

# ***BEETHAM PARISH ASSEMBLY***

**MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at Beetham School.**

**Present** were Cllrs Ken Blenkharn (in the Chair), Brian Meakin, Pru Jupe, Bob Pickup, Ian Stewart, Steve Yates the Clerk John Scargill and nine members of the public.

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

**2. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Harvey and Noble.

**3. The minutes of the previous Annual Assembly, held on 15th March 2012**, were read by the Clerk, approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Blenkharn.

**4. Chairman's Review of the year 2012/13.** Cllr Blenkharn reported that the Parish Council's year had been a busy and an interesting one. The long-running Land Allocation proposals under SLDC's Local Development Framework had proved controversial, particularly as regards land in the Arnside & Silverdale Area on Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and an adjudicating inspector had referred them back for further research and revision. Also controversial, and referred back, had been proposals by a newly-formed local drainage group for maintaining and improving existing drainage facilities in the Lyth valley and adjacent areas. Drainage generally had been a major problem in 2012, due to the abnormally wet weather. However, there were items of good news – the creation of the Bela River Garden beside the A6, the interpretation panels for Sandside Cutting and Hale Green and the planned geology trail. Lottery funding promised for the Heron Corn Mill would enable major expansion and attract more visitors. Newly-installed speed bumps in Stanley Street, Beetham, had gone some way towards calming through traffic. Finally, Cllr Blenkharn paid tribute to ex-Cllr Ian Duckworth who retired from the parish council in 2012, and welcomed Steve Yates as his co-opted replacement.

**5. Presentation by Richard Leafe – 'The Lake District in the 21<sup>st</sup> century'.** This was an outstanding and inspiring address by the Chief Executive of the Lake District National Park Authority. It dealt in detail with the nature of the national park and all that was being done to preserve and develop it, both for the indigenous population and for visitors. This included conservation, replanting schemes, reduction in CP2 emissions, economic regeneration, local housing provision and the introduction of new tourist attractions. It also involved co-operation with a large number of other organisations with generally similar, but not always identical, objectives. Much progress had been made in the last five years but there was still some way to go to meet ambitious targets.

**6. Questions** – were confined entirely to the foregoing presentation, due to time constraints, and were answered by Mr Leafe in impressive detail and with admirable clarity. Cllr Ian Stewart moved a vote of thanks to the speaker.

**7. Conclusion and closure** – there being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.23pm.

**The meeting was followed by refreshments and informal conversation between councillors, speaker and members of the public.**