

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: J. Harvey, Bouskill, Yans Lane, Storth, LA7 7LJ Tel: 015395 62970 e: clerk@beetham-pc.gov.uk
<https://www.beetham-pc.gov.uk>

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 12th March 2026 at Heron Hall, Storth
Present: Cllrs Greifenberg (Chair), Duff, Phelan, Low, J. Clark
W+F Cllrs Audland + Chaffrey Clerk: Jessica Harvey
Approx. 60 members of the public
(To be presented for acceptance at the next Annual Parish Assembly in 2027)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Gardner.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held 13th March 2025

The minutes were APPROVED and signed by Cllrs Duff and Phelan

The format for the Assembly was changed this year. Groups from around the community were invited to attend with stands/materials to publicise their organisation's activities. The Parish Council had a display to let residents know what they had been doing over the past year. It was also an opportunity for electors to have a say on any matters they considered important. There were no formal speakers, the event was designed for networking amongst the community and councillors. Refreshments were available throughout the evening.

3. Review of the year by Cllr Griefenberg (available on the evening)

The year has seen major changes in the Parish Council with Jessica Harvey being appointed as Clerk and Peter Greifenberg Elected as Chair. Councillors Phillips, Marsden, Meakin and Knowles have stood down, whilst Councillors Helen Gardner and Robert Low and Joe Clark have been co-opted onto the Council.

The year has seen the Council focusing on community safety, asset management and environmental initiatives, whilst also updating required policy statements and implementing training initiatives. Here is a summary of the key progress and issues throughout the year.

Community resilience

The Wheatsheaf in Beetham and the Village Hall in Storth have been designated as Community Emergency Hubs. The parish council along with members of the community will be developing a Community Emergency Plan during 2026.

Asset Management

Parish Land Working Group (PLWG) has been set up and an asset register has been completed. A review has implemented a "Red/Amber/Green ranking system" with respect to the urgency of any work required. High visibility jackets have been purchased for use when undertaking activities relating to the PLWG with message on to rear; "Beetham Parish Council Volunteer".

Red status: The bench at the end of Storth road (overlooking the estuary) has been replaced with a new bench and the bench at the bottom of Green Lane has been flagged for early replacement. Significant work has been completed to clean of the War Memorials at Beetham and Storth and to refurbish the stocks at Beetham. Minor repairs have been made to the Parish noticeboards whilst costings have been obtained for those notice boards in need of replacement. A notice has been placed in parish noticeboards with the reminder that they are not to be used for advertising for personal gain

The information panel by the memorial in Storth has recently been refurbished and map replaced by one of our councillors and local resident

Tree Management

Regular arboriculture surveys are being conducted to preserve the local tree canopy while managing risks.

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The old railway cutting at Sandside is the property of the Parish Council and in recent year has been subject to a programme of removing in particular diseased Ash trees. A review of the condition of the trees by our arborialist concluded that no substantial work was required this year, however an overhanging tree at the edge of the cutting on Green Lane was successfully trimmed. The pathway through the cutting was cleared of encroaching vegetation through an agreement with Arnside & Silverdale National Landscapes volunteers and access for wheelchair users has been made easier by the removal a paddock to allow the entrance gate to be fully opened at the Ship end of the cutting.

Environmental Initiatives

A project has been initiated to establish "Parish Pollination zones", whilst work is ongoing to establish wildflowers on the wide verge at the top of Storth Road.

Highway safety and Speeding.

A major ongoing concern remains traffic speeding on the A6 and through Beetham village. The council has collected data to present to the police and highways authority. Concerns have also been expressed about excessive speeds on Storth Road and Carr Bank Road.

The convex mirror at the bottom of Storth Road has been repaired and strengthened.

Beetham Parish Council Newsletter

An Autumn/Winter 2025 Newsletter was published with some 250 copies being distributed. The newsletter provided updates on the responsibilities and actions of the Parish Council including the support for the 9 defibrillators that are located within the Parish. The newsletter also highlighted some ongoing initiative such as proposed book swap boxes and "Chat" benches.

The Newsletter also provided an opportunity to show who your Parish Councillors are and how to contact them. Further editions of the newsletter are planned in 2026

4. Community Groups represented

- Storth Village Hall Committee
- Storth WI
- Scottish Country Dancing Club
- Heron Hall
- KEY Project
- The Storth Dimension
- Storth CE Primary School
- Storth Community Shop and Post Office
- Storth Community Transport
- Community Lunch & Social
- Village Coffee Morning
- Wednesday Club
- 261 Club Arnside
- Conscious Bodies
- Kendal & District Lions Club
- 1st Responders
- Storth Playgroup

Meeting finished 9:30pm