

BEETHAM PARISH ASSEMBLY

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 13th March 2014 at the Storth Village Hall.

Present were Cllrs Ken Blenkharn (in the Chair), Pru Jupe, Brian Meakin, Steve Yates, the Clerk John Scargill and ten members of the public (including local group representatives).

1. Opening of the Parish Assembly and welcome - Chairman, Cllr Ken Blenkharn, opened proceedings by welcoming those present.

2. Apologies for absence – none.

3. The minutes of the previous Annual Assembly, held on 14th March 2013, were approved as read as a correct record and signed by Cllr Blenkharn.

4. Chairman's Review of the year 2013/14. Cllr Blenkharn outlined the Assembly's change of format for 2014 and hoped that it would give a better awareness of all that was happening in the parish. He looked forward to hearing, later in the Assembly, about some of the many groups that were active in the parish. As regards the Parish Council, the dominant feature of the year's business had been the decision by Electricity NorthWest to disallow for the future the shared use of its poles by other organisations - and the majority of Beetham Parish Council streetlamps were sited on these poles. The financial consequence for the Parish Council of replacing all such lamps over the coming years was very serious. Initially provision would be made for the replacement of two lamps per year, commencing in 2014/15. The Parish Council's decision to extend the coverage of its grass cutting service should improve the general appearance of the parish and, similarly, regular tree-work in Sandside Cutting and Slackhead Quarry would suitably maintain these important amenities. The Parish Council would continue to be actively involved in SLDC's development proposals under its Local Development Framework plans. Finally, Jessica Harvey's resignation as a member of the Council was much regretted and her active contribution to parish affairs would be greatly missed.

5. Reports by parish groups.

Six different parish groups attended the Annual Assembly in response to direct invitation. These were – Heron Corn Mill, Storth Community Group (Storth shop), Storth Community Transport Group, Storth Playing Field Committee, Storth Village Hall and Heron Theatre. Each gave a presentation lasting approximately ten minutes, covering their organisation, objectives, funding and future plans. This gave a fascinating insight into the many activities available in the parish. Questions were taken after each presentation.

6. A vote of thanks was moved by Beetham Parish Councillor Pru Jupe to all attendees, especially group representatives who had given presentations. She had personally found the presentations most interesting and informative but was disappointed that more members of the public had not come along. A better turn out next year was hoped for.

7. Conclusion and closure – there being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

The meeting was followed by refreshments and informal conversation between all present.