

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council on Monday 3 February 2025 at Storth Church.

Present were – Cllrs Meakin (Chair), Greifenberg, Knowles, Marsden and Phelan. Also Parish Clerk John Scargill and two members of the public.

1.0 Apologies for absence – Cllr Clark (work), Cllr Phillips (work) and Cllr Yates (holiday).

2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting – the minutes of the meeting 6 January 2025, 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 – Cllr Meakin drew particular attention to agenda item 7.1 – the impending retirement of BPC’s Clerk and the council’s succession plans.

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes of 6 January 2025 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:

5.1 BPC member vacancies (5.1) – currently one West Ward vacancy remained. Cllr Phelan introduced a Storth resident attending the meeting who may be interested in filling this vacancy.

5.2 Beetham village traffic speeds (5.2) – a meeting with Highways & WFC to be arranged in March 2025 to discuss options for the slowing of traffic speeds through Beetham.

Action – M Phillips

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.

Action – B Meakin

5.4 Beetham Playing Field gate replacement on Beetham/Slackhead permissive path (5.5) – Cllr Meakin had now revisited the site to clarify the layout. Remove from agenda.

Action - Clerk

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

5.6 BPC boundary walls & fences (5.7) – Cllr Phillips had been unable to visit the Rosehill Grove property in January as planned, due to work commitments. Cllr Marsden agreed to do the inspection in the current week and report back.

5.7 Storth water pump restoration (5.8) – there had been no progress with Landscape Trust on this item. Remove from agenda.

Action - Clerk

5.8 Sandside information panel (5.9) – Cllr Phelan was making progress and would report back in due course. Cllr Audland to discuss with WFC re possible funding.

6.0 Public Participation.

6.1 Police matters – a six-month summary police report had been circulated.

6.2 Higher authority report – no report in the absence of WFC Cllr Audland.

6.3 Matters raised by electors –

- i. the proposed new development at Sandside - Helen Burrow reported that land registration formalities were now underway, for which sound new evidence would be required before the development plan could be progressed further. The poor state of repair of Quarry Lane and its vulnerability to flooding was commented on.

- ii. the vulnerability of the A6 bridge to floating debris on the River Bela.
- iii. problems with access from the B5282 disabled carpark to the embankment footpath.
- iv. the continued poor state of the Beetham war memorial – Clerk to chase Parkin & Jackson who were to have started remedial work in January.

7.0 New Matters for consideration:

7.1 BPC Clerk’s retirement arrangements. Following informal discussions between members over recent weeks, a plan had been drawn up for the modernisation of BPC’s financial and administrative systems. In summary:

- i. John Scargill to be asked to relinquish his position as BPC Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer as of 31/03/2025. He had been formally served with a ‘Termination of Employment’ notice dated 21/01/25, in line with his BPC Contract of Employment.
- ii. Jessica Harvey to be asked to take over as BPC Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer as from 01/04/2025, which she had agreed to do – terms of employment to be agreed.
- iii. A contract for the installation of a ‘Scribe’ computer software package for dealing with BPC’s financial /administrative systems to be signed immediately and to be in full operation as from 01/04/2025.
- iv. BPC’s bank to be changed from Barclays to Utility Bank, with a switch to online banking being made as soon as possible.
- v. The BPC website to be updated to comply with current legislation requirements and to provide improved format/ease of use etc.

7.2 BPC meeting dates/venues 2025/26 – circulated to all members and placed on BPC website.

7.3 Beetham Annual Assembly 2025 (13/03/25 at Heron Theatre, Beetham) – speaker still to be found and help needed with serving the customary refreshments. Cllr Knowles to chair in the absence of Cllrs Meakin and Greifenberg.

8. BPC Land issues – BPC’s arboriculturist Jennie Keighley had given notice to terminate her work for BPC to permit a change of direction for her business. She had provided a detailed report on her work to date and suggested a suitable successor with whom BPC had made contact. An early appointment to the vacant post was envisaged. Clerk to check that Jennie’s report took recent felling into account. BPC’s felling licence needed to be renewed before further felling was undertaken.

9. Beetham Flooding – response from Environment Agency awaited following BPC’s recent approach.

10.00 Planning.

10.1 Applications under consideration by BPC: January 2025 – 3 Feb 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
2025/0120/HOU	19 Hillcrest Dr, Slackhead	Revised scheme for SL/2023/0028	18 Feb 2025	Awaited

10.2 Decisions received from WFC

WFC decisions

2024/1862/FPA	Lakeland Wildlife Oasis	Variation of cond 2 re 2024/1320/FPA	Approved with conditions
2024/1942/ADV	Land SE of Beetham Rd, Milnthorpe	Consent for 2 marketing boards re residential development	Approved with conditions

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

10.3 Minutes of Planning Committee meetings – as above.

10.4 Related matters & correspondence – none.

11.0 Financial Matters.

BPC FINANCAL REPORT		MONTH – JANUARY 2025		MEETING – 3 FEB 2025	
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c £	Premium a/c £
01/01/25	Opening balances			19,071.76	19,762.29
31//01/25	Receipts	Ground rents Oct - B-Jones			1
		Elec NW – wayleaves	50.00		8.34
		Barclays – interest to 2/12/24		58.34	73.90
	Payments:				
915	1575	Phelan	- traffic mirror strap	6.23	
			VAT	1.25	
				7.48	
916	1576	N Highways – access rental		40.08	
917	1577	Thwaites	- tree work	5,000.00	
			VAT	1,000.00	
				6,000.00	
918	1578	Lakeland Tree - consultancy fees		490.00	
919	1579	A2A	- website domain reg fee	50.00	
			VAT	10.00	
				60.00	
920	1580	Scargill	- Clerk's monthly exe's allce	136.00	
921	1581	Scargill	- Clerk's sal Jan (net)	668.35	
922	1582	HMRC	- PAYE Jan	177.90	
				-7,579.81	
31/01/25	Closing balances			11,550.29	19,836.19
31/01/25	Total funds all accounts			£ 31,386.48	
Breakdown of Total Funds at 31/01/25	SID2 (SLDC/PMS)			1,000.00	
	Total reserves/allocated funds			1,000.00	
	Working funds			30,386.48	
	Total funds			31,386.48	

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

11.2 Other Financial Matters:

- **Scribe contract** – to be agreed – see 7.1 above.
- **Clerk Designate remuneration** – to be agreed – see 7.1 above.

12.0 Parish Steward:

11.1 Update on current events – No report.

11.2 Additions to work programme – none.

13.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies – none.

14.0 Parish Matters (for information only) - raised by or with BPC members:

- **Cllr Phelan** – asked if a means of communication could be found for keeping Beetham parishioners better informed of all that was going on in their parish. Members to consider and make suggestions.

15.00 Correspondence – an email dated 21.01.25 from Lizzi Collinge MP asking for support to allow cycling on the walking trail known formerly as the Hincaster Branch railway line. Cllr Meakin had replied that this was a permissive path owned by Dallam Estate and over which Beetham Parish Council had no authority.

16.0 Reading Matter received - none.

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

**18.0 Date of next meetings - BPC monthly meeting - Mon 3 March 2025 at Beetham School.
- Beetham Annual Assembly - Thurs 13 March at Heron Theatre.**

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm.