

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of Annual Meeting of Beetham Parish Council held on Monday 14th May 2015 at Beetham School at 7.00pm.

Present were Cllrs Ken Blenkharn, David Clark, Pru Jupe, Chris Noble and Ian Stewart. Also Parish Clerk John Scargill, a B4YS Hyperfast representative and two electors.

All members present signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the appropriate Declaration of Financial Interests form.

1.0 Election of Chair of Beetham Parish Council for the year 2015/16.

Having been previously agreed with all members -

Resolved - that Cllr Brian Meakin be elected Chair of Beetham Parish Council for the year 2015/16.

2.0 In the unavoidable absence of Cllr Meakin, the signing of his Declaration of Acceptance of Office was left until the first available opportunity following this meeting..

3.0 Appointment of Vice-Chair of Beetham Parish Council for the year 2015/16.

Resolved - that Cllr Pru Jupe be elected Vice-Chair of Beetham Parish Council for the year 2015/16. In the absence of Cllr Meakin, Cllr Jupe took the chair for the remainder of the meeting

4.0 Apologies for absence - Cllr Brian Meakin (holiday), Cllr Bob Pickup (prior engagement), Cllr Steve Yates (prior engagement), Parish Steward Bill Haddow and Cumbria Police.

5.0 Announcements by the Chair - Cllr Jupe congratulated Cllr Stewart on his re-election to SLDC as representative for Arnside and Beetham.

6.0 Appointment of representatives on Outside Bodies.

Resolved - that councillors be appointed to represent the council on outside bodies for the year 2015/16 as follows, subject to the agreement of absent appointees:

- Beetham Exhibition Trust Jessica Harvey (although not a BPC member)
- Lancaster Canal Trust Ken Blenkharn, Pru Jupe
- AONB Executive Brian Meakin, Pru Jupe
- CALC South Lakeland Com. Ken Blenkharn, Ian Stewart
- Beetham School Governors Steve Yates
- Storth School Governors Jessica Harvey (although not a BPC member)
- Quarry Liaison Committee David Clark
- Burton-in-Kendal Educ. Fdn. Steve Yates
- Local Area Partnership to be decided at a later date.

7.0 Appointment of committees, sub-committees etc.

Resolved - that councillors be re-appointed to serve as follows, subject to the agreement of absent appointees:

- East Ward Planning Ken Blenkharn, David Clark, Pru Jupe, Steve Yates
- West Ward Planning Brian Meakin, Chris Noble, Bob Pickup, Ian Stewart
- Parish Newsletter Brian Meakin (editor), the Clerk (correspondent)
- Parish Council website Brian Meakin
- Parish Land Wkg. Grp. David Clark, Brian Meakin, Bob Pickup, Steve Yates
- Finance WorkingGroup Brian Meakin, Pru Jupe, Steve Yates

8.0 Annual Subscriptions.

Resolved - that the following subscriptions be approved:

- CALC for 2015/16 (£282)
- Lancaster Canal Trust for year to 31/12/2015 (last paid £14 for the year 2014).

9.0 Inspection of Deeds.

Title deeds to the following properties were presented to the meeting:

- Land at Slackhead, Beetham to the rear of Rock Cottage (known as Plot 4).
- Land at Sandside, known as Sandside Cutting (title number CU107948)
- Land at WWPS Sandside (sub-station) - counterpart lease.

No other property and no investments.

This concluded the business of the annual meeting and was followed by a Planning Committee meeting for East Ward. A normal monthly meeting of the Parish Council then commenced, at approximately 07.30pm, as follows:

10.0 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 13th April 2015, had been circulated by email. These were **APPROVED** by the meeting as a correct record and signed by Cllr Jupe, who chaired that meeting.

11.0 Declaration of Interest by members in respect of items on this agenda - none.

12.0 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 7th April 2014:

12.1 Highway flooding - Leighton Beck Road (5.1) - no further progress, ongoing.

12.2 Burntbarrow/Shaw Green handrail (5.3) - awaiting quote from contractor, ongoing.

12.3 Broadband progress - the B4YS representative reported good progress in the nearby parish of Yealand, with the involvement of enthusiastic volunteers from the local community. Further extension of the system could involve digging on the highway to provide manhole access points to the cables. Cllr Stewart warned that the necessary permissions should be obtained before such work began and that the laying of cables on parish land should be covered by a formal legal agreement. **Agreed** - that BPC should be kept informed of all further progress in developing the new system and that this item should be included on the agenda for the next BPC meeting.

12.4 Jubilee Garden (9.2) - the promised £500 funding had now been received and planting had begun. Permission to plant hedging being sought from the paper mill.

12.5 Beetham parish sign survey (9.2) - no apparent progress and no report in the absence of the Parish Steward. It was hoped that the paper mill would make a financial contribution to the cost of sign rationalisation along Beetham's stretch of the A6. There was also an issue with new signage at Carr Bank Nurseries.

12.6 Pheasants nuisance (11) - Dallam had been informed and had pointed out that it was only one of several organisation involved with game birds, but suggested that future individual complaints be passed direct to them for response.

12.7 Parish elections 2015 (14) - Beetham was now one member short of the nine needed, so an additional member would have to be co-opted. SLDC had given clearance for this process to begin - Clerk to implement.

13.0 Public Participation:

13.1 Police Report - had been received and circulated to members on the day of the meeting. Two attempted break-ins in Storth since last meeting. Twelve crimes reported in the past twelve months. Rural acquisitive crime continued to be prevalent in the wider area, with thieves targeting both secured and unsecured out-buildings. Several recent reports of unauthorised doorstep cold callers.

13.2 County Council Matters (Cllr Stewart) – a recent Ofsted report had revealed ‘inadequacies’ in some schools, which was being addressed. Budget tightening meant that the local amenity grants, from which Beetham parish had benefitted in the past, would be coming to an end.

Other grants and services were also in line for cuts. Cllr Jupe had been impressed by the speed with which a dangerous flagstone near the Heron Theatre had been dealt with by Highways.

13.3 District Council Matters (Cllr Jupe) – SLDC now busy with allocating responsibilities to its newly-elected members.

13.4 Any other matters raised by electors – the recent increase litter in Storth village was a concern, although it was also a problem elsewhere in the parish, such as along the A6. Residents picking up the litter would help in the short term but not deal with the source of the problem. Notices in Storth Post Office and the school might be useful, especially if the school head were to draw attention to these. The Clerk had received a complaint from a Hale resident that two parish council-owned street lamps on Back Lane had been removed. This had been done by ElectricityNW under their new policy of disallowing other services to use their poles. CCC had previously inspected the site and concluded that, for logistical/technical reasons, replacement self-standing lamps could not be sited there. A further pole in Storth Road was now under imminent threat. Additionally, the likely cost of new self-standing poles was considerably more than previously thought (and budgeted by BPC), due to the exhaustion of an ENW subsidy for this purpose.

14.0 Planning Matters.

7.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:

May 2015 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

Type B applications – SLDC deadline falls after next PC meeting – members to discuss at mtg.

SL/2015/0384	Cautley Farm, Whassett	Bowness	Livestock building	18/05/15	No objections
SL/2015/0434	Rose Villa, Hale	Christou	Single-storey extension	29/05/15	No objections

7.2 Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decision

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

7.3 Minutes of Planning Committee meetings – as above.

7.4 Related matters & correspondence: SL/2015/0009 – conversion of barns at Cautley Farm into 3 dwellings – also in pipeline (for Dallam as land-owner).

15.0 Financial Matters.

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT			MONTH – APL 2015	MEETING – 18 th May 2015		
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail		Current a/c £	HIBA £
01/04/15	Opening balances				5,141.48	19,224.94
30/04/15	Receipts:					
	702	SLDC	Precept 2015/16	19,703.70		
		“	CT Grant “	660.95		
					20,364.65	
30/04/15	Payments:					
“	336	983 Hartley	Internal Audit hon 2014/15	50.00		
	337	984 CALC	Annual subscription 2015/16	282.00		
	338	985 SLDC	Refund – precept o’payment	2,376.70		
	339	986 Scargill	Clerk’ sal Apl ’15 (net)	380.58		
			Postage & stationery	23.96		
			VAT	2.39		
				406.93		
	340	987 Patrick	Replacement for chq 923	100.00		
“	Total payments in month				-3,215.63	
30/04/15	Closing balances				22,290.50	19,224.94
30/04/15	Total funds all accounts				£41,515.44	
Reserve Funds at 30/04/15		Street lamp reserve		4,800.00		
		General Reserve		14,424.94		
		Total reserves		19,224.94		

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

15.2 Any other financial matters – none.

16.0 Parish Steward.

16.1 – report on current events – none, in absence of Parish Steward.

16.2 – additions to PS’s programme of work – to refurbish all parish council-owned seats as needed, in particular those at Storth war memorial and at Storth Road junction with the B5282.

16.3 – local highways amenity priorities – overgrown bushes along B5282 between Quarry Lane and Milnthorpe Bridge (subject to inspection by Cllr Stewart to establish ownership).

17.0 Reports from BPC representatives on outside bodies – none.

18.0 General parish matters:

Cllr Clark – finger post at Haverbrack needs attention - will email photograph to Clerk.

Cllr Stewart – the condition of the road surface of Storth Road generally was less than satisfactory.

19.0 Parish Land.

- **Dixies** – a quote had been received from Curtins in response to BPC’s request for a construction consultation, a necessary starting point for any development scheme. **Agreed** – that Curtins should be asked to undertake such site assessment to a maximum initial cost of £250. Clerk to implement via Frances Truscott.

- **Plot 4** – new tenancy agreements had been sent ‘recorded delivery’ to all tenants. In response, the tenants had requested a meeting with the Parish Council – **agreed**. Cllrs Meakin and Yates to represent the Parish Council in this matter. Clerk to organise.

- **Sandside Cutting** –no further developments.

20.0 Annual review of BPC Standing Orders – **Agreed** – no changes needed at the present time.

21.0 General Correspondence:

- 16/04/15 - Heron Theatre - donation request towards Restoration Fund (exterior woodwork).
- 06/05/15 - NuGen - notice of proposal to build a new nuclear power station north of Sellafield.
- 12/05/15 - Planning Inspectorate - notice of inquiry re Hale Marble Quarry ROW application at Storth Village Hall on 13/10/15. (Clerk to ask CCC if they are aware of any PI decision re the Burtbarrow Woods ROW inquiry).
- 13/05/15 - Dallam - wishing to erect a fence on Farleton Knott Common. (Clerk to identify precisely where the fence would be sited and which parish councils are involved).

22.0 Reading Matter:

- Clerks & Councils Direct - May 2015 - Issue 99
- Lancaster Canal Trust - Waterwitch - spring/summer 2015 - Number 154

25.0 Items to be included on agenda of BPC's June meeting:

- items as mentioned to above, to include:
- Beetham PC representation at Hale Marble Quarry Public Inquiry, 13 Oct. 2015.
- B4YS hyperfast broadband - local developments.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm