

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

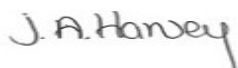
Clerk: J. Harvey, Bouskill, Yans Lane, Storth, LA7 7LJ Tel: 015395 62970
e: clerk@beetham-pc.gov.uk <https://www.beetham-pc.gov.uk>

12th August 2026

Dear Member,

You are invited to attend the meeting of the Biodiversity Committee to be held on 19th August 2026 in Storth Church at 6:30pm 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. Chairman

To elect the committee chair

2. Terms of Reference

To note the terms of reference for the Biodiversity Committee (circulated)

3. Policy

To review the Biodiversity Policy (circulated)

4. Progress reports (Appendix A)

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

- 4.1 Brambles
- 4.2 Storth Fete and Beetham Sports
- 4.3 Hale Green and Plot 4
- 4.4 Orchid Triangle

5. Suggestions for moving Biodiversity forward in the Parish (Appendix B)

- 5.1 Biodiversity Workbook (circulated)
- 5.2 Bird and Bat boxes – Cllr Gardner
- 5.3 Hale Green + verges

6. Future projects and ideas (Appendix C)

- 6.1 Verges/grass areas into meadows
- 6.2 Sandside Cutting vegetation Clearance Project (circulated)
- 6.3 Community workshops/talks

7. Partner Groups

Identify groups to work with.

8. Finance

To review the budget available and the need for additional funding

9. Next Meeting

To agree the date and venue for the next meeting

Appendix A

4.1 Brambles

Back in April/Early May Cllrs Phelan and Clark went to tackle the brambles behind BPC's wall on Rose Hill Grove which had been the subject of complaint last year. Cllr Phelan had arranged for the scrub to be strimmed last autumn, and the contractor had made an excellent job. It was recommended at the time that the regrowth be sprayed in the spring. This was done using Gallup XL glyphosate at the recommended rate. Cllr Phelan has since revisited the site and reported that this has been successful.

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4.2 Storth Fete & Beetham Sports

BPC has attended both these events this year for the first time. At Cllr Clark's suggestion, a wildflower seed sowing activity was held to encourage community interaction and raise awareness of the Biodiversity Committee. Beetham Nurseries kindly donated a bag of Melcourt professional peat-free compost and 2 boxes of mixed wildflower seeds.

Both events were very successful and our stand well attended. We engaged with parishioners of all ages with the children enjoying sowing seeds and getting dirty hands whilst the adults brought a good level of understanding of the importance of encouraging a maintaining biodiversity. It was great to see the enthusiasm of the people of the parish, particularly our young residents, who asked intelligent questions and showed genuine interest. There was a very positive attitude to both the activity and to the parish council being involved with the biodiversity in our area.

All in all, a very successful pair of events and thanks to the Chair for being there for both events, and to Cllrs Phelan and Ritchie for their help at Beetham Sports. Very much appreciated.

4.3 Hale Green and Plot 4

At the beginning of July Cllrs Phelan and Clark visited Hale green on Plot 4. A resident had contacted BPC regarding the management of the grassland at Hale Green. They were in favour of the mini meadow but felt that the area adjoining their boundary made it look unmanaged and unkempt. I went with Dave to view it and found that the area causing concern had already been strimmed by Rob when he'd last mown the paths. There were a couple of areas which I felt would benefit from being cut back which Cllr Phelan arranged with Rob. Looking at the Green, and chatting with residents, it is generally felt that maintaining a mown boundary around the meadow area makes it clearly defined and shows that it is managed not neglected.

On the same visit we visited Plot 4. There had been some mown paths cut into the wild area, but as far as we know, these were not undertaken by Rob. They didn't appear to be causing an issue but is something we should be aware of and perhaps monitor. We also went to look at the reported overhanging trees at the garages, where we talked to a resident who happened to be a landscaper, who told us that he had trimmed back the branch, which he seems happy to do and had apparently done competently.

4.4 Orchid Triangle

The triangle has been scythed last month by Arnside & Silverdale National Landscapes volunteers. The cuttings were then taken to be used as green hay at a site in Silverdale to hopefully spread the orchids.

The site has also been surveyed by The Cumbria Wildlife Trust as part of their Roadside Verges Project. The ownership of the site is still unclear; the clerk has been trying to establish this because permission from the owner is required for the site to be protected. Progress seems to be being made, but still ongoing.

Appendix B

- 5.2 Possible links to schools and a design/make project?
- 5.3 Additional planting & ideas; Signage to show plants

Appendix C

- 6.3 Could include things like:

- How to encourage wildlife into your garden – particularly relevant given the changes to bird-feeding - RSPB discouraging feeding through the summer
- Wildlife friendly gardening – how to integrate wildflowers into your borders; use of pesticides & herbicides and their alternatives
- Compost making