

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a remote (Zoom) meeting of Beetham Parish Council held on Monday 5 Oct. 2020.

Present were – Cllrs Brian Meakin, David Crayston, Becky Dewar, Peter Greifenberg, Margaret Knowles and Bob Pickup. Also C Cllr Pete McSweeney (for 6.2/3 and some later agenda items) and Parish Clerk John Scargill.

1.0 Apologies for absence – Cllrs Dean and Yates.

2.0 The minutes of the previous meetings, held on 7 Sept 2020, had been circulated by email. These were approved by members present and authorised for signature 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 – none.

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes 7 Sept 2020 and not included elsewhere on the agenda:

5.1 Beetham flooding (5.1) – no further developments. Ongoing.

5.2 Leighton Beck Road surface water (5.2) – no further developments. Ongoing.

5.3 Beetham ghost footpath (5.3) – no further progress by CCC – ongoing.

5.4 Beetham A6 speed limit revision (5.5) – reported that the 30mph speed limit sign nearest the paper works had been stolen. This had been reported to Highways by Cllr Crayston and a response was awaited.

5.5 BPC notice boards refurbishment (5.6) – minor changes had now been made to the original list of requirements and the total cost could be marginally higher than the first £600 estimate. Completion of the project was expected within the current week.

5.6 Mobile SID on loan (7.1) – batteries now flat. CCC had given permission for this to be sited on the A6 at Beetham, but no point until the missing 30mph sign replaced.

6. Public Participation.

6.1/6.2 County and District Council matters – As previously recorded, C Cllr McSweeney had been disappointed that no BPC representative had been present at a recent meeting with Cumbria's Police & Crime Commissioner. Cllr Meakin apologised for being unable to attend.

Other matters:

- i. Reported by members that the mobile SID, now positioned near Storth School, was proving effective in reducing traffic speeds generally in Storth Road.
- ii. C Cllr McSweeney to check why the September-scheduled resurfacing of Guard Hill Lane had not been done. *Subsequently attributed to bad weather & rescheduled Nov.*
- iii. In response to a complaint from a local resident, C Cllr McSweeney had advised Highways that resurfacing of Shaw Lane was long overdue.
- iv. Senior Cumbria CC officers and members had written to the Secretary of State to ask that a single unitary authority for Cumbria be considered. As an alternative to this, SLDC, Barrow Borough Council and Lancaster City Council plan to ask the Secretary of State to consider the option of a unitary authority for Morecambe Bay to cover those three current authority areas. Mixed views amongst BPC members.
- v. Remembrance Day 2020 – a service was planned at the Beetham war memorial (but not at the church). No known arrangements for Storth. Perhaps too early for firm plans due to the continuing uncertainties of Covid restrictions.
- vi. In response to a question from BPC members, the recommendation had to be that official advice from central/local government should be followed to the letter, however unfair or illogical that advice may seem.

7.0 New matters for consideration:

7.1 Christmas in Beetham project 2020 – Friends of Beetham Church, had requested a donation from BPC towards their ‘Brightening Beetham’ project. The group’s estimate of project costings and hoped-for sources of funding had been received. Clerk to enquire further on progress with the project, before BPC could consider committing funds to it. Confirmed that BPC would fund one decorated Christmas tree in 2020, as usual, at an estimated cost of £60.

7.2 Original Beetham parish-owned street lamps – members **agreed** to a request from a non-parish resident collector that, if the opportunity arose, BPC would consider the option of him taking away for his collection any displaced original lamps.

7.3 Electricity North-West funding availability – BPC had been made aware of this funding towards conversion to LED lighting by parish councils. Clerk asked to investigate further.

8. BPC Land issues – Potentially dangerous ash trees on the B5282 – Cllr Pickup asked to send info/photos to CCC Highways direct, using their website facilities. There had been very limited interest from wallers approached for the wall repair at Sandend and the contract had finally been awarded to Alan Morphet of Ulverston; work would begin in about two weeks’ time and provide for suitable drainage from the retained banking. BPC’s professional tree advisor had inspected the site and concluded that there were no issues in that regard. The next-door neighbour to Sandend had now claimed (via Cllr Pickup) that his own wall on the site was in danger. Clerk to arrange a site meeting to inspect.

9. Carr Bank issues – usual excessive traffic speeds remain a problem on the B5282.

10. Parish Footpath issues:

i. Cllr Pickup felt strongly that signage and access issues had not been satisfactorily dealt with, as previously recorded (meeting 7/9/20 – item 10) in his absence. Cllr Pickup to ask Guy Timperley for an update on outstanding issues. Clerk to thank CS Signs for work carried out gratis and request further quotes for similar signs.

ii. The necessary hedge-trimming along the A6 path from The Heron Theatre to the war memorial had now been done or was underway/in early prospect. The Parish Steward had reported that the surface of this path was in a poor state due to seepage from the Stanley Street properties and the A6 highway. As this was a laborious and time-consuming job to rectify with a spade he had asked to be allowed to hire mechanical equipment - **agreed**.

11. Planning Matters:

11.1 Applications under consideration by BPC:

Oct 2020 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/2020/0607	Long Ridge, Storth Rd, Storth		Replacement of full width rear dormer.	23/09/20	No objection

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

11.2 Minutes of Planning Committee meetings – as above.

11.3 Related matters & correspondence – in answer to questions by BPC members about the absence of notification by SLDC/CCC of extensions being carried out at both Storth and Beetham schools, C Cllr McSweeney felt that these would be either ‘permissive developments’ or not of a size to require parish council approval.

12. Financial Matters.

BPC – FINANCIAL REPORT		MONTH – OCTOBER 2020		MEETING – 5 Oct 2020	
Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail	Current a/c	Premium a/c
				£	£
01/09/20	Opening balance			12,801.87	19,334.18
30/09/20	Receipts	Ground rents Aug	B-Jones	8.34	
			Ryan	20.00	
				28.34	
		CHBT – refund for returned goods		59.00	
		VAT		13.00	
				72.00	
		Bank interest to 6 Sept.			2.67
30/09/20	Payments:				
	619 1273	Info. Com'r – annal data protec fee		40.00	
	620 1274	Scargill – Clerk's salary Sept (net)		720.83	
	621 1275	HMRC – PAYE Sept 2020		180.20	
	622 1276	Lakeland Tree Consultancy		60.00	
				-1,001.03	
30/09/20	Closing balances			11,901.18	19,336.85
30/09/20	Total funds all accounts			£31,238.03	
Breakdown of Total Funds at 30/09/20			Street lamp reserve	9,600.00	
			Sports Field path project reserve	950.00	
			General Reserve	8,786.85	
			Working funds	11,901.08	
			Total funds	31,238.03	

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

- 12.2 Other financial matters** – One Plot 4 tenant noted as being in arrears with ground rent for 2020/21. Reminders had been sent.
- BPC quarterly accounts to 30/09/20 circulated and **approved**.

13.0 Parish Steward:

13.1 Update on current events – PS reported that more trees on the wide verge of Storth Road, between Paddock Way and Four Lane Ends, had been cut down by persons unknown and without permission, with the cuttings left on site. Trees on the site of the broken seat at Sandside Promenade had similarly been cut down and cuttings dumped. Parish Steward authorised to remove the cuttings from both sites to allow grass cutting. New seat for Sandside Promenade to be installed soon.

13.2 Further additions to work programme: to cut back brambles encroaching on the limited working space for rebuilding the collapsed wall at Sandend, Green Lane, Storth. Also regular maintenance of the newly adopted (for defibrillator housing) ex-BT phone box at Carr Bank Road.

14.0 Reports from representatives on outside bodies – Cllr Crayston reported that Beetham Exhibition Trust had now transferred its main funds from its original bank account to one that offered a higher rate of interest, as he had recommended. Cllr Greifenberg had received the minutes of the last CALC meeting he had attended.

15.0 Parish Matters (for information only):

Cllr Meakin – Storth's newly refurbished community shop was now open and doing good business. Clerk asked to obtain quote for a second 'smiley' SID, to be sited permanently near Storth School, although a flashing light system could be cheaper.

Cllr Pickup – a litter bin was needed on Carr Bank Road, complaints received about the delay in resurfacing Guard Hill Lane (C Cllr McSweeney to check – see 6.2/3 above), requested delay in further verge cutting to allow for wild flower re-seeding, dangerous dying ash trees along the B5282 (to be reported to Highways via their website - see also item 8 above). Small bus shelter in north verge of B5282 at Carr Bank Road end inadequate and dangerous for school children, especially with current

social distancing rules. Possible solutions may include more extensive cutting back of hedge east and west, installing a safety kerb, re-location of the shelter east or west of its present site. Clerk to write to Dallam School, Dallam Tower Estate and Highways (cc PMS) with concerns and inviting remedial suggestions.

16.0 General Correspondence - none.

17.0 Reading Matter - none.

18.0 Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting (October 2020) and additional to items referred to above - none.

19.0 Date of next meeting - 7.00pm Monday 2 November 2020 - at Storth Village Church if lockdown restrictions permit. Otherwise and more likely, remotely via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.