

# ***BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL***

MINUTES of a meeting of Beetham Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at Beetham School.

**Present were** - Cllrs Brian Meakin (Chair), David Clark, David Crayston, Chris Noble and Bob Pickup. Also D Cllr P McSweeney, Parish Clerk John Scargill and Parish Steward Bill Haddow. Thirteen members of the public plus Dave Marsden (see item 3) and Fran Richardson (see item 5.3).

**1.0 Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Blenkharn (unwell), Knowles (holiday) and Yates (holiday).

**2.0 The minutes of the previous meeting**, held on 7 January 2019, had been circulated by email. These were **APPROVED** by the meeting and signed by Cllr Meakin.

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

**4.0 Announcements by the Chair** – Cllr Meakin introduced Dave Marsden, representing Lakeland Trust for Natural Sciences (LTNS) who spoke about their future plans for the expansion of Lakeland Wildlife Oasis at Hale into a higher-profile visitor attraction serving local universities and schools as well as members of the public. This would require an additional dedicated building/classroom and possibly increased car parking facilities on the existing site with overflow provision. LTNS asked for BPC's approval and support in this venture, which was given.

**5.0 Matters arising from the minutes 7 January 2019 and not included elsewhere on the agenda.**

**5.1 Speed indicator (5.1)** – still awaiting Peter Capasso (Milnthorpe PC), who had agreed to commence downloading the SID data at an early date.

**5.2 Beetham defibrillator (5.2)** – confirmation of the Stanley Street phone box adoption from BT was now in the final stages with completion expected imminently. **Agreed** – that the eventual purchase of defibrillator equipment should be purchased with the Community Infrastructure grant of £2,155 received in November 2018.

**5.3 Beetham flooding (5.3)** – Fran Richardson, Development Officer for Voluntary Action Cumbria, gave a short presentation on how communities could plan for dealing with any emergency (including flooding) and gave out leaflets for distribution around the parish.

**5.4 Carr Bank Road issues (5.4)** – usual issues of traffic speeds on B5282 and Carr Bank Road. Work by local residents to tackle the flooding at Jonny's Steps was proving effective in the weather conditions experienced since and modest funding was needed to restore the well at this location. Highway restrictions relative to the collapsed wall along the B5282, between Sandside and New Bridge, were causing traffic disruption and repair was now understood to be delayed (see 6.2 below). Hardcore was needed at points along Sandside Cutting. The sandbags at Storth Village Hall were breaking up.

**5.5 BPC member vacancy (5.5)** – an expression of interest in the vacancy had now been received from a Storth resident. Clerk to meet for preliminary discussion on 7 Feb.

**5.6 BPC Standing Orders (5.6)** – Cllr Meakin's amendments to NALC's Model Standing Orders had been circulated and were accepted by the meeting. **Agreed** – that these be effective immediately as BPC's new Standing Orders.

**5.7 Meadowbank (Beetham) road sign (12)** – responsibility for replacing the missing sign had been accepted by Highways and would be included in their current work schedule.

**6.0 Public Participation.**

**6.1 Police Report** – report for January received and circulated to all members. One minor crime related to Beetham parish. Police now aware of occasional traffic problems on the A6 at Beetham due to heavy crematorium use.

**6.2/3 County and District Council matters** – traffic damage to a wall at Friar Cote Bridge was currently being assessed. Repair work to be undertaken on the collapsed wall near Heron Brack on the B5282 would now be delayed until the end of March due to other Highways priorities. Highways were currently considering alternative practical solutions to the Beetham ghost footpath at the bottom end of Leighton Beck Road. The best response from Highways would be achieved by local residents themselves reporting any need for grit and/or sandbags. **Agreed** – that BPC request a meeting with Fishwicks to discuss crematorium-related traffic problems on the A6 at Beetham.

**6.4 Matters raised by members of the public** – the dangerous state of the middle section of Leighton Beck Road, Slackhead, now that weather conditions were causing surface water to freeze. This had long been predicted but no remedial action to deal with the underlying problem of surface water had yet resulted. Highways had been notified of the current danger by local residents, but not all notifications appeared to have been logged. CCC’s own transport unable to use the road in these conditions, resulting in children having to walk to school along the same road. Additionally the risk of interruption to the regular delivery of essential medical supplies to local residents. Both these factors increased the range of health & safety concerns. Three recent accidents and the possibility of an imminent fatality were a serious worry. **Agreed** – BPC to write to Cumbria Highways, expressing concern re serious safety hazards of this flooding, especially in wintery conditions, and the urgent need for remedial action. BPC to continue to lobby Highways to find a solution in conjunction with the Flooding Authority.

**7.0 New matters for consideration.**

**7.1 Beetham Crematorium traffic problem** – crematorium-related traffic backing up and illegally parking on the A6 at times when one funeral follows closely upon another. (See items 6.1 and 6.2 above).

**7.2 BPC Annual Assembly (14/03/19)** – Colin Parkes had been unable to accept BPC’s invitation to make a short presentation on flooding in the parish. **Agreed** – Clerk to approach Susannah Bleakley of Morecambe Bay Partnership to speak.

**7.3 Fairy Steps access problem** – Cllr Pickup reported a lack of appropriate signage was resulting in walkers inadvertently trespassing through private gardens en route to Fairy Steps. High Cote Lane residents propose an advisory ‘No Access to Fairy Steps’ sign on their land as deterrent.

**7.4 Current public ROW issues** – The Ramblers wish to work with the landowner to deal with the problem of recently closed traditional paths. BPC was sympathetic but not in any way involved. BPC members who chose to become involved did so as private individuals.

**8.0 Planning Matters.**

**8.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:**

**Feb 2019 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/2019/0002	5 The Mains, Beetham		Rear conservatory – plan amendment for change of roof materials.	18/02/19	No objection
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**8.2 Decisions received from SLDC**

**SLDC decision**

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(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** – none.

## 9. Financial Matters.

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT			MONTH – JANUARY 2019	MEETING – 4 February, 2019		
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c		HIBA
				£	£	£
01/01/19	Opening balances				15,679.82	19,283.71
31/01/19	Receipts:					
			Ground rents - B-Jones	8.34		
			- Ryan	20.00		
			- Harper	125.00		
					153.34	
			Elec NW – wayleaves		50.00	
31/01/19	Payments:					
	527	1179	Harvey - 6mths payroll admin.	25.00		
	528	1181	Thwaites – tree felling Sandside Cutting	3,900.00		
	529	1182	Scargill – Clerk’s sal (net) Jan.	435.84		
	Total payments in month				-4,360.84	
31/01/19	Closing balances				11,522.32	19,283.71
31/01/19	Total funds all accounts				£30,806.03	
<b>Reserve Funds at 31/01/19</b>						
			Street lamp reserve	9,600.00		
			General Reserve	9,683.71		
			Total reserves	19,283.71		

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

**9.2 Other financial matters** - BPC budget for 2019/20 - detail of draft budget previously circulated amended by Finance Working Group to include provision for a further £4K for tree-work expenses, being a continuation of the Sandside Cutting tree management work undertaken in 2018/19. This additional expense to be funded from reserves. Precept to remain unchanged at £17,069.

### 10.0 Parish Steward:

**10.1 Update on current events** - poor standard of hedge trimming by landowners/tenants in some parts of the parish, resulting in a reduction in usable road width. Two new street lamps installed some time ago in Stanley Street, Beetham, still not connected up. Clerk to pursue with SLDC.

**10.2 Further additions to work programme** - trimming of a number of small trees along Quarry Lane.

**11.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies** - AONB annual conference 2019 - praise for BPC’s recent land management work in Sandside Cutting.

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

**Cllr Clark** - usual potholes - A6 and B5282. A6 traffic problem during busy periods at the crematorium - see items 6 and 7.1 above.

**Cllr Crayston** - direction sign to Caravan Park from junction of Leighton Beck Road and Stanley Street, Beetham, removed and needs to be replaced - Clerk to notify Highways.

### 13.0 Parish Land:

**13.1 - Sandside Cutting** - first phase of tree-work management plan now satisfactorily completed. **Agreed** - Cllr Pickup to instruct second phase (as now budgeted 2019/20) for commencement ASAP.

**14.0 General Correspondence** - letter from Dallam Estate dated 29/01/19, re recent surface improvement work at Whassett, reminding BPC members ‘that the common belongs to the Estate’.

**15.0 Reading Matter** - none.

**16.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (Mar 2019) and additional to items referred to above** - none.

**17.0 Date of next meetings** - BPC meeting - 7.00pm on 4 March 2019 at Beetham School.  
- Beetham Annual Assembly - 14 March at Heron Theatre, Beetham.

**The meeting closed at 9.10pm.**