

# ***BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL***

**MINUTES** of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at Beetham School at 7.00pm.

**Present were** Cllrs Ken Blenkarn (chair), Brian Meakin, Chris Noble, Bob Pickup, Ian Stewart and Steve Yates. Also John Scargill (Parish Clerk). One member of the public up to agenda item 6.4.

**1.0 Apologies for absence** – Cllr Pru Jupe (ill), Cllr David Clerk, Parish Steward Bill Haddow and Cumbria Police.

**2.0 The minutes of the previous meeting**, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013, had been circulated by email. These were **APPROVED** by the meeting as a correct record and signed by Cllr Stewart in the absence of Cllr Jupe who chaired that meeting.

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

#### **4.0 Announcements by the Chair:**

- notice had been received that the Slackhead No Cold Calling Zone was to be re-launched following earlier requests. Launch date Tuesday 14 January 2014, 10.30am at Hillcrest Drive. Clerk to request a map of the precise extent of the area covered.

- formal notice had been received of the resignation of Cllr J A Harvey from Beetham Parish Council with effect from 31 December 2013 and the necessary notices of the resulting vacancy on the parish council had already been published. This also left vacancies on a number of BPC committees, for its representatives on outside bodies as well as the positions of Vice-chair of BPC and BPC payroll administrator.

**Agreed** - that filling the above committee vacancies be deferred until a new member had been appointed.

- Clerk to notify the vacancy to the outside bodies concerned and check with them on the number of BPC representatives required in each case.
- that Mrs Harvey be asked to continue to run the BPC payroll for a fee to be agreed.

#### **5.0 Matters arising from the minutes: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:**

**5.1 Bus-stop signs on A6 (5.2)** – no further progress.

**5.2 Hale Interpretation Panel (5.3)** – Cllr Yates and the Clerk had met with the two local residents most affected by the proposed location of the board, who had been happy with this location. Further discussion between residents had then questioned the suitability of this site and others had been proposed.

**Agreed** – that BPC should make the final decision on the location and residents be given a firm date when the board would be installed. Clerk to implement.

**5.3 Beetham Annual Assembly 2014 (5.4)** – Beetham Sports had informally agreed to take part. Clerk now to send out formal invitations to all organisations that had signalled agreement.

**5.4 Land beside the B5282 at Sandside (5.5)** – In principle, the idea of a bench and interpretation panel on the site was favoured. More might be possible with external funding. Now awaiting the result of a Land Registry search by BPC's solicitors.

**5.5 Street-lamps (6.2 & 13)** – Elec.NW's contractors had failed to observe the requisite six-month notice period and already replaced the Hale poles that were under threat – and re-attached BPC's lamps. ENW had now agreed to accept this as a fait accompli although lamps on all remaining ENW poles remained at risk – with the serious financial implications.

Clerk instructed to ask SLDC (cc Cllrs Jupe & Stewart) to repair two lamps in Back Lane, Hale.

**5.6 Mill Lane, Beetham (10)** – no developments. Clerk to follow up.

## 6.0 Public Participation.

**6.1 Police Report** – emailed report received and circulated minutes before the meeting. Few local incidents. Crime rates remain low in the area.

**6.2 County Council matters (Cllr Stewart)** – preparation the 2014/15 budget continued to be the priority and would soon conclude. Cutbacks would have an impact on some, particularly bus, services. Council Tax may have to rise. Public feedback urgently required.

**6.3 District Council matters (Cllr Stewart)** – LDF land allocations now complete. The AONB area plan would now go to the next stage; Clerk asked to contact Pete McSweeney (Arnside Parish Plan Trust) to establish how BPC could best become involved in this.

### 6.4 Matters raised by members of the public:

- two street-lamps in Back Lane, Hale, in need of repair (see 5.5 above).
- occasional coppicing of a site in Fell End Road, Hale. As a local resident, Michael Eden had willingly undertaken this work, and also general overgrowth clearance along Back Lane, without charge and as a community gesture over many years. Although the coppiced site was not parish council land, the parish council welcomed the contribution Mr Eden was making to the appearance and safety of the area. Subject to the approval of the owner of the land, believed to be Dallam, the parish council wished to make it clear Mr Eden had their full support to continue with this work. Clerk to send Mr Eden a letter of appreciation.

## 7.0 Planning Matters

### 7.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:

Jan. 2014 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/2013/1118	Farleton House, Farleton	Prickett	Replacement of general purpose agricultural bldg	01/01/14	No objections
SL/2013/1143	Barcaldine, Leighton Drive, Slackhead	Wright	Single dwelling	01/01/14	No objections
SL/2013/1150	Beetham Nurseries, Beetham	Williams	Oak-framed potting shed	06/01/14	No objections
SL/2013/1173	Creative Confec. Elmsfield Park I E	Wilson	Extension of permitted working hours.	07/01/14	No objections

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

SL/2013/1153	Bela House, Beetham	Rowlands	Single-storey side extens.	09/01/14	No objections
SL/2013/1160	Toulsdon, Keasdale Rd, Carr Bk	Burnett	Single-storey extension	09/01/14	Some comments re possible future change of uae.

### 7.2 Decisions received from SLDC

### SLDC decision

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

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

**7.4 Related matters & correspondence : none**

## 8.0 Financial Matters

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT				MONTH – DECEMBER 2013	MEETING – 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2014		
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c		HIBA	
				£	£	£	
01/12/13	Opening balances				164.24	21,409.81	
31/12/13	Receipts				-	-	
31/12/13	Tsfr to Cur a/c from HIBA				1,000.00	-1,000.00	
31/12/13	Payments:						
“	271 916	Lambert SH	Access rent		-28.98		
“	272 917	J Scargill	Clerk’s sal. Dec (net)	350.35			
			Car Allce (6mths)	250.00			
			Phone Allce (6mths)	20.00			
			Computer (12mths)	150.00			
			Postage & Stat’y	5.97			
			VAT	.65			
					-776.97		
“	273 918	HMRC	PAYE remit. Dec qutr		-262.20		
“	Total payments in month						
					-1,068.15		
31/12/13	Closing balances				96.09	20,409.81	
31/12/13	Total funds all accounts					£20,505.90	

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

### 8.2 Other financial matters:

- **Bank mandate** amendment procedure (Cllr Jupe for Cllr Harvey) almost completed.
- **Clerk’s annual appraisal** – completed on 27/12/13 by Cllr Jupe – satisfactory – **approval** of customary single grade annual increase from SCP22 to SCP 23, with effect from 01/12/13.
- **BPC 9mths 2013/14 accounts**- circulated in advance and **approved**.
- **BPC budget/precept 2014/15** – provisional figures circulated in advance and **approved**. Clerk to complete formal documentation for signature by appropriate BPC representatives and submission to SLDC before deadline 31/01/14. Need to give special attention and publicity to provision for financial consequences of street-lamp renewal – Clerk to prepare material for approval at next BPC meeting and publication mid-February.

### 9.0 Parish Steward:

9.1 PS update on current events – not present.

9.2 PS additions to work programme - drain clearance at roadside opposite Whassett Common.  
- ditto at bottom of Guard Hill Lane, Carr Bank.

10.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies - none.

11.0 **Local highways amenity work** – noted that work to improve the road surface on a limited stretch of the B5282 between Friar Core Bridge and Carr Ban Road had been budgeted by Highways for completion in the current financial year (ending 31/03/14) – but had not yet been started. Clerk to email Cllr Stewart for confirmation that this work would be done as planned..

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

**Cllr Noble** - potholes problem in Carr Bank Road worsened by recent flooding.

**Cllr Pickup** - rain water flowing down Nuns Avenue causing damage and nuisance. Temporary bollards in place of the damaged rails along the estuary side of the B5282 at the bottom of Storth Road now inadequate following recent storms. A wind-damaged tree in Sandside Cutting was endangering a BT overhead line. Carr Bank would benefit from the introduction of a No Cold Calling Zone.

**Cllr Stewart** - road surface repairs to Carr Bank Road, beyond The Homestead, were unsatisfactory and even dangerous for traffic accidentally straying off the highway.

**Cllr Yates** - undrained rainwater flowing across the surface of Leighton Beck Road, near the bends on the way up to Slackhead, would become lethal in freezing weather conditions and needed to be dealt with. This had been reported to Highways over a year ago, for taking up with the property owner, but nothing had been done. Clerk to email a reminder to Cllr Stewart.

**Cllr Blenkham** - one of the new street-lamps in Whassett was no longer lit (probably a failed bulb). Clerk to notify SLDC.

## **13.0 Parish Land:**

**Plot 4 - ground rents - agreed** that BPC's policy needed clarification and that written rent agreements should be introduced with effect from 01/04/14 - Clerk to consult BPC's solicitors. Rents in future to be reviewed at regular intervals, bearing in mind current market rates.

**Plot 4** - a helpful progress report had been received from the residents' group now managing the trees on this site, listing their work to date and planned. Clerk to reply with BPC's appreciation.

**Sandside Cutting - agreed** to accept Cameron Durie's offer to fell the trees marked by Roger Cartwright in exchange for the timber they provided. This would need to be done before the spring nesting season. Cllr Pickup would ensure that Martin Wain attended the next (February 2014) BPC meeting to explain and answer questions on the options re other tree-related matters.

**14.0 BPC Standing Orders** - CALC had advised ensuring that a parish council's Standing Orders provided for the official notice of meetings to be conveyed to members in email form - as had become normal practice in most councils, including Beetham. **Agreed** - Clerk to implement.

**15.0 General Correspondence** - none.

**16.0 Reading Matter** - none.

## **17.0 Items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting (February 2014).**

- Ownership of land opposite former Flippin' Fluke restaurant
- Issues regarding Mill Lane, Beetham
- Issues regarding ground rents for Plot 4
- Tree management in Sandside Cutting (to consider options and costs).
- Final arrangements/invitations for Annual Assembly 2014.
- Draft publicity material re 2014/15 precept (re street-lamps)

**18.0 Date of next meeting** - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 at 7.00pm at Storth Village Church, to be preceded at 6.45pm by any Planning Committee meetings (as notified).

**The meeting closed at 9.03pm.**

**Members of the public are welcome to attend throughout any meeting of the Parish Council but may speak only during the Public Participation item on the agenda to raise matters they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish, District or County Councils or Cumbria Police.**