

BEETHAM PARISH ASSEMBLY

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 12th March 2015 at The Heron Theatre, Beetham.

Present were Parish Councillors Pru Jupe (in the chair), David Jupe, Brian Meakin, Chris Noble, Bob Pickup, Parish Clerk John Scargill and twenty members of the public (including local group representatives).

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

2. Apologies for absence – Parish Councillors Ken Blenkarn, Ian Stewart and Steve Yates. Also from representatives of Heron Corn Mill, Storth Village Hall and Beetham Sports.

3. The minutes of the previous Annual Assembly, held on 13th March 2014, were read out by the Parish Clerk, approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Pru Jupe.

4. Review of the Parish Council's year 2014/15 (Cllr Pru Jupe) – A high-profile event had been the public inquiry into a change of status (to public right-of-way) for a number of paths through Burntbarrow Woods, Storth. This inquiry took place initially in September 2014, only to be adjourned until March 2015, concluding today 12 March. The report and decision of the Planning Inspector is now awaited. A similar issue about paths around Hale Marble Quarry is now in the pipeline, with its public inquiry likely later this year. Another controversial event has been the planning application by Fishwicks to build a crematorium at Beetham Hall, which the Parish Council advised against and SLD, in due course, rejected. This rejection has now been appealed by Fishwicks. The Parish Council is building up a reserve of funds for the eventual replacement, where needed, of its street lamps sited on Electricity NW poles, as these poles are removed or replaced. It is also involved in an exciting project to improve a small, derelict site at Sandside and has identified nearby land for redevelopment. Major tree management work is currently taking place in Sandside Curting. Finally, the budget for 2015/16 has now been set at a very similar level to the current year.

5. Reports by parish groups.

Six different parish groups attended the Annual Assembly in response to direct invitation. These were – Storth Community Group (Storth shop), Storth Community Transport Group, Beetham Community Transport Group, Storth Playing Field Committee, Wings School and Heron Theatre. Each gave a presentation lasting approximately ten minutes, covering their organisation, objectives, funding and future plans.

6. Question time – produced some interesting points for the various speakers

7. Conclusion and closure – there being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

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