

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 1st February 2016 at Storth Village Church.

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

1.0 Apologies for absence - Cllrs Blenkham (ill) & Clark and Parish Steward Bill Haddow.

2.0 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 4th January 2016, had been circulated by email. These were **APPROVED** by the meeting as a correct record and signed by Cllr Meakin.

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

4.0 Announcements by the Chair - none.

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes 4th January 2016 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. The proper solution to the problem would seem to involve digging up the highway (which was unlikely).

The use of United Utilities sewers to drain away excess water may be a possibility (but was unlikely to be approved by them).

5.2 Beetham parish sign survey (5.2) - Cllrs Meakin and Yates had completed the prioritisation of their list of work needed, which had been circulated to members. This was **approved**. Clerk to instruct Parish Steward to undertake cleaning work as soon as possible (CCC funding already received for 2015/16 and likely again for 2016/17). Replacement work could take longer, especially if Highways needed to be involved. Replacement cost could also be an issue with signs of historic significance.

5.3 Mill Lane, Beetham (5.4) - Cllr Meakin had now received a response from Dallam to his second letter, although this failed to address the issues and no progress had been made. Information received by the Clerk made it clear that opinion in the village was divided on whether a dedicated pathway was needed and/or desirable. Members agreed that no further action should be taken without a positive response from Dallam and a clear consensus of approval from residents.

5.4 Defibrillators for phone boxes (5.6) - The Clerk's enquiries had shown that West Ward was adequately covered by organised first responders with their own equipment. The clear need was for an equivalent service in East Ward, which had neither equipment nor organised first responders, although there was said to be a number of likely volunteers - Clerk to approach Jenny Marks about this. Subject to confirmation of volunteers who would be responsible for the defibrillator and agreement on a suitable location for the equipment (the only phone box being in Stanley Street), **agreed** that BPC should go ahead and purchase one defibrillator out of reserve funds and with a contribution from CCC via Cllr Stewart.

5.5 Small plots of parish land (7.3) - discussion deferred pending receipt of additional evidence of ownership, and then consideration by a small working group (Cllrs Meakin & Yates and the Clerk).

6.0 Public Participation.

6.1 Police Report - none received.

6.2 County Council matters (Cllr Stewart) - recent flood damage throughout the county, resulting from Storm Desmond and subsequent heavy rains, continued to be a priority for CCC. A dedicated budget was being prepared to cover an estimated total cost of £500 million. Highways accounted for about half of this. As-yet-undamaged roads were threatened by diverted water courses. Affected households were urged to apply for available repair grants from the Cumbria Community Foundation. Despite central government financial support for flood relief, county precepts for 2016/17 were likely to increase by a further 2%. This was on top of the 2% needed to cover normal recurring expenditure after cuts in central government's support grant and drastic reduction in some services. Increase in the national minimum wage had had a significant impact on CCC. Adult Social Care was a high and ever-increasing cost and would involve some very difficult decisions. There remained hope that the proposed closure of Arnside (and other local fire stations) would not be carried through.

6.3 District Council matters (Cllr Jupe) - proposals to reorganise parish boundaries to create larger administrative authorities included merging Beetham with Burton & Holme. Members considered this inappropriate and would respond accordingly to the Boundary Commission's forthcoming consultation - this to be included on BPC's March agenda, with Cllr Jupe to provide additional information. SLDC would require no increase in its Council Tax funding.

6.4 Matters raised by members of the public - Deteriorating road surface in Storth Road, north of Langdale Crest (on list to be re-laid, though footways improvement more urgent). CCC's use of its own approved contractors in preference to local labour (determined by local authority rules). Lack of ordinary (non-disabled) parking facilities near Sandside embankment (facilities determined by landowner's conditions).

7.0 New matters for consideration.

7.1 Storth Post Office - In a letter to BPC dated 14 January 2016, Post Office Ltd had requested feedback from BPC on its proposed changes at the Storth branch, scheduled for April/May 2016. These changes were in line with national policy, 'to help make branches more modern and convenient' for the public and for local operators (and, of course, cheaper for Post Office Ltd). Discussions had already taken place with the operators of Storth Community Shop and agreement reached to ensure the post office remained open. The proposal is for the post office to be open four mornings per week, staffed by volunteers who are currently undergoing training. Public feedback is requested by 12 Feb. 2016 - either by post to FREEPOST (no further address needed), helpline 03457 22 33 44, email comments@postoffice.co.uk.

More information on PO website 'postofficeviews.co.uk' and BPC notice boards.

7.2 Hale Marble Quarry public inquiry (Storth Village Hall 15 March 2016) - local group meeting to be arranged for organisation of preparatory work. Evidence of use, in support of Definitive Map Modification Order to establish public right-of-way status, invited and encouraged - contact Clerk or any BPC member.

8. Planning Matters.

8.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:

Feb 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
SL/2015/1188	Beetham Nurseries	Abbit	Variation of Cond 2 of SL/2015/0232 approval	26/01/16	No objections

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

SL/2016/0004	Plot at Moss Hall, Carr Bank	Smith	Erection of dwelling	09/02/16	Objections
SL/2016/0011	Poachers Cottage, Hale	Copeland	Provision of vehicle access and parking.	17/02/16	No objections

8.2 Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decision

SL/2015/0935	Land at Parsonage Fd Beetham	Dallam Estate	Creation of car park area	Refused
SL/2015/1059	Gamekeepers Cottage Hale	Copeland	Variation of Cond 3 of approval SL/2011/0244	Approved with conditions
SL/2014/1192	Land at Kern Knotts Storth	Robinson	Erection of dwelling	Appeal against earlier refusal – now dismissed

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

8.3 Minutes of Planning Committee meetings – (as above)

8.4 Related matters & correspondence:

- Fishwick’s Beetham Hall crematorium – appeal upheld by inspector, High Court appeal possible but unlikely.
- Mill Lane public car-park – Dallam letter re SLDC’s refusal of its planning application – Cllr Yates to prepare BPC response.
- Kings Arms, Hale – advance notice of major development proposal – no BPC action required at this time.

9. Financial Matters:

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT				MONTH – JANUARY 2016	MEETING – 1 st February, 2016		
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c £	£	HIBA £	
01/01/16	Opening balances				8,289.33	19,232.32	
31/01/16	Receipts -						
	705	Elec NW	Wayleaves		50.00		
	706	CCC	Community grant (IS)		2,000.00		
31/01/16	Payments:						
	374	1022 Harvey	Payroll admin. (6mths)	25.00			
	375	1023 Scargill	Clerk’s sal Jan . (net)	392.66			
“	Total payments in month				-417.66		
31/01/16	Closing balances				9,921.67	19,232.32	
31/01/16	Total funds all accounts				£29,153.99		
Reserve Funds at 31/01/16							
			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 – none.

10.0 Parish Steward:

- 10.1 PS’s update on current events – no update in the absence of Parish Steward.
- 10.2 Additions to PS’s work programme – cleaning work re street signs (see 5.2 above).

11.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies – none.

12.0 Parish Matters (for information only):

- **Cllr Pickup** - B5282 speeding traffic, missing grit bin at Carr Bank Road/Nuns Avenue junction, potholes and regular flooding in the same area, deteriorating road surface on Guard Hill Lane, queried new CCC sign behind No 5 Nuns Avenue.
- **Cllr Jupe** - proliferation of litter in various areas - A6 verges, public footpaths, Pool Darkin Lane, around paper mill (Clerk to write to manager)
- **Cllr Meakin** - message received from a Storth resident re fallen trees blocking some pathways. This had been passed on to the AONB team, who had informed Cumbria County Council.
- **Cllr Knowles** - state of Storth Road surface (see also 6.4 above).

13.0 Parish Land:

13.1 - Land at Dixies - nothing further to report.

13.2 - Plot 4 - the second meeting with tenants, on 29 January, had been productive with agreement on all outstanding issues. All tenants present willing to sign new agreements, subject to minor amendment (increase size of plans attached for clarity and ease of use). Clerk to refer to BPC solicitor for finalisation and re-issue, for implementation as from 01/04/15. Minutes of this meeting to be circulated to all BPC members and tenants. Regular future liaison meetings to be held at least twice per annum. Yew Tree Cottage plot to be repossessed in permanent absence of owner, subject to discussion with letting agent. Clerk to write to interested parties (Beresford-Jones and Rockliffe) re decision on future of vacated wood-store plot and to Dallam re site access.

13.3- Sandside Cutting - no progress. Cllr Pickup to expedite by contacting Parish Steward to agree action without further delay. Access to parts of the Cutting was impeded by encroachment of the gardens of adjacent properties (mainly those in Dallam Drive) - a long-standing problem. **Agreed** - to accept the contractor's quote of £650 for repairing the broken BPC-owned wall beside Crow's Nest, Green Lane. Cllr Meakin to ask Crow's Nest owner for a contribution.

14.0 General Correspondence:

- 7 Jan 2016 - from the headteachers of Beetham and Storth Schools - agreeing that car-parking outside schools could be a problem, but best handled by the schools themselves working with the parents of pupils.
- 11 Jan 2016 - AONB - proposing to copy BPC into any of its formal responses on planning consultations.
- 21 Jan 2016 - Natural England - notifying formal consultation on the potential of Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary Special Protection Area, commencing 21 Jan 2016.

15.0 Reading Matter - Clerks & Councils Direct - Jan 2016 - issue 103.

16.0 Items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting (March 2016) - proposed parish boundary changes.

17.0 Date of next meetings - Monday 7 March 2016 at Beetham School at 7.00pm - PC meeting.

- Thursday 17 March at Heron Hall, Storth at 8.00pm - Annual Assembly
(Same format as usual - Clerk to organise)

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.