BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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Mrs P M Jupe (Chair)	015395-62545	Dr B C Meakin	015395-65722	Mr J R Scargill	01524-782811
Mr K Benkharn	015395-63877	Mr C H Noble	01524-762427		
Mr D B Clark	015395-63341	Mr R K Pickup	01524-761740		
Mr D B Jupe	015395-62545	Mr I Stewart	015395-63391	**Website**	
Mr W S Yates	015395-64129			www.beethampc.co.uk	

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The Parish Council's project for improving the small plot of land beside the A5282 at Dixies, Sandside, is progressing and is expected to be completed in 2015. Additional sources of funding for the project are being explored along with possibilities for a more ambitious overall plan. You will be kept informed as this develops. Similarly, tree management work in Sandside Cutting is proceeding well now we seem to be just about through the winter season. The small boulders placed at Dixies to prevent unwanted car parking have, so far, achieved this objective. Those placed in the A6 layby at Beetham and along Hale Green have generally been successful, despite attempts by some determined motorists to move them. Finally, on this general subject, issues to improve road safety in Mill Lane, Beetham, remain as yet unresolved, due to ownership and responsibility complications.

Under a recent initiative by SLDC, as the local planning authority, all South Lakes parish councils have been asked to identify suitable sites for development – either residential, light commercial or a mixture of both. Beetham has suggested a brown-field site alongside the B5282, between The Kingfisher and The Ship, to include parts of Quarry Lane which runs parallel to it. An important proviso is the need for a short access road between the two existing roads, somewhere near the present entrances to the Travis Parkins site. An attractive and useful development could result.

On the financial front, the Parish Council budget for 2015/16 has now been set at virtually the same level as for the current year. A substantial item in this budget is provision for the replacement of streetlamps as and when Electricity North West decides to implement its new policy of removing our lamps from its poles. Our objective is to ensure that, wherever these lamps continue to be needed, they will be provided. Another financial matter is the latest central government initiative on transparency. Because small councils like ours are soon to be excused an external audit, they will be obliged to publish on a website more details of their expenditure. Fortunately Beetham already has a website and much of the required information is already there. All other required information is readily available and will appear on our website on or before the deadline of 1 April 2017. Finally, grants approved at Beetham PC's March meeting were £700 to the Arnside & Silverdale AONB and £60 to the Royal British Legion (for poppy wreaths).

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the resumed public hearing over the Burntbarrow Woods inquiry will have concluded, although the result still may not be known. Full details of the decision will appear in the next following Newsletter. Likewise, the parish Annual Assembly 2015 will have taken place and we shall report on its noteworthy points.

Coming up in May is the General Election and, locally, the Beetham Parish Council election. Whilst we do not yet know who our councillors for the next four years are to be , we do know that Cllr Pru Jupe will be standing down as Chair and that, if re-elected, Cllr Brian Meakin has agreed to take over that role. If you are not already a councillor and would like to stand, we would encourage you to do so. Meanwhile, it is reassuring that key social statistics show South Lakes in a very favourable light compared with the rest of the country and your parish as an outstanding performer in that district. Police statistics paint a similar picture. Well done Beetham parish!

JRS 08/03/15