

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 4th January 2016 at Beetham School.

Present were - Cllrs Brian Meakin (Chair), Ken Blenkarn, David Clark, Pru Jupe, Margaret Knowles, Bob Pickup, Ian Stewart and Steve Yates. Also Parish Clerk John Scargill and three members of the public.

1.0 Apologies for absence - Cllr Chris Noble and Parish Steward Bill Haddow.

2.0 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 7th December 2015, had been circulated by email. These were **APPROVED** by the meeting as a correct record and signed by Cllr Jupe who had chaired the meeting.

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

4.0 Announcements by the Chair - Cllr Meakin welcomed Mrs Margaret Knowles to her first meeting as a co-opted member of Beetham Parish Council, having been appointed informally at the December 2015 meeting. Cllr Knowles then signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office with other formalities to be completed after the meeting.

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes 7th December 2015 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:

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

5.2 Beetham parish sign survey (5.2) - the Parish Steward had now completed the survey. Cllrs Meakin and Yates agreed to prioritise items on the list before its submission to CCC Highways via Cllr Stewart. Clerk to provide copies of the list for this purpose.

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

5.4 Defibrillators for phone boxes (5.4) - Clerk had so far been unable to establish contact with parish First Responders for the purpose of ascertaining the location of existing defibrillators. Members provided some possible contact names for Clerk to pursue.

5.5 AONB DPD (7.1) - the BPC response had been completed and submitted to SLDC within the required deadline. Thanks to Cllrs Meakin and Yates for their work on this.

5.6 Beetham planters (10) - Cllrs Meakin and Jupe signed the agreement with CCC formalising CCC's permission to locate the planters at the agreed new sites.

6.0 Public Participation.

6.1 Police Report - none received.

6.2 County Council matters (Cllr Stewart) - the recent flooding damage throughout the county resulting from Storm Desmond had dominated CCC's attention and activity over the last month, to the virtual exclusion of all other matters. Whilst public safety had been the first consideration, general repercussions for CCC would be lengthy and expensive. Personal visits had been made to affected areas in the parish to assess damage and advise on available funding for compensation.

6.3 District Council matters (Cllr Jupe) – echoed the comments by Cllr Stewart. Although the parish as a whole had escaped relatively lightly, severe flood damage had been experienced at Parsonage Fold in Beetham village and at Hang Bridge, Whassett. Again personal visits had been made to affected areas. The community response had been exceptional.

6.4 Matters raised by members of the public – concerns continued about the lack of action re pedestrian safety in Mill Lane, Beetham, and the likely effects of the proposal for second car park. One of the Parsonage Fold residents was keeping a log of Mill Lane traffic activity, which members felt would be useful for achieving a positive result on these issues.

7.0 New matters for consideration.

7.1 Storm Desmond – as recorded above, houses had been badly affected in localised areas, plus roads damaged and rendered temporarily impassable. Some mobile phone masts had been disturbed.

7.2 Irresponsible car parking outside schools – parishes in Cumbria had been invited to join a campaign by Morecambe Town Council to deal with this issue. Members agreed that there was a problem, albeit for a short time span on school days, but felt that the best way forward would be to draw this to the attention of the two schools in the parish. Clerk to implement by forwarding Morecambe TC invitation to the schools concerned.

7.3 Small plots of land in Beetham parish – serious concerns had been conveyed to Cllr Pickup by some parish residents about a number of small plots of parish land for which a local landowner was applying for ownership registration with the Land Registry. These plots were widely assumed to be owned by Beetham Parish Council and there was disquiet that the Parish Council was not itself registering ownership. It was explained that, in recent years, the Parish Council had considered doing this on two separate occasions but had concluded that there was insufficient evidence to satisfy Land Registry requirements and justify the likely costs involved. After full and frank discussion it was agreed that, if the residents concerned were able to produce sufficient new and relevant evidence of Parish Council ownership, the matter would be looked at again.

8. Planning Matters.

8.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:

Jan 2016 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.

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8.2 Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decision

SL/2015/0997	Kudos, Elmsfield B Park	Phillips	Erection of outdoor racking	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: none, other than comments on the delay in obtaining the planning inspector’s decision on the Fishwick’s crematorium proposal for Beetham Hall.

9. Financial Matters:

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT				MONTH – DECEMBER 2015		MEETING – 4 th January, 2016	
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c		HIBA	
				£	£	£	
01/12/15	Opening balances				9,043.58	19,229.92	
31/12/15	Receipts -	Barclays	Bank interest to 6 Dec.			2.40	
	704	Elec NW	Wayleaves		81.89		
31/12/15	Payments:						
	371 1019	GHS	Sign survey	145.00			
	372 1020	Scargill	Clerk's sal Dec. (net)	392.66			
			Postage & Stat'y	9.62			
			VAT	.86			
	373 1021	HMRC	PAYE remit. Dec qtr	403.14			
				288.00			
	“	Total payments in month			-836.14		
31/12/15	Closing balances				8,289.33	19,232.32	
31/12/15	Total funds all accounts				£27,521.65		
	Reserve Funds at 31/12/15						
		Street lamp reserve		4,800.00			
		General Reserve		14,432.32			
		Total reserves		19,232.32			

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

9.2 Other financial matters:

- Budget/Precept 2016/17 – draft figures were circulated at the meeting. These had been considered at a Finance Group meeting held immediately before the PC meeting and were recommended to members, subject to the inclusion of a further £500 income from Cllr Jupe's discretionary fund (from SLDC) and an equivalent expense on maintaining the Beetham Jubilee Garden. **Agreed unanimously.** Clerk to submit to SLDC before 31 January 2016 deadline.

- **Clerk's annual review** – had been conducted by Cllr Jupe on 27 December. Performance was considered to be well in line with the required standard and a recommendation for the customary annual regrading increase of one SCP point (to SCP 25) as from 1 December 2015 was **agreed.** The Clerk was thanked for his continued service to Beetham's parish council and community.

10.0 Parish Steward:

10.1 PS's update on current events – nothing to report in the PS's absence, other than the conclusion of the parish sign survey (see 5.2 above).

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

11.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies – none.

12.0 Parish Matters (for information only):

- **Cllr Meakin** – reported a large pothole at the junction of the B5282 and Storth Road.
- **Cllr Jupe** – reported a large pothole in Pool Darkin Lane and a recurrence of litter generally.
- **Cllr Pickup** – B5282 speeding traffic, missing grit bin at Carr Bank Road/Nuns Avenue junction, potholes and regular flooding in the same area, plus lack of maintenance of some footpaths leading to restricted access.
- **Cllr Clark** – Pye's Bridge Lane covered in slurry and flooded in parts.
- **Cllr Yates** – large pothole at the bottom of Leighton Beck Road.

13.0 Parish Land:

13.1 - Land at Dixies - nothing further to report.

13.2 - Plot 4 - the second meeting with tenants had been arranged for 29 January at the Wheatsheaf, Beetham. It was hoped that there would be a good attendance from tenants and that all outstanding issues could be satisfactorily dealt with. Clerk to summarise all written and emailed comments received from tenants and email this to Cllrs Meakin and Yates before the meeting.

13.3- Sandside Cutting - no progress. Cllr Pickup to expedite by contacting Parish Steward to agree action without further delay. The broken (BPC-owned) wall beside Crow's Nest, Green Lane to be inspected by a new walling contractor with a view to obtaining a quote for repair. The Morecambe Bay Partnership would be dealing with overgrown cotoneaster, for which BPC had earlier contributed £200 to its funding appeal.

14.0 General Correspondence - none.

15.0 Reading Matter - none.

16.0 Items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting (January 2016) - nothing additional to those items mentioned above.

17.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 1 February 2016 at Storth Village Church at 7.00pm - to be preceded at 6.45pm by any planning meetings (as notified).

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.