was likely to be to 40mph rather than the 30mph requested. C Cllr McSweeney would ask for a police van presence on the A6 at Beetham to identify speeding vehicles.
- 5.5 Mobile SID on loan (5.6)** – recorded speeds on the A6 were frighteningly high and would be passed to the police as they became available. Speed gun training was not available at present due to Covid-related restrictions. The B5282 at Carr Bank was earmarked as the next location for deployment of the mobile unit.
- 5.6 Electricity North West funding for street lamps conversion to LED (5.8)** – BPC's updated inventory of lamps had been completed and forwarded to Electricity NW. A response indicating the precise nature of available financial help was awaited.
- 5.7 Carr Bank Road bus shelter/bus stop safety issues (5.9)** – having consulted both the operator and parents, the CCC Commissioning Team, had concluded that there was no safer alternative than the present arrangement where school children waited at the Carr Bank bus stop. Cllr Pickup was continuing contact with CCC on the issue.
- 5.8 A second SID for BPC (7.1)** – was agreed as desirable but funding might be a problem (see BPC budget 2021/22, item 12.2 below). Clerk to approach Billerud paper works, Beetham Nurseries and Sandside Quarry for financial assistance.

**6. Public Participation.**

**6.1/6.2 County and District Council matters (C Cllr McSweeney):**

- i. Complaints received from local residents about the assumed very high cost of recent resurfacing of Keasdale Road and Guard Hill Lane (actual cost known to be £34,860).
- ii. SLDC were currently preoccupied with processing Covid-related grant applications.

- iii. Local Government reorganisation – formal responses to the consultation suggested an overall approx. 60% in favour of a new Morecambe Bay Authority to be responsible for the areas currently served by SLDC, Barrow Borough Council and Lancaster City Cncl. This fitted central government’s known preference for the devolution of responsibility.

## 7.0 New matters for consideration:

### 7.1 Possible nomination of The Ship Inn as an ‘asset of community value’.

Mrs Pam Houghton, representing the owners of the property, was welcomed to the meeting. She assured members that there were no current plans for selling or leaving The Ship untenanted. On the contrary, considerable investment to improve the property had been made and was continuing with the object of ensuring its future as a popular public house/restaurant. Members were reassured by this news and consequently felt no need at present to pursue its nomination as an Asset of Community value. Mrs Houghton was thanked for her very clear and reassuring presentation.

**8. BPC Land issues** – it was agreed that the Clerk should advise Dallam Estate (Julian Oston) of BPC’s wish to install a sign on Sandside Promenade asking those using this area for recreational fishing to respect the right of pedestrians to have unimpeded access to the path at all times.

**9. Carr Bank issues** – usual excessive traffic speeds remained a problem on the B5282.

**10. Parish Footpath issues** – path 504013 (Pye/Hang Bridge Lanes) still blocked. Ongoing.

## 11. Planning Matters:

### 11.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:

Dec 2020 meeting

Type A applications – SLDC 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	Applicant	Development	Response deadline	BPC response
SL/2020/0815	7 Nuns Avenue, Carr Bank		Rear extension	15/11/20	No objection
SL/2020/0839	Elmsfield Business Park		Erection of 2 buildings & service spaces		No objection

### Type B applications – SLDC deadline falls after next PC meeting – members to discuss at mtg.

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### 11.2 Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decision

SL/2020/0353	Hazelslack Farm caravan site		Siting of 5 touring caravans during March - November	Approved with conditions

(More planning information available on SLDC website – [southlakeland.gov.uk](http://southlakeland.gov.uk))

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

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

## 12. Financial Matters.

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT		MONTH – NOVEMBER 2020		MEETING – 7 Dec 2020		
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c £	Premium a/c £	
01/11/20	Opening balance				8,362.68	19,336.85
30/11/20	Receipts	Ground rents Aug	B-Jones Ryan	8.34 20.00		
					28.34	
30/11/20	Payments:					
	631 1285	A2A – annual web hosting fee	75.00			
		VAT	15.00			
				90.00		
	632 1286	LCC – AONB volunteer work	130.00			
		VAT	26.00			
				156.00		
	633 1287	Scargill – half-yearly allowances	413.00			
	634 1288	Scargill – Clerk’s sal Nov (net)	569.48			
	635 1289	HMRC – PAYE November	142.40			
	636 1290	GHS – grass-cutting etc	546.00			
					-1,916.88	
30/11/20	Closing balances				6,474.14	19,336.85
30/11/20	Total funds all accounts				£25,810.99	
<b>Breakdown of Total Funds at 30/11/20</b>			Street lamp reserve	9,600.00		
			Sports Field path project reserve	950.00		
			General Reserve	8,786.85		
			Working funds	6,474.14		
			<b>Total funds</b>	<b>25,810.99</b>		

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

### 12.2 Other financial matters:

**BPC budget 2021/22** – the draft budget circulated to all members on 6 December 2020 **was approved**. This budget required a precept of £22,358 (to include the Special CT Grant), which represented an increase of 11.95% on the precept total for 2020/21. The increase in precept was due mainly to an escalating level of SLDC’s charge for parish street lighting (energy and maintenance) together with the continuing cost of pursuing a long term responsible tree management plan for BPC properties at Sandside Cutting and Plot 4, Slackhead. Clerk to contact SLDC’s Andy Vickers to enquire about the possibility of alternative arrangements for dealing with parish street lighting costs.

**Friends of Beetham Church Christmas ‘Trees Project 2020’**- BPC’s offer of a £60 contribution to this project had been welcomed by the Friends. The Clerk was instructed to draw the £60 cheque forthwith.

### 13.0 Parish Steward:

**13.1 Update on current events** – rubble and tree cuttings unable to be disposed of at household waste tips. Cllr Pickup to contact the Parish Steward to organise alternative means of disposal.

**13.2 Further additions to work programme:** to stand down the Silent Soldier silhouettes from Remembrance Day duty at the two parish war memorials and return them to barracks. PS urged to progress clearance of the surface of the A6 Heron Theatre to war memorial path.

**14.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies** – the November CALC meeting had been cancelled. Cllr Greifenberg to attend the next CALC meeting in March 2021. Cllr Pickup had attended a remote meeting of the Local Nature Reserves on 4 November 2020.

### 15.0 Parish Matters (for information only):

**Cllr Meakin** – Mrs Hannah Gardner of Hale had proposed the placing of a banner on the A6 bridge at Beetham to remind motorists of the current 30mph speed limit. C Cllr McSweeney advised that this proposal be discussed with CCC Highways Dept.

**Cllr Greifenberg** - was asked to report via faded Yans Lane warning sign via the Highways website.  
**Cllr Crayston** - reported rats at Whasset Common - now dealt with. A dead sheep on the B6070 roadside had been reported to SLDC. A young person in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme will be litter-picking in the Whasset area for next six weeks as part of his 'helping the community' element of the award.

**Cllr Pickup** - reported a complaint from parishioners re a newly-locked gate which had encouraged walkers to walk along the busy B5282 (gate subsequently unlocked). Compliments received re the recent re-surfacing work at Carr Bank. Potentially dangerous trees at the B5282 disabled car park at Carr Bank. Resident's question re Carr Bank litter bins.

**16.0 General Correspondence:**

28/11/20 - notification by resident of damaged grass verge along Storth Rd, near Four Lane Ends - passed to Cllr McSweeney for attention by CCC contractors.

**17.0 Reading Matter** - none.

**18.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (January 2021) and additional to items referred to above** - none.

**19.0 Date of next meeting** - 7.00pm Monday 4 January 2021 - at Storth Village Church if lockdown restrictions permit. Otherwise and more likely, remotely via Zoom.

**The meeting closed at 9.00pm.**