

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

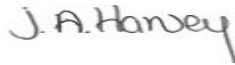
e: clerk@beetham-pc.gov.uk

7th April 2026

Dear Parishioner,

You are invited to attend a meeting of Beetham Parish Council to be held on 13th April 2026 in Beetham School at 7pm for the purposes of considering and resolving the business to be transacted at the meeting as set out in the agenda below.

Yours sincerely



(Clerk to the council)

1. Apologies

To accept and record any apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations, by elected and co-opted members, of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 2nd March 2026

To authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd March 2026

4. Councillor vacancies

4.1 To welcome new co-opted West ward Councillor Joseph Clark

4.2 To note the resignation of Cllr Meakin and the subsequent vacancy created

4.3 To acknowledge Cllr Meakin's years of service to the council

5. Public Participation/Open Session

The Chairman will invite residents to make representations on any item on this agenda or to bring matters to the attention of the Council for consideration for inclusion in a future agenda.

District Councillor's Report

To receive, for information, items relevant to the Parish (Items raised for decision will appear on the agenda for the next meeting).

6. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

To decide whether there are any items of business which require exclusion of the press and public

7. Financial matters (Appendix A)

7.1 To approve payments detailed

7.2 To accept the letter of engagement from the Internal Auditor (circulated)

7.3 To receive and authorise the annual accounts to 31st March 2026

7.4 To receive and note the bank reconciliation for year ending 31st March 2026

7.5 To receive and note the explanation of variances for year ending 31st March 2026

7.6 To review and note the asset register to 31st March 2026 (circulated)

7.7 To review and note expenditure greater than £100 to 31st March 2026 (circulated)

7.8 To approve the removal of Cllrs Knowles and Meakin from Unity Trust Bank online banking and propose replacements.

7.9 To approve the transfer of funds remaining in the current account and a proportion of the precept, when it is received, to the savings account to maximise interest earned.

7.10 To note that the precept increase of 6.1% on Band D is 14p/month

7.11 To approve the Schedule of regular payments for the coming year.

7.12 To approve further CiLCA training for the clerk – registration with Brightspace online

7.13 To note the cash book reconciled to the bank statements

7.14 To note the VAT claim submission for 2025/2026

8. Applications for Development (Appendix B)

8.1 To examine any applications for development and submit any observations to the planning authority

8.2 To ratify any observations submitted by the clerk under devolved powers since the last meeting

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- 8.3 To note any decisions of the statutory planning authority about recent applications
- 8.4 To discuss the submission of new documents for planning application SL/2022/1177, Land at Park Road and Quarry Lane, Sandside LA7 7HW

9. Progress reports (Appendix C)

To receive information and/or determine action, as appropriate, on the following items: -

- 9.1 Terms of Reference, Policy for the Biodiversity Committee (circulated) and membership
- 9.2 Cllr Duff- 12th March Parish Assembly feedback
- 9.3 Cllr Phelan – Community Governance Review visits
- 9.4 Data Protection and associated training update

10. Parish Land working group (Appendix D)

To receive information and/or determine action, as appropriate, on the following items: -

- 10.1 The purchase/application of suitable weedkiller to maintain bramble growth in Sandside cutting
- 10.2 Quotes received to install the new bench at the end of Green Lane
- 10.3 Responsibility for Parish Steward Schedule and monitoring
- 10.4 Terms of reference for new group due to formation of Biodiversity Committee (circulated)

11. New matters for consideration (Appendix E)

- 11.1 To note the latest accessibility report for the website and discuss any changes
- 11.2 To approve the Dignity at work policy (circulated)
- 11.3 To consider signing the Civility and Respect Pledge
- 11.4 To discuss the options available for electronic document sharing
- 11.5 To consider a request from Beetham School that the arboriculturist could look at their trees when the council's trees are next surveyed.
- 11.56 Items/ideas for the next newsletter

12. Clerk's report (Appendix F)

To receive a summary of work undertaken by the clerk since the last meeting, issues outstanding, and to receive correspondence, with an opportunity for councillors to raise questions.

13. Agenda for the next meeting

To receive notice of items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting

14. Date of the next meeting

To confirm that the date of the next meeting is Monday 11th May at Storth Village Church, to be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

Appendix A

DESCRIPTION	INVOICE DATE	NET	VAT	TOTAL
CALC TRAINING CLLR PHELAN - GDPR	11/03/2026	30.00	0.00	30.00
CALC/NALC ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	01/04/2026	419.06	0.00	419.06
ASSEMBLY EXPENSES - CLLR DUFF	10/03/2026	51.05	0.00	51.05
CLERK'S EXPENSES - POSTAGE + PAPER	07/03/2026	10.30	0.00	10.30
HMRC- PAYE/NI	31/03/2026	58.18	0.00	58.18
J. HARVEY - CLERK'S WAGES	31/03/2026	741.68	0.00	741.68
SCRIBE ACCOUNTS MONTHLY	01/04/2026	31.00	6.20	37.20
		1,341.27	6.20	1,347.47

Unity Trust Bank @ 31st March Current: £11021.57 Savings: £105.91
Bank receipts to 31st March: Ground rent £8.34

Due to space restrictions in the notice boards, further appendices are only available with the agenda on the website

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7.11

Schedule of regular monthly payments for the financial year April 2026 to March 2027.

Scribe Accounts - Standing Order	37.20
Clerk wages – Standing Order	742.48
HMRC – PAYE/NI (variable)	48.82

Appendix B

Planning decisions March 2026

WFC Ref	Address	Development	WFC Decision	Date made
2026/0197/TCA	10 PARSONAGE FOLD MILNTHORPE LA7 7RJ	T1) Blue Cedar - Fell - In decline with Sirococcus blight	Tree Ca No Objection	25/02/26
2026/0198/TCA	BROCCO BANK BEETHAM MILNTHORPE LA7 7AL	T1-Sycamore - Re-pollard. T2-Birch - remove left side leader growing over neighbouring property	Tree Ca No Objection	25/02/26
2026/0229/TCA	YEW TREES BEETHAM MILNTHORPE LA7 7AL	T1 and T2 - Yew Trees - trim by 2 ft to maintain the shape of the topiary	Tree Ca No Objection	25/02/26
2025/2446/HOU	9 PARSONAGE FOLD MILNTHORPE LA7 7RJ	Replacement timber garden store.	Approved With Conditions	04/03/26
2025/2322/HOU	YEW TREES BEETHAM MILNTHORPE LA7 7AL	A 3m-wide gated entrance is proposed to the rear of Yewtrees, providing access to a 7m-long stone surfaced drive, widening to approximately 6m and incorporating a vehicle charging point. The gateway will be framed with new stone quoins and fitted with simple timber gates	Refused	10/03/26
2025/2323/LBC	YEW TREES BEETHAM MILNTHORPE LA7 7AL	Listed Building Consent for a 3m-wide gated entrance is proposed to the rear of Yewtrees, providing access to a 7m-long stone surfaced drive, widening to approximately 6m and incorporating a vehicle charging point. The gateway will be framed with new stone quoins and fitted with simple timber gates	Refused	10/03/26
2026/0309/TCA	ORCHARD COTTAGE 40 LEIGHTON BECK ROAD SLACK HEAD MILNTHORPE LA7 7AX	T1) Lawson Cypress, Fell. Poor form suppressed by surrounding trees, Bark inclusion and liable to failure.	Tree Ca No Objection	09/03/26
2026/0477/LDPR	WHITE COTTAGE HALE MILNTHORPE LA7 7BL	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed replacement of an existing septic tank with a new sewage treatment plant in the same position	Approved	26/03/26

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2026/0409/OHLI	LEIGHTON BECK BRIDGE SLACK HEAD MILNTHORPE LA7 7BA	Notification under the Electricity Act 1989 Overhead Lines (Exception) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 for an H pole in an existing electrical line	No objection	25/03/26
2026/0406/TPO	PIPERS WOOD LEIGHTON DRIVE SLACKHEAD MILNTHORPE LA7 7BE	South Lakeland DC TPO No 36 1980 - T7) Sycamore, Partial reduction of the south east side back to the boundary line and in line with the garage, office and gym block and the existing power lines cut back 5 metre length x 10 metre width approximately 8 metres above ground	TPO approved	23/03/26

Planning applications March 2026

WFC Ref	Address	Development	Type	Decision
2026/0406/TPO	PIPERS WOOD LEIGHTON DRIVE SLACKHEAD MILNTHORPE LA7 7BE	South Lakeland DC TPO No 36 1980 - T7) Sycamore, Partial reduction of the south east side back to the boundary line and in line with the garage, office and gym block and the existing power lines cut back 5 metre length x 10 metre width approximately 8 metres above ground	Tree Preservation Order	No decision
2026/0409/OHLI	LEIGHTON BECK BRIDGE SLACK HEAD MILNTHORPE LA7 7BA	Notification under the Electricity Act 1989 Overhead Lines (Exception) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 for an H pole in an existing electrical line	Overhead Electricity Line	No decision
2026/0473/HOU	OAKWOOD STORTH ROAD STORTH MILNTHORPE LA7 7HS	Two storey rear extension increasing kitchen area on ground floor and bedroom accommodation above.	Householder	No decision
2026/0477/LDPR	WHITE COTTAGE HALE MILNTHORPE LA7 7BL	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed replacement of an existing septic tank with a new sewage treatment plant in the same position	Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed Use	No decision
2026/0561/FPA	BEETHAM NURSERIES BEETHAM MILNTHORPE LA7 7AP	Proposed refurbishment of the existing sales building including extensions to accommodate new public entrance, exit and additional office administration space and alterations to the existing car parking	Full Application	No decision

8.4

Planning application SL/2022/1177, Land at Park Road and Quarry Lane, Sandside LA7 7HW

[Consultation and pre-decision matters - GOV.UK](#)

“Where an application has been amended it is up to the local planning authority to decide whether further publicity and consultation is necessary in the interests of fairness. In deciding what further steps may be required local planning authorities should consider whether, without re-consultation, any of those who were entitled to be consulted on the application would be deprived of the opportunity to make any representations that they may have wanted to make on the application as amended”

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Appendix C

9.2 Community Showcase Event Report

The Community Showcase event took place on Thursday 12th March 2026 at Heron Hall, Storth as a drop in from 8pm

There were 5 Beetham Parish Councillors present, Cllrs Duff, Phelan, Joseph Clark, Greifenberg, Low and parish clerk, WFC Cllrs Audland and Chaffey were also present. Cllr Gardener sent apologies, there was no response from Cllr David Clark. Additionally, 63 members of the community attended, including Jeanette Lyons who looked after the refreshments all evening. This year, the aim was to move away from a single-topic speaker and a council-focused agenda, instead creating a more inclusive and interactive social event. Community groups and organisations had the chance to showcase what they offer and celebrate the fantastic variety of social, educational, sporting, and fun activities available to residents of all ages. All groups were invited to bring information about their work, photos, examples of activities like artwork, crafts, or models, and a short description of what they do and have achieved over the past year. There was a fantastic response with 17 different groups and organisations being present (see appendix 1 for details).

Minutes from last year's Assembly and the annual report were displayed along with information regarding Book Swap Boxes, Community Emergency Plan, Progress in Burntbarrow Woods, Engaging with your Councillors, Biodiversity Plan.

Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive (see appendix 2)

Items for councillor decision at council meeting on 13th April:

- Residents asked for mirror opposite disabled carpark at Carr Bank
- 5 residents left contact details re a meeting concerning Burntbarrow woods, follow up with Cllr Audland
- BPC representation at community events, ie Storth Fete, Beetham Duck Race etc
- Date and venue for next assembly

Appendix 1

- Beetham Parish Council
- 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

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Appendix 2

Everyone was very positive about the whole event.

The publicity was generally rated as excellent and leaflets, posters, Facebook and word of mouth were all given as the sources of information.

The new format was deemed to be excellent. Words used to describe it included: wonderful, lively, energetic, nice buzz, not dull and marvellous compared to previous years.

Variety and mix of community groups were given as best parts and the opportunity to learn more about ones that interested them. Almost everyone said they had enjoyed the networking and finding out what was going on in the community, particularly about the woods. Others enjoyed the atmosphere.

Very few areas for improvement were raised and they were only suggestions. De-caff tea/coffee and seats whilst eating/drinking.

The same additional comments were made repeatedly:

- Although enjoyable the music was too loud, foreground rather than background which made it hard to hear everything being said
- Would be better later in the year
- Would be better earlier in the evening

Other comments:

- Lovely to see unity in the community
- Rather than surgeries perhaps councillors could attend other community events (Beetham sports, fete etc.) with a stand
- There should be another based in Beetham
- Perhaps Storth village should organise a similar event of it's own next year

One email address was left.

9.4

NAME	DATE	PROVIDER	COURSE
D. Phelan	July	CUMBRIA CVS	GDPR Masterclass
P. Greifenberg	Oct	ICO	Data Protection Module 1
D. Phelan	Oct	ICO	Data Protection Module 1
J. Harvey	Nov	CALC	Website Compliance
J. Harvey	Jan	Council Hive	Data Protection Refresher
D. Phelan	Jan	Council Hive	Data Protection Refresher
J. Harvey	Feb	Breakthrough Comms	Local Council Communications and Compliance Quiz
L. Duff	Feb	ICO	Data Protection Module 1
L. Duff	Feb	Council Hive	Data Protection Refresher
L. Duff	Feb	Breakthrough Comms	Local Council Communications and Compliance Quiz

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P. Greifenberg	March	Council Hive	Data Protection Refresher
D. Phelan	March	CALC	GDPR
P. Greifenberg	March	Council Hive	Data Protection Refresher
J. Clark	March	Breakthrough Comms	Local Council Communications and Compliance Quiz

Appendix D

10.1

Last year the council was asked to pay for the cutting back of the brambles on Parish Land which was causing nuisance to a local resident. This was agreed at the Parish Council meeting. After this work was completed the contractor was asked what the best option is to prevent this occurring again in the future. His suggestion was to apply weedkiller in March/April. As we are now in this time of the year the PLWG would like the Parish Council to agree to purchasing and applying weedkiller to this area.

Couple of factors involved in choice:

1. How many brambles & their age!!
 2. If they've been cut right back - weedkillers are better at dealing with new growth and are more effective
 3. Where they are and if any runoff is likely to affect other plants.
- Any form of glyphosate eg round-up will kill them along with anything green it touches or more domestic type would be sbk brushwood killer.

10.2

Three contractors were asked to quote for removing the old bench at the bottom of Green Lane, building a concrete base and assembling and anchoring the already purchased bench.

1) £750 no VAT

2) £450 + VAT

Appendix E

11.1

Website legal & accessibility requirements

All smaller authorities with websites must ensure their sites meet strict accessibility standards. The website must meet [WCAG 2.2 AA compliance](#), which replaced 2.1 AA in October 2024. It's also essential to maintain up-to-date accessibility statements and ensure all required documents are published and accessible to the public.

Since I started as clerk in May 2025, I have been systematically making my way through the website ensuring that it meets all the legal requirements. I have attempted to improve the presentation and layout of the pages which contain all the required information. BPC website now has a separate page for compliance and accessibility written by A2A.

Each page can be tested for accessibility using: <https://wave.webaim.org/>

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The WAVE Accessibility IMPact (AIM) score provides a measure of impact of page accessibility issues on users with disabilities. The WAVE tools report an Automated AIM based upon:

1. Number of detectable errors
2. Error density (number of detectable errors by page elements)
3. Number of WAVE alerts (possible or likely accessibility issues)

These factors are all aligned with the results from the annual [WebAIM Million](#) analysis of 1,000,000 home pages to provide a comparative score from 1 to 10. A score of 5 indicates that the page's score is roughly average compared to web pages generally.

BPC was last checked on 4th April 2026 with the following AIM scores for each page:

Home 9.7

Calendar 9.9

Members 9.7

Agendas and minutes 9.9

Newsletters 9.6

Assembly reviews and responses 9.9

Policies 9.5

The only page which scores 10 is the last page Accessibility Statement, it doesn't have a picture.

There is currently a GDPR privacy notice, which is another legal requirement, at the bottom of the home page but it is lost. Nothing else on this page MUST be on the website. This page needs to be updated, what would councillors like to see on it? Can you suggest other websites which look good?

One other page to consider is "Assembly reviews and responses" where I have rather dumped items which were on the website previously. Again, nothing on this page is a requirement. What do councillors think about its contents?

11.3

Follow this link to NALC website [Civility and Respect Pledge](#)

By our council signing up to the civility and respect pledge we are demonstrating that our council is committed to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role. Signing up is a simple process, which requires councils to register and agree to the following statements:

1. Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.
2. Our council has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
3. Our council has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors
4. Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy.
5. Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
6. Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens.
7. Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme
8. Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

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Appendix F

Clerk's actions from previous meetings

MEETING/MINUTE NUMBER	ACTION	OUTCOME
Jan 11.7	To investigating updating contact details with the land registry	Can be updated on one form, FOC but form awaiting completion
Jan 11.8	To request change to wording/street light assets in the legal agreement with W+F	Agreement signed by chair and returned
March 9.1	To produce Biodiversity Committee terms of reference	Circulated
March 9.3	To investigate registering Hale Green as a village green	Further information received has shown this not to be possible
March 9.6	To return the council's response to the Community Governance review	Returned online
March 9.7	To action recommendations in Basic Governance Checklist report	Code of Conduct updated, Scheme of Delegation written, both for approval at Annual Parish meeting in May Good Councillors Guide, FOI and GDPR training links sent to all councillors. Dignity at work policy
March 10.4	To investigate secure ways to share files electronically	OneDrive a possibility, still waiting for feedback from some councillors
March 11	To obtain quotes for assembly and fixing of 2 nd new bench	Quotes obtained

Other actions

- Attended further CiLCA training
- Requested more information on the Community Resilience Pilot – no response