

# BOSTON SPA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of the Parish electorate. It is not a Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council Chairman calls and Chairs the meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting must be held between March 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 14). There is no prescribed format for this meeting and its recommendations are not binding on the Parish Council.

**DRAFT Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room, Boston Spa Village Hall.**

- PRESENT:** Parish Councillors D.I. Thomson (Chair), R. Wivell (Vice Chair), S. Morritt, R. Cross, M. Yeadon, T. Gausson, B. Charlton and V. Thomas.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Ward Councillors Alan Lamb and G. Wilkinson. PCSO Jen. Cornes – Wetherby Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- GUEST SPEAKER:** Shaun Macklin – Youth Work Manager, Youth Service Leeds City Council.

There were approx. 80 members of the public present.

The Chairman declared the meeting open and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Bannister, Mr and Mrs V. Gausden, Miss V. Gausden and Family, Mrs. E. Gausson and Parish Councillor A. Windle.

## 2. POLICE MATTERS

There were 114 reported crimes for the period 01.05.10 to 01.05.11 compared with 113 for the previous 12 months. PCSO Cornes gave a brief verbal report to the meeting. 9 people have been arrested for the thefts of lead and investigations are ongoing. The police have given a bigger presence in the village in recent months for which they have received positive feedback and there have been fewer anti social behaviour complaints received. A member of the public asked why children were hanging around Wickham Avenue when they should be at school. A member of the public who is a governor at Boston Spa School answered the question; the school takes the register every morning and families are contacted when there is an unexplained absence. A member of the public had witnessed an act of vandalism at Clarendon Road bus shelter and reported this to the police who stated afterwards that no crime had been committed. PCSO Cornes could not comment on this particular matter however, suggested that it was difficult to take any further action as the member of the public had only heard the incident and not actually seen the crime take place. There was a question regarding issuing tickets to vehicles parked on yellow lines. PCSO Cornes replied that the City Council Wardens issue all parking tickets; the police will address the issue if the vehicle is causing an obstruction. There was a question about speeding traffic through the village. PCSO Cornes explained that the police continue to carry out speed checks in the village and in fact had been on the High Street that day. A member of the public suggested that the police carry out checks late at night. The Chairman explained that the priority areas in Boston Spa that the police have been focusing on were anti social behaviour and speeding. There were no further questions or queries and PCSO Cornes was thanked for attending the meeting. PCSO Cornes left the meeting.

**3. Mr. SHAUN MACKLIN - Youth Work Manager, Youth Service Leeds City Council.**

The Chairman introduced Mr. Macklin who addressed the meeting. The team delivers provision in Harewood, Alwoodley, Roundhay and Wetherby Wards and in Boston Spa the provision is concentrated at Deepdale Youth Centre. The old Youth Club was condemned and the village was without a permanent location for a Youth Club until the Children's Centre was opened at the beginning of this year. In this time, the service had a mobile van to deliver some youth services. Youth Services engaged with the young people in the village to help provide equipment for the new youth club. The youth club is open on Tuesday evenings from 6.30-8.30pm for young people aged between 10 and 15. The service is working closely with the police and it is possible that some of the young people that they are working with are responsible for some of the anti social behaviour in the village. The service is hoping to provide more sporting activities and even a residential. They would also like to offer a youth club on Fridays, at the moment young people are travelling to access facilities at Barleyfields in Wetherby on Fridays. Mr. Macklin appealed for volunteers who may be interested in working with young people to support the activities provided by Youth Services. Anyone interested should get in touch with Mr Macklin. The Service does not have enough resources to open a facility for the 9-13 year old age group and if anyone is interested in setting up a club for this age group the Youth Service may be able to support them. A member of the public pointed out that there were many youth groups in the village which are supported by volunteers from the village. Mr. Macklin said that the group that they are currently working with probably need the most help. A member of the public asked if some young people are put off attending the youth club and Mr. Macklin explained that if there are conflicts then they work hard to bring the two sides together but it is difficult to resolve if they don't attend the club. The City Council insist that part of the youth club has an educative element and the Service use informal educators such as a dance project with certification to achieve this requirement. The Youth Service is working with the police to put on another youth event at Deepdale Playing Fields this August which the Parish Council supports financially. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council has begun a working party to bring together all the groups in the village that work with young people and the Parish Council acts as a liaison. Mr. Macklin finished by saying that more volunteers mean more provision. Training and support is given. Mr. Macklin was thanked for attending and then left the meeting.

**4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

A member of the public asked about the fencing at the playground at Deepdale and Ward Councillor Lamb said that funding is forthcoming. A member of the public wished to point out that the junction of Clifford Road and High Street continues to be a problem and that parked cars block the sight lines. The City Council had written to the Parish Council to say that the signage was appropriate and there had been no incidents at this junction.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THAT MEETING**

**i. Deepdale Community Area and Playing fields: sign for play area, toilet facilities, ginnel**

A sign was fitted; however, it disappeared and a replacement is due soon. Toilet facilities cannot be made available. The local community is liaising with East North East Leeds Homes to arrange a clean up of the ginnel area.

**ii. 20mph zones outside schools**

Following the receipt of a City Council report with details of the proposals to trial the zones outside schools, it was agreed to request a trial zone for Westwood Way where there are three schools which would benefit, however this was not taken up by the City Council who were looking for sites with records of accidents or speeding. Latest information from Leeds is that the trial schemes have not been finalised; they expect implementation during the 2011-12 financial year. They have had to review comprehensively their spending plans for the new year in the light of new, lower budget figures.

**iii. Blocked drains, High Street opposite Number 47.**

A site visit was arranged in March following more flooding, however, planned camera investigations could not take place as the gullies were full of silt and clearance had been requested. To be followed up.

**iv. Additional car parking at Stables Lane playing fields**

A proposal has been drawn up which would create 7 or 8 additional spaces on a double-parked basis. Site visit and quotations to be sought.

**v. Development of land at Chestnut Grove**

Following site visits and initial verbal quotations the Parish Council is seeking funding and a plan will be drawn up. Neighbourhood consultations to take place. In general, the mound is to be flattened and the area generally tidied.

**6. UPDATE ON WORK ALONG THE RIVERSIDE**

Parish Councillor Terry Gausson addressed the meeting. Work to thin the woodland at Deep Dale is completed and they are reviewing the planting/regrowth naturally. The Holgate area is recovering from the installation of the fish pass and will be left until Autumn/Winter. There is some money from the Environment Agency for planting in this area. The fish pass camera is broken and the Environment Agency will fix it. There is an information panel to go up here as well. The fence around the equipment is to be replaced and the gate will be left unlocked. The working party will continue along the riverside. West Yorkshire Geological Trust has designated the riverside area from the bridge to Jackdaw Crag as a Local Geological Site (LGS). Following feedback from last year's Annual Parish Meeting the riverside meadow is mowed more frequently and looks better for it. A member of the public suggested money could be raised by sponsoring trees and this was welcomed. A member of the public asked what the Parish Council could do about people tipping garden waste onto the river bank at Deep Dale. The Parish Council has no specific powers to deal with this matter which is difficult to overcome. It was suggested that the Parish Council could send a letter to residents whose gardens back onto the river bank. A member of the public asked why the skips provided by the City Council on Deep Dale estate have stopped. Parish Councillor Vicky Thomas said that as part of her role on the Deep Dale Community Association she would be able to raise this at a forthcoming estate walkabout. A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could request bins on Leys Lane. Councillor Gausson wished to thank all the volunteers who have worked hard over the last 12 months on the riverside.

**7. UPDATE ON LCC REPLACEMENT STREET LIGHTS PROJECT**

The Chairman addressed the meeting and stated that the Parish Council is not dithering about the decision whether to provide tear drop lighting on the High Street. The plan from the City Council showing the positions of the standard lights on the High Street has only been received today. Representatives from the Parish Council have walked the High Street with the City Council's Street Lighting PFI Manager, Ian Moore and Alan Brummitt SEC Lighting Services to try to find the least disruptive solution for the High Street. Individuals will be able to register any specific concerns. The Parish Council has asked Leeds to provide a scheme using Tear Drop lights from St Mary's Church to the Village Hall. The standard lights will increase the number of columns on the High Street to 24 the Tear Drop style will mean an increase to 30 columns. The Parish Council will be producing a questionnaire which will be delivered to every house in the village asking for residents' views on whether they would like to see standard or Tear Drop lights on the High Street and there will be a period of time where the plans are displayed in the Village Hall for people to view. It has also been suggested that Tear Drop lights should start at Boston Lodge to Wharfeside and the Parish Council will also ask the City Council to provide plans for this. The questionnaire will set out the costs of Tear Drop lights and how this would affect the council tax. The Parish Council is looking for volunteers to deliver the questionnaires. All lamps in the Conservation Area will be painted either black or green, some comments have been received that this makes the columns more obtrusive. A member of the public commented that of the people that have expressed an opinion in the Wetherby News 13 have been in favour of Tear Drop style and only 4 have been against. A member of the public wished to know why it has taken so long for the Parish Council to make a decision. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council was advised to wait until a new lamp

which could be used on a 7 metre column at wider spacings became available. The original proposals had been for 10 metre columns at quite close centres as in Collingham so it had been worthwhile waiting. A member of the public asked if the Parish Council had approached businesses to sponsor the lighting project. The Chairman confirmed that no one had approached the Parish Council and that there would be an option to offer sponsorship in the questionnaire. There was a discussion about the options for funding the project. The Chairman confirmed that S106 money has restricted uses and was not permitted for street lighting. There was a discussion about the S106 money attached to the development on Church Fields which the Chairman confirmed has already been allocated by the City Council. The Chairman stated that the questionnaires would not be treated as a referendum and that the final decision on whether to provide older style lamps on the High Street would be made by the members of the Parish Council. There was a discussion about the how the project would affect the council tax of Band D properties. A member of the public asked why the precept was so low and another member of the public suggested that the Parish Council had a duty to keep the precept as low as possible. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council can only incur expenditure on items that are set out in law. A member of the public asked if there would be a meeting to announce the results of the questionnaire. The Chairman stated that the result would be published on the website and notice board. There is to be a new public forum page on the website entitled Engage which will launch on Monday and gives members of the public the opportunity to discuss matters of interest to them. A member of the public stated that the level of consultation was poor and discussed the results of his flyer that he had produced and distributed in the village. Of the 40 replies he had received, 39 had indicated they would like Heritage style lamps for the High Street. There was a discussion about why the High Street should have Heritage lamps and how the Parish Council had handled the matter. The Parish Council responded that it would not have been sensible to send out the questionnaires until the information from the City Council had been received. There was a discussion about the questions that would be on the questionnaire and then the matter was closed.

#### **8. UPDATE ON CHURCH FIELDS INQUIRY**

The Chairman stated that the fight for Church Fields had been lost comprehensively. There can be no appeal against the decision. Ward Councillor Procter has requested some information about the Inquiry through the Freedom of Information Act. An approach will be received from the developers, Taylor Wimpey, to set up a community working group. The working group will ensure the planning conditions are complied with and to ensure the community benefits as much as is possible. Ward Councillor Lamb said they will work to ensure the benefits of the S106 contributions get to Boston Spa. The Chairman thanked the members of the Parish Council for their hard work during the Inquiry and those members of the public that had assisted in the Parish Councils representations at the Inquiry.

#### **9. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman's report was published in the annual parish newsletter which was delivered to all households in the parish. There were no questions or comments.

#### **10. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

A provisional financial statement had been prepared and distributed to the meeting. There were no questions.

#### **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There is a dead tree at the skate park which could be dangerous. Parish Councillor Vicky Thomas said she would bring it up at the forthcoming estate walkabout with Leeds City Council.

The sign at the entrance to the Children's Centre states that the car park is for users of the Children's Centre only when it was previously agreed that users of the Community Centre could use the space as well. Ward Councillor Lamb will pursue.

It is anticipated that work on the development at the Lister's site will begin soon.

A member of the public asked what could be done about uncollected refuse bins. Ward Councillor

Alan Lamb asked that members of the public should email him with details.

A member of the public suggested that some of the surfaces at the playground at Deepdale were unsafe. Ward Councillor Gerald Wilkinson will raise the matter with LCC Parks and Leisure.

A member of the public suggested that the Parish Council should publicise the fact that tree works in the conservation area require specific permission.

**Next meeting** The Parish Council holds its meetings on the third Monday evening of the month (except August) at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Boston Spa. All meetings are open to the public. Any specific matters for the attention of the Parish Council should be sent to: Mrs. K. Wilkinson, Clerk to the Parish Council, The Village Hall, 199, High Street, Boston Spa LS23 6AA, by email: [bostonpapc@btinternet.com](mailto:bostonpapc@btinternet.com), or by telephone 01937 835736. The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held in April or May 2012.

**Closure** There being no other matters for discussion the Chairman thanked the residents and Ward Councillor for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_