

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council held on Monday 6 February 2023 at Storth Village Church.

Present were – Cllrs Meakin (Chair), Clark, Crayston, Dewar, Harnett and Knowles. Also WFC Cllr R Audland (throughout), C Cllr P McSweeney (for item 6 only) and Parish Clerk John Scargill. Ten members of the public.

- 1.0 Apologies for absence** – had been received in writing from Cllrs Greifenberg (hospitalised), Phillips (business) and Yates (holiday) – accepted by the meeting.
- 2.0 The minutes of the previous meeting**, held on 9 January 2023, had been circulated by email, 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** – Cllr Clark declared an interest in agenda item 9.3 (major Sandside development planning proposal) and was asked if he would leave the meeting whilst this item was being discussed; he declined stating that he wished to remain. He was given dispensation from the Chair to remain present but reminded that it was imperative he did not participate in any way.
- 4.0 Announcements by the Chair** - It was reported that Mr Ken Blenkharn, ex-BPC member and Chair over many years, had sadly died on Wednesday 1 February 2023. At the request of all members present and on behalf of BPC, Clerk to send a letter of condolence to Mrs Blenkharn.
- 5.0 Matters arising from the minutes of 9 January 2023 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:**
 - 5.1 Beetham flooding (5.1)** – no further progress.
 - 5.2 Leighton Beck Road surface water (5.2)** – no further progress
 - 5.3 BPC-owned SID (5.4)** – as requested, the Clerk had written to the individual responsible for the traffic incident in which BPC’s Sandside speed indicator device had been demolished but, as yet, had received no response. All but a very small part of BPC’s financial loss had already been recovered from its insurers.
 - 5.4 Queen’s platinum jubilee 02/06/22 (5.5)** – tree planting to go ahead in the spring.
 - 5.5 Wild flower planting (5.6)** –as already agreed, the Storth site would continue to be monitored throughout 2023 and a similar site sought in Beetham East Ward.
 - 5.6 Queen’s Jubilee seat and Storth Playing Field benches (5.7)** – the contractor had been instructed and installation would take place when the weather improved.
 - 5.7 Beetham Village Planters (5.8)** – No further progress on plaque wording; response from Beetham Nurseries awaited.
 - 5.8 Lovers Lane litter problem (5.8)** – agreed – no further information at this time.
 - 5.9 Quarry Lane wall damage (5.9)** – a second quote had now been received for the necessary repair work. Both quotes and photographs of the damage had been sent to the responsible party’s insurers and clearance to proceed with the work was awaited.
 - 5.10 Tramper path Sandside Cutting (5.10)** – a Cumbria CC temporary closure order is in place from 13 February 2023 for five days to allow work to be completed. BPC to monitor progress but delete from future agendas.

6.0 Public Participation.

6.1 **Police matters** – no Police Report had been received.

6.2/3 **Higher authority reports** - Cllr Mc Sweeney reported on progress with organisation at the new WFC Unitary Authority, with particular reference to lines of financial responsibility and its implications for Council Tax. It would be this new body that would consider Application SL/2022/1177 (Sandside development - see 6.4 below).

6.4 **Matters raised by electors** - Mrs Helen Burrow read a prepared statement on behalf of the business owners expressing extreme disappointment at BPC's formal response to SLDC's request for comment on Planning Application SL/2022/1177 (Sandside major mixed-use development). In particular she considered this response was not representative of the huge concerns felt by the whole community and failed to deal with the implications for existing businesses on the overall site. A member of the public raised objection to Cllr Clark's continuing presence during discussion of this item because of his vested interest.

Cllr Clark was again instructed by the Chair (see Section 3.0) that he should take no part in its discussion and remain silent throughout. Despite this he did make comments during the discussion and became involved in a verbal exchange with a business owner.

In response to a request for a public meeting on the proposed development and to find a way forward, it was **agreed** that Cllr McSweeney would hold further talks with Helen Burrow as the representative of those residents/business owners detrimentally affected by the development.

The SLDC deadline for comment was currently 22 February 2023 but this could probably be extended in view of the scale and importance of the project - **Clerk to request extension.**

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

8. BPC Land issues:

i. **Land transfers at The Pasture, Storth** – legal formalities completed but update of related Land Registry amendment remained outstanding.

ii. **Tree management etc** – nothing further to report.

9.00 Planning.

9.1 **Applications under consideration by BPC:**

January 2023 – February 2023 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	Development	Response deadline	BPC response
SL/2023/0012	Land north of Marsden Barn, Farleton	Single self-build dwelling	02/02/23	No objection
SL/2023/0028	19 Hillcrest Dr. Slackhead	Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of 2-storey rear extn	07/02/23	No objection
SL/2023/0038	70 Leighton B R Slackhead	Replacement dwelling etc	14/02/23	No objection
SL/2023/0046	Temple Bank, Beetham	Non-material amendment to SL/2021/1023		No objection

9.2 Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decisions

SL/2022/0933	Fell End Caravan Park, Hale	Siting of 4 modular holiday lodges	Granted with conditions
SL/2022/1065	Rollen Cottage Carr Bank Rd	Variation of condition 2 attached to SL/2020/0896	Granted with conditions

(More planning information available on SLDC website – southlakeland.gov.uk)

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

9.4 Related matters & correspondence – none.

10. Financial matters:

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH – JANUARY 2023 MEETING – 6 February 2023

Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Premium a/c
01/01/23	Opening balance			9,661.73	19,357.94
31/01/23	Receipts	Ground rents Jan	- B-Jones	16.68	
			- Ryan	20.00	
				36.68	
		Electricity NW	- wayleaves	81.89	
			- “ “	50.00	
	Payments				
	776	1432	Thwaites – tree work 2022/23	4,000.00	
			VAT	800.00	
				4,800.00	
	777	1433	National Highways – access Sandside	36.73	
	778	1434	Scargill – Clerk’s sal Jan (net)	613.73	
	779	1435	HMRC – PAYE Jan	154.66	
				-5,605.12	
31/01/23	Closing balances			4,225.18	19,357.94
31/01/23	Total funds all accounts			£ 23,583.12	

Breakdown of Total Funds at 31/01/23				
		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		11,050.00
		Working funds		12,533.12
		Total funds		23,583.12

Resolved – that the above payments be APPROVED.

Other financial matters – BPC’s precept request for 2023/24 had been submitted on 31/01/23 - for a sum of £24,630.57, as agreed at the meeting on 9 January 2023, to cover the full amount of SLDC Footway Lighting charges for that year. All other parishes in South Lakeland had been circulated on this subject by CALC and many reported similar Footway Lighting charge increases. Confirmed – that no legal restrictions on amount of annual increase in precept. A grant of £500 from WCF Cllr Audland for 2022/23 towards the cost of the Queen’s Jubilee seat had been agreed.

11.0 Parish Steward:

11.1 Update on current events - nothing to report.

11.2 Additions to work programme - nothing to report.

12.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies - none.

13.0 Parish Matters (for information only):

Cllr Meakin – car parking on the grass verge at Four Lane Ends should be discouraged.

Clerk – Andy Vickers (SLDC) to give a presentation at BPC’s Annual Assembly on 16 March 2023.

14.0 General correspondence - none.

15.0 Reading Matter received – a thank-you letter from The Friends of Beetham Church for the BPC donation to Beetham lighting, Christmas 2022.

16.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (Mar 2023) and additional to items referred to above – Sandside mixed-use development proposal – developments.

17.0 Date of next meeting – monthly BPC meeting 7.00pm Mon 6 March 2023 at Beetham School.
- Annual Assembly 8pm Thurs 16 March 2023 at Heron Theatre, Beetham.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.