

# ***BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL***

**MINUTES** of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at Storth Village Church.

**Present were** - Cllrs Pru Jupe (Chair), Ken Blenkharn, Chris Noble, Bob Pickup, Ian Stewart and Steve Yates. Also Parish Clerk John Scargill and one member of the public.

**1.0 Apologies for absence** - Cllr Brian Meakin (holiday) and Parish Steward Bill Haddow.

**2.0 The minutes of the previous meeting**, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015, had been circulated by email. These were **APPROVED** by the meeting as a correct record and signed by Cllr Jupe.

**3.0 Declarations of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** - Cllrs Noble and Pickup in respect of any discussions under agenda item 7.1 with regard to Nuns Avenue, Carr Bank.

**4.0 Announcements by the Chair** - none.

**5.0 Matters arising from the minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:**

**5.1 Highways flooding (Leighton Beck Road and B6384 at Whassett (5.1))** - ongoing consideration by Highways in the context of flooding issues generally.

**5.2 Beetham parish sign survey (5.4)** - the Parish Steward had completed his initial study and would present his final report to the next (January 2016) meeting. The product 'silit bang' was recommended as a highly effective cleaning agent.

**5.3 BPC member co-option (5.5)** - Mrs Knowles had confirmed her wish to serve as a co-opted member and apologised for being unable to attend this meeting due to a prior commitment. Appointment formalities to be completed at the January 2016 meeting.

**5.4 Mill Lane, Beetham (5.3)** - Dallam's response to Cllr Meakin's second letter awaited.

**5.5 SID pole arrangements (12)** - Highways had confirmed that the pole would be erected in the New Year and well before the loaned SID was due for use in the parish. Clerk authorised to sign the Private Works Agreement on behalf of BPC - cost of works £300. A grant of £120 had already been received towards this cost. Highways' recommended pole location to be on the B5282, between Guard Hill Lane and Friar Cote Bridge.

**5.6 Defibrillators for phone boxes (14)** - more information now to hand. **Agreed** - as a next step, to establish where in the parish any existing defibrillators were located, by reference to local First Responders. Clerk to implement.

**6.0 Public Participation.**

**6.1 Police Report** - none received.

**6.2 County Council matters (Cllr Stewart)** - preliminary discussions on devolution options. Local government settlement awaited from Westminster before finalising 2015/16 budget, but further substantial savings would be required. A significant increase in Council Tax was inevitable. The county was struggling with existing drainage problems, exacerbated by current heavy and unprecedented rains. This problem needed to be tackled as a priority, even if it meant diverting funds from elsewhere. The planned closure of Arnside Fire Station was causing great concern among local residents; a recent public meeting had been well-attended with many questions raised - consultation ongoing.

**6.3 District Council matters** (Cllr Jupe) – general DC activities running well and under effective financial control. Currently dealing with the consequences of extensive flooding, due to the heavy rains. Widespread demand for sandbags as temporary protection. Central government policy of selling off social housing units would increase the problem of a lack of affordable housing to rent unless this problem could be effectively tackled in its own right.

**6.4 Matters raised by members of the public** – severe consequences of flooding at several locations in the parish. Concern about Dallam’s proposal to site a new car-park at Parsonage Fold, Beetham (see item 8.4 below).

**7.0 New matters for consideration.**

**7.1 AONB’s 2015 DPD Issues & Options paper** – Cllr Yates to finalise the BPC response and submit to SLDC before 18 December 2015. Noted that SLDC had funds available for locally important projects, such as a children’s play area in Beetham village.

**7.2 BPC insurance renewal – agreed** - to renew cover with Zurich on a three-year (2015-18) long term agreement basis at an annual cost of £326.82.

**8. Planning Matters.**

**8.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:**

**Dec 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
SL/2015/0979	The Mains, 3 Stanley Street, Beetham	Ratcliffe	Single-storey rear ext’n	30/11/15	No objections
SL/2015/0997	Kudos, Elmsfield Park	Phillips	Erection of outdoor racking	04/12/15	No objections
SL/2015/1031	Storth Playing Fld	Evans	Erection of zip-wire	07/12/15	No objections in principle, but reconsider precise location

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

SL/2015/0935	Land at Parsonage Farm, Beetham	Dallam	Creation of car-park area	09/12/15	Numerous concerns
SL/2015/1016	Rose Villa, Hale	Christou	Two-storey extension and detached garage/workshop	09/12/15	No objections
SL/2015/1018	White Cottage, Back Lane, Hale	Lingard	Two-storey extension	16/12/15	No objections
SL/2015/1040	The Pines, Green Lane, Sandside	Turner	Rear extension	17/12/15	No objections

**8.2 Decisions received from SLDC**

**SLDC decision**

SL/2015/0740	Hall More Caravan Park, Hale	Morphet	Change of use – from touring to static caravans	Approved with conditions
SL/2015/0826	Townend Farm, Farleton	Johnson	Internal alterations to listed building	Approved with conditions
SL/2015/0420	Dukes Bridge Barn, Farleton	Robins	Change of use – redundant barn to dwelling	Refused

(More planning information available on SLDC website – [southlakeland.gov.uk](http://southlakeland.gov.uk))

**8.3 Minutes of Planning Committee meetings – (as above)**

**8.4 Related matters & correspondence:** objections by local residents to SL/2015/0935

## 9. Financial Matters:

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT		MONTH – NOVEMBER 2015		MEETING – 7 <sup>th</sup> December, 2015	
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	HIBA
				£	£
01/11/15	Opening balances			10,233.98	19,229.92
30/11/15	Receipts			-	-
30/11/15	Payments:				
	367	1015	A2A	Web hosting fee yr	65.00
				VAT	13.00
					78.00
	368	1016	R Br Leg	Donation	60.00
	369	1017	Scargill	Clerk's sal Nov. (net)	380.58
				6mths allces - Car	250.00
				- Comp.	75.00
				- Phone	20.00
					725.58
	370	1018	Zurich	Ins prem 2015/16	326.82
	“		Total payments in month		-1,190.40
30/11/15	Closing balances			9,043.58	19,229.92
30/11/15	Total funds all accounts				£28,273.50
	<b>Reserve Funds at 30/11/15</b>		Street lamp reserve	4,800.00	
			General Reserve	14,429.92	
			Total reserves	19,229.92	

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

### 9.2 Other financial matters:

- The Clerk reported future imposed changes to current audit arrangements, effective as from 2017/18, requiring the appointment of external auditors by individual local councils with annual expenditure totalling less than £25,000 (as in the case of BPC). CALC recommended that all relevant local councils opt in to a Sector Led Body set up by NALC specifically to manage the procurement of auditors on behalf of these local councils and at minimum cost. Opting in would be assumed by NALC/CALC unless a parish council resolved otherwise.

**Agreed** – that Beetham Parish Council **opt in** to the Sector Led Body.

### 10.0 Parish Steward:

**10.1 PS's update on current events** – the Clerk had obtained hire costs from MJ Robinson Digger Hire. Robinson would make contact when he was next in the area to see if his services were needed. There were now several items on the Clerk's list of locations needing attention. CCC Highways had approved further changes to the location of the three planters at the northern entrance to Beetham village. **Agreed** – that the Clerk sign Highways' formal agreement for this on behalf of BPC.

**10.2 Additions to PS's work programme** – no further items.

**11.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies** – Cllr Pickup had attended a CALC meeting.

### 12.0 Parish Matters (for information only):

- **Cllr Pickup** – welcomed BPC's interest in the provision of defibrillators but shared the disquiet of many local residents at the threat to open spaces by acquisitive land owners.

### 13.0 Parish Land:

**13.1 - Land at Dixies** - this project now on hold in view of the emergence of the owner of the site and Dallam's interest in acquiring it. Fran Truscott had successfully negotiated a credit note from Curtins, cancelling their invoice for £250.26.

**13.2 - Plot 4** - no further developments due to the unavailability of representatives of both landlord (BPC) and tenants. Some written responses from tenants received earlier. Now urgent to bring this matter to a conclusion. Cllr Meakin, Cllr Yates and the Clerk asked to organise one further meeting with tenants in January 2016 and given authority to negotiate any new variation of tenancy terms, subject to final formal approval by the full council at its Feb. 2016 meeting.

**13.3- Sandside Cutting** - on the basis of earlier arrangements (BPC meeting 2 No. 2015, min 13.3) Cllr Pickup to organise this work with a view to completing all required felling as far as possible within the current felling season. An offer of assistance had been received from Silverdale Woodbank Ltd. Clerk to thank this organisation for their offer and explain that arrangements already made for present needs, but hold in reserve for possible future use. Flooding in the cutting (near the Ship) had re-emerged as a problem due to recent heavy rains.

#### **14.0 General Correspondence :**

2 Nov 2015 - Osborne family response to Clerk's letter of 26 Oct. re hedge

6 Nov 2015 - Heron Theatre thanks for recent BPC grant & response to parking questions.

28 Nov 2015 - Storth Village Hall requesting funding for a new village newsletter.

#### **15.0 Reading Matter:**

Lancaster Canal Trust - Waterwitch - issue 155 - autumn 2015.

**16.0 Items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting (January 2016)** - BPC budget/precept 2016/17 - submission deadline 31 Jan. (Finance Group meeting to be arranged ASAP after year-end). Otherwise nothing additional to those items mentioned above.

**17.0 Date of next meeting** - Monday 4 January 2016 at Beetham School at 7.00pm - to be preceded at 6.45pm by any planning meetings (as notified).

**The meeting closed at 8.52pm.**