

BEETHAM PARISH ASSEMBLY

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 14th March 2019 at the Heron Theatre, Beetham.

Present were Parish Councillors Brian Meakin (in the chair), David Crayston, Peter Greifenberg, Margaret Knowles and Bob Pickup. Also C Cllr Pete McSweeney and D Cllr Rupert Audland, Parish Clerk John Scargill and ten members of the public. Also Morecambe Bay Partnership CEO Susannah Bleakley who gave a presentation.

1. Opening of the Parish Assembly and welcome – Cllr Brian Meakin opened proceedings by welcoming those present.

2. Apologies for absence – Parish Councillors Chris Noble and Steve Yates.

3. The minutes of the Annual Assembly, held on 15th March 2018 (previously circulated), were taken as read and signed by Cllr Meakin.

4. Review of the Parish Council's year 2018/19 (Cllr Brian Meakin) – started his review by paying tribute to Ian Stewart, a County, District and Parish Councillor, who passed away in October 2018. New members of Beetham Parish Council since last year's review are David Crayston and Peter Greifenberg. Flooding continues to be a major concern in the parish, particularly for residents of Beetham, but detailed study by CCC and the Environment Agency is unlikely to produce any remedial measures in the near future, largely due to cost constraints. A suggestion that Beetham residents should form a Flood Resilience Forum to take self-help measures has, as yet, not materialised. Uncontrolled surface water on Leighton Beck Road is currently a major 'health and safety' issue, especially in the winter when it freezes. During high levels of activity at Beetham crematorium parking facilities are sometimes proving inadequate and a meeting with the Fishwick management has been arranged to discuss. The Beetham defibrillator project is almost complete with the equipment on order and the Stanley Street phone box now made over to the parish council. A new bus shelter at Carr Bank, to replace the one demolished by a car in 2017, is now in place and the 'smiley' speed indicator device on Sandside Promenade is proving useful in reducing traffic speeds. Other new developments are additional information panels sited at strategic points in the parish and protective boulders to safeguard the orchid triangle at Sandside. The centenary of the end of World War 1 was commemorated by the purchase and display of two 'silent soldiers'; these are now in store for use on future Remembrance Days. Overdue tree work is now in progress in Sandside Cutting and superfast broadband has finally reached parts of the parish.

5/6. Presentation – Morecambe Bay Partnership CEO Susannah Bleakley gave a fascinating talk on the work of her organisation, accompanied by a series of delightful slides of places, people and wildlife. A wide variety of events celebrating the area's wildlife, history and archaeology were held annually. And the region's windfarms were at the forefront of technology, making a significant contribution to the National Grid. Many questions from the audience were answered authoritatively and without hesitation. The lasting impression was how lucky we are to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable body working on our behalf and at virtually no cost to the taxpayer.

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

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