

BEETHAM PARISH ASSEMBLY

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 17th March 2011 at the Heron Theatre, Beetham.

Present were Cllrs Jessica Harvey (in the Chair), Pru Jupe, Brian Meakin, Chris Noble and Ian Stewart, the Clerk John Scargill and twenty electors.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr Blenkarn, Cllr Clark and Cllr Duckworth.

2. The minutes of the previous Annual Assembly, held on 18th March 2010, were read out by the Clerk, approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Harvey.

3. Chair's Review of the year 2010/11. Cllr Harvey reported that the Parish Council was doing all it could to safeguard parish land to which it may have any form of title and one small plot had now been successfully protected. The Parish Steward continued to provide a valuable service in keeping the parish clean and tidy, and his promptness in doing essential gritting around the parish during the severe winter weather had been much appreciated. The County Council's Area Stewards, replacing the previous Highway Steward, had made a good first impression and it was hoped that the results of their ability to tackle a wider range of jobs would become apparent during 2011. The new bus shelter on the B5282 at Carr Bank Road end had been completed during 2010 and was considered to make a valuable contribution to road safety. Similarly, the recent improvements to the western access point to Sandside Cutting, by Friar Cote Bridge, significantly improved road safety there. The Hale information board was nearing completion, with input from children at Beetham School, and should be in place during summer 2011. SLDC's Core Strategy plan, and particularly its proposals for land development in the parish, had caused some concern amongst residents and was currently proceeding through the formal process of consultations. The importance of this subject was the reason that Dan Hudson, SLDC's man in charge of the study, had been asked to give a presentation to Beetham's 2011 Annual Parish Assembly and respond to questions. It was hoped that those attending would take full advantage of this opportunity.

4. Core Strategy and related Land Allocation proposals in Beetham Parish – a presentation by Dan Hudson, SLDC. Dan explained the function and scope of SLDC's Core Strategy thinking for the period to 2025. Assessment had been made of the key needs for housing, jobs and protection of the environment at all levels down to villages and small hamlets and the amount of land required to fulfil these needs. High cost housing, the lack of well-paid jobs and the resulting departure of young people, together with an ageing population, were particular problems for Beetham parish. Other special issues for Beetham were a high quality landscape (AONB area) and its buildings heritage. Bearing in mind parish plans, pockets of available land were initially identified, some of which had since been discarded for a number of reasons, including the result of public consultation. Attention was now being focussed on the remaining 'emerging options'. Final proposals would be submitted to an independent government inspector during 2011, with the adoption of these (or modified) proposals expected sometime in 2012. Current detailed proposals for Beetham parish, including maps, were distributed at the meeting. The presentation was followed by a good range of questions from an involved audience and helpful answers from a knowledgeable speaker.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm and was followed by refreshments and informal conversation between councillors, presenters and members of the public.

