

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 4th December 2017 at Storth Village Church.

Present were - Cllrs Steve Yates (Chair), Margaret Knowles, Bob Pickup and Ian Stewart. Two members of the public throughout plus Mr C Christou and Mrs Wendy Nicholas (Beetham School head) for item 8.2.

1.0 Apologies for absence - Cllrs Meakin (holiday), Blekharn (unwell), Clark, Jupe (work) and Noble (family commitment). Also D Cllr P McSweeney and Parish Steward Bill Haddow.

2.0 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6th November 2017, had been circulated by email, were **APPROVED** by the meeting as a correct record and signed by Cllr Yates.

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

4.0 Announcements by the Chair - members present congratulated John Scargill on his completion of ten years' service as Beetham PC Parish Clerk.

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes 6th November 2017 and not included elsewhere on the agenda.

5.1 Village map boards (5.1) - all outstanding matters now thought to have been resolved, including approval of content by Dallam. Some finishing touches to add before passing to printers.

5.2 Slackhead signpost (5.2) - now complete and in place. Cllr Pickup, the Landscape Trust, the signwriter Chris Merkel and everyone else involved thanked for achieving an excellent result.

5.3 A6 signage for paper mill and corn mill (5.3) - no further progress - ongoing.

5.4 Beetham ghost footpath (5.4) - all road marking confirmed as now in place. No further progress in securing co-operation of all nearby residents.

5.5 Donation for replacement seat (5.5) - the donor had now indicated a preference for a completely new seat at Four Lane Ends in place of the old. Agreed. Clerk to order.

5.6 'Smiley'-type speed indicator sign (5.6) - Cllr Meakin had attended the presentation by Endmoor PC members (at Milnthorpe PC meeting on 13 November) and circulated his conclusions to all BPC members. He was known to be generally in favour of BPC acquiring its own 'smiley'-type SID, including the optional statistical software and taking advantage of, but not dependent on, any grants that might be available (Clerk and Cllr Stewart researching). **Agreed**, after all, not to approach Tarmac or Beetham Nurseries about this. General agreement from members present that BPC acquire the equipment but no instruction at this meeting for the Clerk to proceed to order. Decision on next step to await return of Cllr Meakin from holiday (on 17 December).

5.7 Replacement of Carr Bank bus shelter (5.7) - the Clerk now had all documentary evidence required by BPC's insurers which would be passed to them for dealing with the third party's insurers. It had not been possible to obtain a quote for a more substantial masonry-built shelter and a like-for-like-sized prefabricated model (from Queensbury) was favoured. Clerk to progress with urgency in view of present trip hazard at cleared site.

5.8 Measures to deal with flooding at The Ship Inn, Sandside (5.8) - the proposed work by Highways had now been completed but recent and sudden heavy rain (on 22 Nov) had shown the area still to be vulnerable in these conditions.

5.9 Four Lane Ends, Storth signpost (5.9) - **agreed** - that BPC proceed to carry out the necessary improvements to the signpost (Cllr Pickup and the Parish Steward).

- 5.10 Beetham defibrillator (7.2)** – a wall in Church Street, next to the shop but part of the Wheatsheaf property, seemed to offer a good potential site. Cllr Yates to speak to the new owners of the Wheatsheaf about this. Other equipment, to be sited at the school, would also be useful for incidents on the A6 - and for Hale residents until their own unit could be acquired in the longer term (possibly to be sited at the Kings Arms).
- 5.11 WW1 end commemoration (7.3)** – the Clerk reported that his approach had resulted in a swift and favourable response from Beetham School. Responses awaited from Storth & Wings schools. Clerk to forward his contact email to Cllr Stewart.
- 5.12 Issues raised by Cllr Pickup (12)** – concerns about traffic speed, pedestrian safety and safety generally on the B5282 and Carr Bank Road - CCC Crash Team to examine in 2018. Continued flooding at the rear of Nuns Avenue and Carr Bank Road, related to a blocked/collapsed culvert.

6.0 Public Participation.

6.1 Police Report – no report received from Cumbria Police.

6.2 County Council matters – CCC part of Council Tax bills set to rise for 2018/19. Cllr Stewart had given evidence to a House of Lords committee and to Natural England on the proposed route of the coastal path in the Lower Kent area (see November meeting minutes, item 7.4, re use of railway viaduct). He supported challenging this in favour of a continuing land-based path around the upper parts of the estuary.

6.3 District Council matters – none in the absence of D Cllr McSweeney.

6.4 Matters raised by members of the public – flooding in the fields to the rear (west) of The Mains, Stanley Street, Beetham, after heavy rain, resulting in surface water flow into Stanley Street and, ultimately, onto the A6. Similar flooding had occurred during Storm Desmond (2015) but had not been reported – so no local authority action. Relevant photographs were passed to Cllr Stewart, in the hope that CCC action could be taken to resolve this problem for the future. Clerk to notify Dallam (as landowner) of this problem. Additionally, a letter from a Slackhead resident reported flowing surface water in Leighton Beck Road as it dropped down from Slackhead to Beetham Village (as recorded in previous minutes over a long period of time) and currently resulting from the same recent heavy rain. This was now in danger of freezing, so creating further risk, and an extra grit bin was requested to help deal with this. Cllr Yates to discuss this, and other points made, with the resident concerned – then report back.

7.0 New matters for consideration.

7.1 Damaged wall at Rose Hill Grove, Storth – a two metre stretch of BPC-owned wall between Rose Hill Grove and Sandside Cutting had been damaged by a commercial vehicle on Friday 24 November, resulting in a danger from loose stones to members of the public who might be walking in the cutting. A representative from the vehicle's owners, who had met the Clerk, Cllr Noble and an independent witness at the site on 28 November to inspect, had requested quotes for repairing the wall. The Clerk was to meet a local waller on site on 5 December to discuss.

8.0 Planning Matters.

8.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:

Dec 2017 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/2017/0787	Heron Corn Mill	Steeley	Shed for equipment storage	18/12/17	No objections
SL/2017/1054	Field adjacent to The Mains, Beetham	Christou	Change of use – from agri. land to school sports field	18/12/17	No objections – strong support

8.2 Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decision

SL/2017/0821	Primrose Bank Barn, Hale	Hollister	Single-storey extensions to side and rear	Approved with conditions
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(More planning information available on SLDC website – southlakeland.gov.uk)

8.3 Minutes of Planning Committee meetings – as above.

8.4 Related matters & correspondence – Planning application SL/2017/1054 - Mr C Christou and Mrs Wendy Nicholas explained the background to this application and answered members' questions. Mr Christou had recently purchased the whole field and planned to divide it into two roughly equal parts, higher and lower. The purpose was to offer the lower part, nearest Stanley Street, at cost to the diocese for use as a playing/sports field for Beetham School. The upper part was to be fenced off but with its own access points, to safeguard its safety from development and for occasional use by the school. Mr Christou requested BPC's support for this proposal and his change-of-use application – which was given. Mrs Nicholas, Beetham School Head, supported the proposal as providing much-needed extra ground for the increasing number of children attending her school and envisaged the possibility of the field's use, in the long term, for additional school-related facilities. The possibility of incorporating, again long-term, a pedestrian/cycle path from the top to the bottom of the whole field and for use by all village residents was suggested and welcomed by all present as an excellent way of minimising the dangers to users of Leighton Beck Road as the difficult, and currently only, access route between Slackhead and the village centre. **Agreed** – that BPC write to SLDC Planning Dept in support of Mr Christou's applications as meeting the present needs and future ambitions of Beetham School (next BPC agenda item).

9. Financial Matters.

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT			MONTH – NOVEMBER 2017		MEETING – 4 Dec, 2017	
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c £	£	HIBA £
01/11/17	Opening balances				18,142.35	19,241.92
30/11/17	Receipts;					
			Ground rents - B-Jones	12.50		
			- Ryan	20.00		
					32.50	
30/11/17	Payments:					
	469 1120	GHS	Grasscutting etc	420.00		
	470 1121	Scargill	Clerk's sal. Nov. (net)	413.64		
			Expense allces 6mths	412.00		
			Post/stationery	24.75		
			VAT	4.04		
				854.43		
	Total payments in month				-1,274.43	
30/11/17	Closing balances				16,900.42	19,241.92
30/11/17	Total funds all accounts				£36,142.34	
	Reserve Funds at 30/11/17					
			Street lamp reserve	9,600.00		
			General Reserve	9,641.92		
			Total reserves	19,241.92		

Resolved – that the above payments be **APPROVED**, for cheques to be signed at a later date by authorised BPC signatories.

9.2 Other financial matters:

- **BPC's 8 months accounts to 30/11/17** – circulated in advance to all members – **approved** by the meeting.
- **BPC audit arrangements for 2017/18** – PKF Littlejohn LLP nominated as external auditors.
- **Clerk's annual review for 2016/17**– delegated to Cllr Jupe in her absence.

10.0 Parish Steward:

10.1 Update on current events - A6 bridge crash barrier at Beetham - large stones still remained in grass verge behind barrier, creating damage hazard for mowing machinery, so no grass able to be cut in this area - Clerk to email Cllr Stewart with reminder.

10.2 Further additions to work programme - regular clearance of overgrown vegetation around parish notice boards. With Cllr Pickup, to increase the height of the Four Lane Ends sign post (5.9).

11.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies - none.

12.0 Parish Matters (for information only):

Cllr Pickup - covered in 5.12 above.

13.0 Parish Land:

13.1 - Land at Dixies -Cllr Pickup had recently tidied the area.

13.2 - Sandside Cutting - Cllr Pickup and the Parish Steward working together on the seasonal felling programme. Shredder to be employed as required. Flooding near The Ship Inn had impeded access and interrupted progress with the felling programme. Lengths of BPC-owned boundary wall unsafe (especially Friar Cote Bridge to Green Lane) and in need of attention.

13.3 - Plot 4 - subject to approval by Cllr Jupe, legal formalities now complete for the agreed variation of conditions for Rock Cottage.

14.0 General Correspondence:

- 08/11/17 - CALC - 2018/19 Council Tax survey re Cumbria Police costs.

- 23/11/17 - Beresford-Jones - re flood waters entering his property (6 Leighton Beck Rd) - referred to CCC via Cllr Stewart.

15.0 Reading Matter - none.

16.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (January 2018) and additional to items referred to above - none.

17.0 Date of next meeting: - Monday 8 January 2018 at Beetham School.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.