

# ***BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL***

**MINUTES** of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council on Monday 6 January 2025 at Beetham School.

**Present were** – Cllrs Meakin (Chair), Greifenberg, Knowles, Marsden, Phelan, Phillips and Yates. Also WFC Cllr Audland for item 6. Parish Clerk John Scargill & Parish Clerk designate Jessica Harvey throughout. No members of the public.

**1.0 Apologies for absence** – Cllr Clark (work).

**2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting** – the minutes of the meeting 2 Dec 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 2 Dec 2024 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:**

**5.1 BPC member vacancies (5.1)** – currently one West Ward vacancy remained.

**5.2 Beetham village traffic speeds (5.2)** – a meeting to be arranged in March with WF Highways & WFC Cllr Audland re options for slowing traffic speeds through Beetham.

**5.3 BPC Code of Conduct (5.3)** – WFC Cllr Audland to meet relevant officials at WFC in near future and would advise BPC of the result when available. Accepted that BPC may need to further tighten its Code of Conduct for the future.

**5.4 Beetham Playing Field gate replacement on Beetham/Slackhead permissive path (5.5)** – Dougie Watson (Natural England) awaiting Dallam Tower Estate's permission to proceed. Uncertainties re actual course of access path to be resolved by site visit with photographs.

**5.5 BPC data storage (5.6)** – planned conclusion in Jan-March 2025.

**5.6 BPC boundary walls & fences (5.7)** – Cllr Phillips to inspect 3 Rosehill Grove property in January re BPC options and report back with advice.

**5.7 Storth water pump restoration (5.8)** – new location remained to be agreed, with as yet no response from Landscape Trust on the subject.

**5.8 Sandside information panel (5.9)** – Cllr Phelan to progress with potential local suppliers (re design and cost); Cllr Audland to discuss with WFC (re possible funding).

**6.0 Public Participation.**

**6.1 Police matters** – police reports for November & December had been circulated.

**6.2 Higher authority report (WFC Cllr Audland):**

- future Street Lighting charges – WFC's Option 1 (where WFC adopts & assumes full responsibility for all Beetham Parish lighting) is the recommended option.

- WFC currently considering taking part in the government's Devolution Priority Programme by setting up, jointly with Cumberland Council, a new 'strategic authority' with an elected mayor. This new authority to have greater powers and responsibilities with a consequent increase in central government funding. *(This policy later approved by WFC Cabinet).*

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

**6.4 Other matters** – carried over from previous meeting - Cllr Audland to check if bus shelters (particularly on principal highways) were something WFC had responsibility for.

**7.0 New Matters for consideration – none.**

**7.1 BPC website design/content** – an approach for co-operation with Go Compare to be declined, and any redesign to be left until new BPC Clerk in post.

**7.2 Storth Green Information Panel content – agreed** – to replace the existing badly worn Ordnance map of the local area with a new equivalent (Cllr Phelan to action).

**8. BPC Land issues – currently none.**

**9. Beetham Flooding** – recent heavy rain had resulted in more flooding. **Agreed** – resume contact with WFC and Environment Agency (Clerk to action).

**10.00 Planning.**

**10.1 Applications under consideration by BPC: December 2024 – 6 Jan 2025 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)**

WFC ref	Address	Development	Response deadline	BPC response
2024/2210/FPA	Joiner’s shop	Leighton Beck Rd, Beetham	21/01/2025	Awaited
2024/2411/FPA	Barn at The Tavern, Hale	Change of use – pub storage to local heating engineer’s business	21/01/2025	Awaited
2024/2434/FPA	Land west of J36 Business Park	New storage & distribution warehouse	21/01/2025	Awaited

**10.2 Decisions received from WFC**

**WFC decisions**

2024/1028/ADV	Heron Theatre, Beetham	Installation of non-illuminated sign	Approved with conditions
2024/1883/LBC	Heron Theatre, Beetham	Listed building consent for new illuminated sign	Approved with conditions
2024/1713/AWC	Townend Cottage, Farleton	Solar panel installation	Approved with conditions

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

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

**10.4 Related matters & correspondence** – problems accessing WFC planning website later resolved, so no action.

**11.0 Financial Matters.**

**BPC FINANCIAL REPORT**

**MONTH – DECEMBER 2024**

**MEETING – 6 JAN 2025**

Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c £	Premium a/c £
01/12/24	Opening balances				20,764.08
31//12/24	Receipts	Ground rents Oct - B-Jones		8.34	
		Wayleaves – Electricity North West		81.89	
					90.23
	Payments:				
	908	1568	Storth Hub - balance of grant	546.09	
	909	1569	Marsden - stocks repair costs	120.17	
			VAT	24.04	
				144.21	
	910	1570	Beetham PCC – Xmas tree donation	60.00	
	911	1571	Dallam – bus shelter ground rent	50.00	
	912	1572	Scargill – Clerk’s sal Dec (net)	668.55	
	913	1573	HMRC – PAYE Dec	177.70	
	914	1574	Scargill - Clerk’s monthly expense all’ce	136.00	
					-1,782.55
31/12/24	Closing balances			19,071.76	19,762.29
31/12/24	Total funds all accounts				£ 38,834.05
<b>Breakdown of Total Funds at 31/12/24</b>			<b>SID2 (SLDC/PMS)</b>		1,000.00
			Total reserves & allocated funds		1,000.00
			Working funds		37,834.05

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

### **11.2 Other Financial Matters:**

- **Scribe contract – agreed** – that BPC now enter into a contract for Scribe to supply accounting software for use during the remainder of the 2024/25 financial year, to enable reconciliation of BPC's financial results from the existing manual spreadsheet system at 2024/25 year-end. Thereafter, it is planned to record BPC's day-to-day financial transactions on Scribe, and in parallel with the manual system, until say June 2025, after which date the intention is to discontinue the manual system. Jessica Harvey (BPC Clerk Designate) to action.

- **Clerk Designate remuneration** – agreed – that Mrs Harvey submit monthly invoices to BPC for her services until she formally takes over as BPC Clerk/RFO in October 2025. Alternatively, CALC to be asked to advise on the appropriate remuneration for her to be actually employed by BPC as its Responsible Financial Officer (from April to September 2025). BPC to make a decision on this matter before April 2025. In the meantime, Jessica Harvey to submit a suggested rate-of-pay per hour for her services and initiate the above contact with CALC

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### **12.0 Parish Steward:**

**11.1 Update on current events** – No report.

**11.2 Additions to work programme** – none.

**12.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies** – none.

### **13.0 Parish Matters (for information only): - raised by or with BPC members:**

- Cllr Phelan – reported successful conclusion of repair/re-siting of B5282 traffic mirror.

- Cllr Meakin – reported that he would put BPC's December newsletter on the BPC website, followed by discussion on how best to get the BPC newsletter to more parish residents.

Agreed – to

**15.0 Reading Matter received** – none.

**16.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (Feb 2025) and additional to items referred to above:** none.

**17.0 Date of next meeting** - BPC monthly meeting – Mon 3 Feb 2025 at Storth Village Church.

**The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.**