

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting of Beetham Parish Council scheduled for 4 May 2020 was unable to be held because of the coronavirus lockdown, although the agenda had been sent out in the usual way. In place of a face-to-face meeting, members were asked to email the Clerk with their comments on all agenda items. These minutes are a record of those comments, together with the noting of matters that would otherwise have been raised by the Clerk had a meeting been held.

Email responses were received from - Cllrs Brian Meakin (Chair), Brian Dean, Becky Dewar, Peter Greifenberg, Margaret Knowles, Bob Pickup and Steve Yates. Also from C Cllr Pete McSweeney.

1.0 Apologies for absence - none.

2.0 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6 April 2020, had been circulated by email and were **APPROVED**.

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

4.0 Announcements by the Chair - The arrangements to hold the April 'meeting' by email had worked well enough in the circumstances and would be continued until a better alternative could be found. The feasibility of Zoom software remained to be fully explored. Central government approval of virtual meetings for local councils had been issued and details should be added to the Standing Orders of these bodies. Clerk to implement for BPC. The Chairman suggested that a Zoom videoconference be held as an option, to be organised when requested by any BPC member, but preferred this to be reserved for potentially contentious issues as Clerk probably unable to attend. Clerk could attend teleconferences but Cllr Clark could attend neither tele nor video conferences.

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes 6 April 2020 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:

5.1 Beetham flooding (5.1) - nothing to report.

5.2 Carr Bank Road issues (5.2) -not all local residents accept the landowner's arguments for restricting access to the marsh and are exploring the legal position.

5.3 Leighton Beck Road surface water (5.4) - no further developments.

5.4 Convex mirror at B5282/Storth road junction (5.5) - now installed and receiving generally favourable comments, though care at this junction still needed.

5.5 Beetham ghost footpath (5.6) - CCC legal advice is for a site meeting between their officers and the householder's legal team, delayed due to coronavirus restrictions.

5.6 Carr Bank Road phone box (5.98) - clearing work underway prior to equipment installation. Ongoing.

5.7 Cumbria in Bloom 2020 (5.10) - now cancelled. Remove from future agendas.

5.8 NW Coastal Path proposals (5.11) - no further developments.

6. Public Participation.

6.1 Police Report - no report. Cllr Pickup had reported to the police the alleged criminal damage to the BPC outdoor seat on the Sandside promenade and been favourably impressed by the speedy and comprehensive response.

6.2/3 County and District Council matters - C Cllr McSweeney's regular and comprehensive coronavirus updates much appreciated by members. SLDC's green waste collection to resume on a monthly basis from Monday 4th May and CCC's household waste recycling centres to reopen, likely still with some restrictions, once a system can be agreed with the police.

9.2 Other financial matters – none.

10.0 Parish Steward:

10.1 Update on current events – no report.

10.2 Further additions to work programme: no further jobs.

11.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies – none.

12.0 Parish Matters (for information only):

Cllr Meakin – had inspected the damaged seat at Sandside. Due to the amount of damage to both concrete supports, he recommended replacement with a new seat, rather than repair, if funds permitted (which they did – eg recent CIL levies). No BPC seats are insured as considered too exposed and vulnerable to vandalism to attract a reasonable premium. Replacement could be modern plastic (functional, minimum maintenance and inexpensive) or metal/wood (aesthetically pleasing, high maintenance and expensive). Members' views sought by email to the Clerk for decision at next BPC meeting.

Cllr Knowles – thanked C Cllr McSweeney for his regular updates on the Coronavirus situation, echoed by other members.

Cllr Greifenberg – reported a fallen tree blocking a public footpath near Throughs Lane had now been removed.

Cllr Yates – an old tree beside the Beetham stocks was becoming overgrown with ivy, which may ultimately threaten its health - although ownership of the tree uncertain (not BPC, possibly Carlisle Diocese). Clerk to check ownership as a first step.

13.0 Parish Land – nothing to report.

14.0 General Correspondence received – none.

15.0 Reading Matter – none.

16.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (June 2020) and additional to items referred to above.

17.0 Date of next meeting – subject to developments with Zoom (see item 4 above), an 'email meeting' based on a pre-issued agenda is planned for Monday 1st June 2020.