

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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As a result of the May 2023 elections, there are now, as expected, three vacancies on Beetham Parish Council and there has already been at least one expression of interest in filling these vacancies by co-option. Hopefully all three vacancies will be filled before too long. Following the elections, positions on BPC's various committees etc were agreed at the Annual Meeting. Also at this meeting, BPC's annual accounts were approved for submission for external audit. These accounts are now available for inspection by members of the public, although the figures remain 'subject to audit'.

The Parish Council has also undertaken a periodic review of its own Standing Orders, which regulate how the parish council is run, to comply with variation of need and changes of legislation.

The newly formed Westmorland & Furness Council took over the responsibilities of the former South Lakeland District Council on 1 April 2023 after many months of detailed reorganisation discussions. There are now many new faces at South Lakeland House in Kendal as staff, and members of the public, get used to the new situation and deal with inevitable uncertainties – but there is confidence that the changes will produce the long-term expected benefits. Your parish council has responded enthusiastically to the general invitation for parishes to submit a prioritised wish-list of major projects for consideration by the higher authorities.

The parish Annual Assembly in March at Beetham's Heron Theatre heard an interesting talk by Andy Vickers on the trials and tribulations of managing the 'street scene' in Kendal and the wider district. Much of this related to household waste collection and recycling and led to many amusing, but often serious, events in this essential but unglamorous service. The few parishioners who did take the trouble to attend enjoyed the presentation and the refreshments that followed.

The Parish Council always has on its agenda a number of modest projects for improving parish facilities and safeguarding amenities. Grass verges are one of the amenities constantly under threat as an ever-increasing number of motorists seek somewhere to park. Hopefully these issues can be settled amicably with goodwill and understanding on both sides. Installation of the Queen's Jubilee seat on Storth Playing Field is now underway. Another valuable project, initiated and mainly funded by the Gardner family, is the welcome installation of a defibrillator at Hale green. Local residents will have noticed that the traffic mirror installed by the Parish Council at the B5282/Storth Road junction has suffered severe damage and is no longer effective; this facility is considered important to road safety and it is proposed to replace it at an early date.

It is sad to see the continued closure of The Ship Inn at Sandside. The owners insist that it is their intention to re-open this important facility on completion of extensive refurbishment; for residents and visitors alike, this can't come soon enough.

The major mixed-use development planning proposal for Sandside has also gone quiet, as expected at this time – it is assumed for amendments to be made and detail added to the plans. We will ensure you are all kept informed as the situation becomes clearer.