

# ***BEETHAM PARISH ASSEMBLY***

**MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 held at Heron Theatre, Beetham.**

**Present** were BPC Parish councillors and joint Vice-chairs Steve Yates and Margaret Knowles (who jointly chaired the meeting), David Crayston and Paul Harnett. Also WFC Cllr Rupert Audland, Parish Clerk John Scargill, speaker Andy Vickers (Delivery & Commercial Officer SLDC) and six members of the public.

**1. Opening of the Assembly and welcome** – Cllrs Yates and Knowles welcomed those present.

**2. Apologies for absence** – received from Parish Councillors Greifenberg and Phillips.

**3. The minutes of the Annual Assembly, held on 17th March 2022 (previously circulated),** were taken as read and authorised for signing by Cllr Knowles.

**4. Review of the Parish Council's year 2022/23 prepared by BPC Chair** Brian Meakin) and presented jointly by Cllrs Yates (representing East Ward) and Knowles (representing West Ward). The review was preceded by a tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth 11, after a long and illustrious reign. 'Green Canopy' trees are to be planted at selected sites across the parish. Tribute was also paid to Ken Blenkarn, former BPC member and Chair for many years, who had recently died. Tree management on the two BPC-owned sites continues to be an important on-going Parish Council responsibility and accounts for a sizeable part of the annual budgeted expenditure, under the direction of a specialist team. In East Ward, three large planters on the verge at the A6/Leighton Beck Road junction, originally provided by Beetham WI will henceforth be maintained by Beetham Nurseries whose garden centre is nearby; appropriate plaques are to be attached. Unfortunately, the BPC project to install an additional Speed Indicator Device on the adjacent A6 had to be abandoned after failing to win police authority approval. A bench in memory of ex BPC-member Brian Dean and funded by his widow has now been installed near the Beetham war memorial. A new BPC notice board has been installed in Whassett. In West Ward, the current major issue is a property developer's plan for major development of the Sandside waterfront, extending back to Quarry Lane. Significant BPC effort has been devoted to the preparation of a formal and balanced response to this application; both the plans ref SL/2022/1177 and the BPC response are available on the SLDC website. The continued closure of The Ship Inn continues to give rise to local concerns. A wild flower verge has now been created along the upper stretch of Storth Road and a totally refurbished BPC notice board installed in Storth Square. New outdoor seating has been purchased and is soon to be installed around Storth Playing Field. After being badly blighted by cattle droppings the permissive footpath along the embankment between Friar Cote Bridge and Arnside station is now slowly getting back to its normal condition. Upgrading of the path through Sandside Cutting to allow easy access to disabled users is underway. Our lovely area attracts many tourists – and some unwanted litter, which is being tackled by BPC in conjunction with Dallam Estate.

**5. Presentation by Andy Vickers, SLDC.** Andy succeeded admirably in giving us an entertaining and highly informative glimpse into his working world of household waste and the challenges of its collection, grading and ultimate disposal by our local authority. Advances in materials technology, shopping habits and, of course, the recent pandemic had all had a significant impact. After the meeting, he reported being inundated with questions from a fascinated audience.

**6. Cllr Yates concluded this formal part of the meeting at 8.45 pm,** thanking the speaker and all who had attended, and suggested that all questions, both to Andy Vickers and to BPC Councillors be dealt with over refreshments available in the theatre foyer.

**7. Refreshments were then served** as those present mingled and chatted informally.