

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council held on Monday 6 March 2023 at Beetham School.

Present were – Cllrs Meakin (Chair), Crayston, Greifenberg, Phillips, Knowles and Yates. Also WFC Cllr R Audland (throughout), C Cllr P McSweeney (for item 6 only), Parish Clerk John Scargill and Parish Steward Bill Haddow. Seven members of the public.

1.0 Apologies for absence – had been received in writing from Cllrs Clark (unwell), Dewar (holiday) and Harnett (unwell) – accepted by the meeting.

2.0 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6 February 2023, had been circulated by email. One amendment was approved (re 6.4) – namely that Helen Burrow had attended the meeting as representative of existing local businesses on Quarry Lane (and not the community at large). Other questions remained re the accuracy and completeness of item 3, but it was agreed to defer amendment to the minutes pending a proposed meeting between BPC representatives and SLDC’s Monitoring Officer to consider these events - to be reported at the next BPC meeting.

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

4.0 Announcements by the Chair – Cllr Meakin reviewed the following obligations with which parish councillors must comply:

- i. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest at a Council meetings.**
 - Unless a dispensation has been granted, a councillor shall withdraw from a meeting in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest. He/she may return to the meeting once the discussion relating to the disclosable interest is concluded.
 - Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Proper Officer (the Clerk) as soon as possible before the meeting or, failing that, at the start of the meeting.
 - A decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made by the Proper Officer, and that decision will be final.
 - The councillor should provide an explanation as to why the dispensation is sought together with a description and the nature of the disclosable pecuniary interest.
- ii. **Apologies for absence at a Council meeting.**

To comply with the Local Government Act 1972, sec 85:

 - An Apology for Absence from a meeting must be provided in writing (e-mail acceptable) to the Clerk before the meeting and requesting absence from the meeting, stating the reason for the absence.
 - The apology must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting as accepted (or not) by councillors present.
 - Failure to attend six consecutive meetings without a ‘statutory excuse’ or a reason approved by the council shall lead automatically to that person’s cessation of membership of the council. The Clerk shall keep a record of apologies in order to monitor compliance with this requirement.

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes of 6 February 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 (5.3)** – no further progress.
- 5.4 Queen’s platinum jubilee 02/06/22 (5.4)** – tree planting to go ahead in the spring.
- 5.5 Wild flower planting (5.5)** –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 (5.6)** – the contractor had been instructed and installation would take place when the weather improved.
- 5.7 Beetham Village Planters (5.7)** – No further progress on plaque wording. Clerk to contact Beetham Nurseries again.
- 5.8 Lovers Lane litter problem (5.8)** – agreed – Cllr Phillips to initiate a site meeting with Dallam Tower Estate’s Julian Oston to discuss appropriate action.
- 5.9 Quarry Lane wall damage (5.9)** – repair work had now been completed and insurance monies received to cover the cost.
- 5.10 Sandside mixed-use development (5.10)** – a revised BPC response to SLDC re planning application SL/2022/1177 had been prepared and circulated to all members. Subject to possible minor further amendments this would be submitted to SLDC before the revised deadline of 22 March 2023. This was welcomed by Helen Burrow and the group she represented.

6.0 Public Participation.

6.1 Police matters – a Police Report dated 21/02/23 had been received and circulated. No specific reported incidents related to Beetham parish.

6.2/3/4 Higher authority reports - Cllr Audland summarised the position regarding the imminent handover of local area responsibility from SLDC to WFC Unitary Authority. C Cllr McSweeney said his farewells to BPC members as this would be the last BPC meeting he attended.

6.5 Matters raised by electors – a very useful meeting had taken place between BPC representatives, BPC’s higher authority representatives and Mrs Helen Burrow re the Sandside mixed-use planning application (SL/2022/1177). The subsequent revised and proposed final BPC response to SLDC (see 5.10 above) now had general support. It was accepted that amendments to the developer’s plans could be expected over the coming months/years, before implementation. In response to a question from one elector, it was explained how BPC proposed to deal with the conflict-of-interest situation which had arisen with one BPC councillor who had remained present throughout the 6 February meeting while the Sandside development was discussed (see 2 above).

7.0 New Matters for consideration –

7.1 B4RN request for cable-laying at Storth Bridge agreed (now satisfactorily completed).

7.2 Parish Annual Assembly – all necessary arrangements made. Clerk to deliver laminated posters to BPC members on Tuesday 7 March.

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:

February 2023 – March 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 Farm, Farleton	Single self-build dwelling	02/02/23	No objection
SL/2023/0028	19 Hillcrest Dr Slackhead	Demolition of existing conservatory & construction of 2-storey rear ext'n	07/02/23	No objection
SL/2023/0038	70 Leighton Beck Rd, Slackhead	Replacement dwelling etc	14/02/23	No objection
SL/2023/0046	Temple Bank, Beetham	Non-material amendment to SL/2021/1023		No objection
SL/2023/0089	Little Cottage Hale	Rear & side extensions	01/03/23	No objection
SL/2023/0094	White Lodge, Hillcrest Drive Slackhead	Alterations & extensions to create a 5-bedroomed dwelling		No objection
SL/2023/0152	Fell End caravan Park, Hale	Discharge of conditions 2 & 3 re SL/2022/0933		No objection

9.2 Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decisions

SLDC ref	Address	Development	SLDC decision
SL/2022/0931	Wheatsheaf, Beetham	Conversion of outbuildings to create a holiday let & hotel service space.	Grant with conditions
SL/2022/0933	Fell End caravan Park, Hale	Siting of four 2-storey modular holiday let lodges.	Grant with conditions
SL/2022/1065	Rollen Lodge, Carr Bank Rd	Variation of condition 2 re SL/2020/0896	Withdrawn
SL/2022/1070	Old Pumphouse, Farleton	Variation of condition 2 re SL/2016/1136	Grant 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 – FEBRUARY 2023	MEETING – 6 March 2023	
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Premium a/c
£	£	£			
01/02/23	Opening balance			4,225.18	19,357.94
28/02/23	Receipts	Ground rents Feb -	B-Jones	8.34	
			- Ryan	20.00	
				28.34	
		SLDC grant (via Cllr Rupert Audland)		500.00	
		Insurance payout			
		re Storth Br wall repair		1,180.00	
	Payments				
780	1436	Storth Village Hall – storage rent 2022/23		25.00	
781	1437	Athena – payroll admin 2022/23		200.00	
782	1438	Scargill – Clerk’s sal Feb (net)		613.73	
783	1435	HMRC – PAYE Feb		154.66	
				-993.39	
28/02/23	Closing balances			4,940.13	19,357.94
28/02/23	Total funds all accounts			£ 24,298.07	
Breakdown of Total Funds at 28/02/23					
		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		13,248.07	
		Total funds		24,298.07	

Resolved – that the above payments be APPROVED.

Other financial matters:

- i. BPC mandate variation (deleting K Blenkharn) **agreed** and signed by Cllrs Meakin & Knowles
- ii. BPC’s annual grants 2022/23 – already awarded – £60 to British Legion (Rem. Day wreaths) & £60 for Beetham Christmas tree 2022. No other grant applications. **Agreed** no further grants to be made for 2022/23, other than the annual £700 to AONB, in view of the high cost of highway lighting 2023/24 and its consequence for BPC’s precept requirement.

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 – old encampment remains found in Yans Lane woods – cleared by Storth residents.

14.0 General correspondence – none.

15.0 Reading Matter received – Keer to Kent AONB magazine.

16.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (April 2023) and additional to items referred to above – Storth Playing Field plinth & BPC Code of Conduct ruling by SLDC.

17.0 Date of next meeting - Annual Assembly 8pm Thurs 16 Mar 2023 at Heron Theatre, Beetham.
- monthly BPC meeting, 7pm Mon 3 April 2023 at Storth Village Church.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.