

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council held on Monday 10 Jan. 2022 at Storth Village Church.

Present were – Cllrs Meakin (Chair), Crayston, Dean, Greifenberg, Knowles and Harnett. Also Beetham Parish Clerk John Scargill and one member of the public.

1.0 Apologies for absence – had been received in writing from Cllrs Clark & Yates (as a chosen Covid precaution) and Dewar (holiday). Also C Cllr P McSweeney and Parish Steward Bill Haddow. All apologies were accepted by the meeting.

2.0 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6 December 2021, had been circulated by email. These were **APPROVED** by the meeting as a correct record and signed by Cllr Meakin.

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

4.0 Announcements by the Chair – Cllr Meakin explained that face-to-face meetings were a legal obligation despite a resurgence in the coronavirus pandemic and would remain so until central government, and in turn NALC, ruled otherwise.

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes 6 December 2021 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:

5.1 Beetham flooding (5.1) – Cllr Dean had written to Chris Evans (Environment Agency) to enquire about progress with his investigation into the part played by the weir in flooding from the River Bela at Beetham. Recent flooding around the cenotaph at Beetham had been partly alleviated by prompt drain clearing, which would need to be an ongoing process throughout winter months. Two Stanley Street residents had enquired about progress with higher authority plans to deal with flooding in that area.

5.2 Leighton Beck Road surface water (5.2) – no further progress. Ongoing.

5.3 Mobile SID on loan (5.4) – this equipment remained out of action with the battery in need of a re-charge.

5.4 BPC-owned SIDs (5.5). In view of Highways' restrictions for deployment of a mobile SID, in particular on the A6 where it was most needed, and the need for regular battery recharging, it was agreed that a better option would be for BPC to purchase a second solar-powered unit for permanent siting elsewhere in the parish (probably on the B5282 at Carr Bank or near the school in Storth Road, subject to Highways permission). Funding for this was provided in BPC's 2022/23 budget (see item 12 below). A number of traffic signs on the A6 were reported as damaged and no longer clearly visible to road users.

5.5 Queen's platinum jubilee 02/06/22 (5.7) – the latest news from nominated supplier Woodland Trust, was that free-of-charge trees were now out of stock – next delivery date November 2022. BPC requirements for two out of its four chosen sites were now known; progress to identify tree species/numbers on the remaining two sites needed.

5.6 Wild flower planting (5.8) – Cllr Meakin to progress consultation with Storth residents.

5.7 Beetham war memorial maintenance (5.9) – **agreed** – that cleaning of the Beetham memorial should wait until the surrounding flooding problem had been resolved.

5.8 BPC's Storth notice board (7.1) – Highways' inspection of site requested and awaited before location of refurbished board could be determined.

6.0 Public Participation.

6.1 **Police matters** – no police report. No apologies received for non-attendance.

6.2 **County & District** – in his absence, C Cllr McSweeney had emailed points he wished to report on:

- i. Beetham flooding (agenda items 5.1 & 5.2) hopefully a public meeting would soon be organised by CCC and the Environment Agency.
- ii. The latest information on Local Government Reorganisation was that all affected councils are working together to achieve the start date of 1 April 2023 for the new Westmorland & Furness Council and good progress was being made. No news on progress with the judicial review requested by CCC.
- iii. The recent closure of the road through Dallam Park was due to the proximity of damage and dangerous trees resulting from recent storms. Trees now made safe and road reopened.

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

8. BPC Land issues:

i. Land transfers - site meetings with parties interested in land transfers related to Sandside Cutting to be arranged at an early date. Clerk to organise.

ii. Tree management – work plans consistent with financial constraints had been **agreed** with Jennie Keighley (arboriculturist) and Scott Thwaites (tree contractor) for the remainder of 2021/22 and 2022/23, with priority given to trees identified as dangerous. A site improvement scheme for Plot 4 had been **agreed** with lead residents and was underway. Noted – that not all of the few residents had been consulted, but that all the agreed work was deemed justified and had permissions appropriate to its conservation area status.

iii. Other tree issues – a fallen tree rooted in the verge in Green Lane and blocking the highway had been cut up and removed by local residents. **Agreed** – that smaller offcuts left on site to be removed by Parish Steward at BPC expense as soon as possible (see item 13.1 below).

9. **Carr Bank B5282 bus stop** – as a matter of urgency, the appointed contractor had been asked to supply information required by the formal permission application to Highways and Street Works so that work could commence as soon as permission was granted.

10. **Parish Footpath issues** – none.

11. Planning Matters:

11.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:

Jan 2022 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/2021/1140	Lyndhurst, Storth Rd, Storth		Raising roof to provide additional first-floor accom etc	06/01/22	No objection
SL/2021/1193	Fell End Cottage, Yans Lane, Storth		Replacement of existing dwelling etc	27/01/22	No objection

11.2 Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decision

SL/2021/0235	Rollen Court, Carr Bank Rd		Discharge of conditions attaching to SL/2020/0896	Approved
SL/2021/0560	Pye's Bridge Farm Hale		Variation of conditions re AWC on SL/2018/0681	Approved with conditions
SL/2021/0917	Unnamed field near Holme		Discharge of conditions 7&8 re SL/2021/0226	Conditions discharged

SL/2021/1075	18 Hillcrest Dr Slackhead		Single-storey rear extension + front porch extension	Approved with conditions
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(More planning information available on SLDC website – 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 – DECEMBER 2021	MEETING – 10 Jan 2022	
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Premium a/c
£	£	£			
01/12/21	1	Opening balance		12,512.87	19,338.77
31/12/21	Receipts	Ground rents November	B-Jones	8.34	
		Barclays – bank int to 5 Dec.			.48
		Payments			
700	1355	Lakeland Tree Consultancy (S Cutting)		110.00	
701	1356	Beetham village Xmas tree donation		60.00	
702	1357	Jacobs – SC annual access licence		32.22	
703	1358	Scargill – Clerk’s sal Dec (net)		574.28	
704	1359	HMRC – PAYE Dec		137.60	
				-914.10	
31/12/21		Closing balances		11,607.11	19,339.25
31/12/21		Total funds all accounts		£30,946.36	
Breakdown of Total Funds at 31/12/21			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	11,310.00	
			Working funds	19,636.36	
			Total funds	30,946.36	

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

12.2 Other financial matters – BPC budget 2022/23 as previously circulated to members and requiring a precept of £21,841 (2021/22 £21,907) **APPROVED** and to be lodged with SLDC by Clerk before the 31 Jan 2022 deadline.

13.0 Parish Steward:

13.1 Update on current events – Parish Steward currently out of action as the result of a fall.

13.2 Further additions to work programme – Silent Soldier silhouettes removed from the two war memorials but currently remaining on the broader sites. In the absence of the Parish Steward, individual members would try to organise their removal to normal storage location.

14.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies:

- Cllr Meakin reported that the Glover Report on funding for local AONBs recommended merging AONBs and National Parks for the purpose of government funding so as to give a more consistent approach.

- noted that a new trustee had been appointed to Beetham Exhibition Trust.

15.0 Parish Matters (for information only):

Cllr Harnett – mentioned that the BPC agreed contribution of £60 to fund a Storth Christmas tree, as agreed at its December meeting, had not been forthcoming - attributed to lack of communication. Clerk to ensure that both Beetham and Storth receive these agreed donations in future.

16.0 General Correspondence received:

- SLDC (Environmental Health) confirmed their agreement with the Environment Agency assessment of very low risk from the defunct Slackhead quarry site.

- C Cllr P McSweeney reported that inconsiderate parking outside Storth School was a police matter.

- Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner seeking views of residents on increasing policing services (with related cost effect for council tax payers).

17.0 Reading Matter - none.

18.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (Feb 2022) and additional to items referred to above - none.

19.0 Date of next meeting - PC meeting 7.00pm Mon 7 Feb 2022, hopefully at Beetham School (subject to confirmation).

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.