

# 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, schedule 12, paragraph 14). There is no prescribed format for this meeting and its recommendations are not binding on the Parish Council.**

## Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room, Boston Spa Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors T Baker (Chair), K Alderson, J Beeson, T Gausson, M Heum, S Morritt and J Steel

**IN ATTENDANCE:** V Hunter (Parish Clerk), Ward Councillor G Wilkinson, PCSO E Leighton, G Shaw (Chair NPSG), D Butters (Care & Repair Leeds) , 30 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming and declared the meeting open. Cllr Baker introduced the members of the Parish Council in attendance and the Parish Clerk.

1.	<p><b>Apologies</b> Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Courts and Williams and Ward Councillors Lamb and Procter and from former Parish Council Chair Robert Wivell.</p>
2.	<p><b>Police Matters</b> PCSO Leighton provided an update to the 2014/2015 figures. The number of crimes in 2014/2015 was 102. The number of crimes in 2015/2016 was 76 a reduction of 26. The breakdown of 2015/2016 crimes was as follows – Burglary Dwelling 8, Burglary Other 20, Criminal Damage 8, Theft related offences 26, Vehicle crime 8 and Assaults 6. There were no questions and PCSO Leighton was thanked for attending the meeting.</p>
3.	<p><b>Ward Councillor update</b> Cllr Wilkinson began by thanking everybody who had helped to get him re-elected. He then provided updates on a number of issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Grove Road planning appeal is still with the inspector. As yet no date has been given for the decision.</li> <li>• One pedestrian crossing has been approved at east end of the village</li> <li>• Following complaints, speeding checks had been carried out in Church Street. These had indicated that there was no issue. In response to a resident’s question, Cllr Wilkinson advised that further checks had been agreed</li> <li>• A meeting had been arranged with a resident to discuss congestion and road rage issues between the Village Hall and Grove Road.</li> <li>• No progress with the Crown Hotel – it was confirmed that the Parish Council had written to Enterprise Inns requesting an update but no response had yet been received.</li> <li>• A problem has been identified with the site lines when exiting Coopers Fold – LCC Highways want to remove a parking space to alleviate this.</li> </ul> <p>A resident asked about the current position in relation to the former Primrose Hill nursing home. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that it is up for sale but that preference would be give to a developer looking to create older persons housing. Surveyors have been on site with LCC permission. Assurance was again given that the allotments are not part of the plot.</p> <p>A resident asked why some schools in the village have a 20 mph limit while others do not. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that eventually all schools will have a 20 mph limit and agreed to ask LCC for details of the programme.</p> <p>In response to questions about speeding traffic the Chair referred to the Parish Council’s aspirations for a People Friendly Village Centre, which could include a village-wide 20 mph speed limit but indicated that there is a need to educate residents about the dangers of speeding as recent checks have shown that 80% of people exceeding the speed limit are local. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council is</p>

	<p>pressing for the early completion of the traffic calming measures that were a requirement of the Church Fields planning approval.</p> <p>A resident suggested that the village could consider setting up a fund to purchase speed camera.</p> <p>A resident commented on the state of Grove Road, which is seriously in need of repair. Cllr Wilkinson advised that he has reported this but that the current position is a backlog of £100m worth of repairs against an annual repairs budget of just £6m.</p>
4.	<p><b>Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>
5.	<p><b>Matters arising from the meeting</b></p>
	<p>i) <b>Update on Farmers Market.</b></p> <p>Following a reduction in the number of stalls down to four, a discussion had taken place on whether the market should continue. The Village Hall Management Committee had put forward a proposal for it to move to the Village Hall and become an indoor market. This had been agreed on a trial basis and would take effect from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May.</p>
6.	<p><b>Presentation on the Leeds Directory</b> – Dean Butcher, Marketing and Development Officer, Care and Repair Leeds gave a short presentation on the Leeds Directory. He advised that Care &amp; Repairs Leeds is a not for profit organisation funded by Leeds City Council and that the purpose of the presentation was to raise awareness of what is included and how it works. The aim of the Directory is to provide support to people to find services in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around the home – cleaning, gardening etc</li> <li>• Health and Personal care</li> <li>• In Your Community – befriending etc</li> <li>• Advice, Information and Support</li> </ul> <p>He confirmed that all services included in the Directory are checked and vetted to give peace of mind and also include star ratings and reviews from users. The Directory’s services can either be accessed online at <a href="http://www.leedsdirectory.org">www.leedsdirectory.org</a> or by calling the Helpline 0113 391 8333</p> <p>Residents were asked to encourage providers to sign up to the Directory.</p> <p>A discussion took place on how best to publicise the Directory to residents not at the meeting. The Chair thanked Dean for attending.</p>
7.	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan for Boston Spa</b> – Geoff Shaw - Chair, Boston Spa Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group presented an update of the work since the last meeting.</p> <p>Geoff reported that producing the Plan had been a lot more complex than initially thought. Problems had arisen due to the need for the Plan to accord with Leeds City Strategy, the site allocations element of which is still to be agreed. LCC have now been persuaded that Boston Spa can move forward with its Plan, which will set out policies for housing development, transport etc. and the Plan has now gone forward for formal consultation. Consultation is open until the 19<sup>th</sup> June and Geoff asked residents to take the opportunity to submit their comments. Following consultation the Plan will be amended in the light of comments made and the amended plan will go to an independent examiner before being subject to a referendum of all residents.</p> <p>Residents thanked Geoff and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for all of the work done to get the Plan to this stage.</p> <p>A question was asked about the objective within the Plan to increase green space. Geoff confirmed that the key was to increase usable green space rather than green space per se.</p> <p>A comment was made about the proposal to try and deter through traffic and whether this might impact on businesses that relied on this.</p> <p>A comment was made about the issue of school places in relation to any future housing development.</p>
8.	<p><b>Boston Spa Hydropower project update</b> – In the absence of Cllr Susan Williams, Cllr Tim Baker provided an update on the project. He confirmed that since the last meeting the project had been beset by problems including a reduction in feed-in tariffs, communication issues with the PC’s partner Hydrosense and access to Holgate Lane. As a result of these issues a recommendation would be being made to the Annual Parish Council meeting that regretfully the scheme should not proceed at the present time.</p>
9.	<p><b>Stables Lane</b> – Cllr Kevin Alderson presented an update on the work done to date by the Stables Lane working group and its plans for the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on the Neighbourhood Plan has identified a shortage in green space equivalent to twice the size</li> </ul>

	<p>of the Church Fields site. In particular there is a lack of access to green space for children to play with the biggest gap in the east of the village. Feedback on the NP indicated a need for more green space for public use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stables Lane is currently a large grassed open space with only one entrance, which is not used very widely and is perceived as not very welcoming</li> <li>• There is a big opportunity using seed funding from the pavilion insurance claim and a team of willing volunteers to build a new green space that the village can be proud of</li> <li>• The Vision is to create a community recreational space that supports and promotes health, wellbeing and social interaction</li> <li>• The top priorities are use for all ages, health and wellbeing, social interaction and accessibility</li> <li>• Consultation for ideas and suggestions to continue throughout summer with the aim of having suggested schemes available for review by late summer and a decision taken in the Autumn</li> </ul> <p>Kevin then outlined a number of ways in which residents could feed back their suggestions either at or after the meeting.</p>
10.	<p><b>Chair's Report</b></p> <p>The Chair's report was published in the Annual Newsletter, which was delivered to all households. The Chair thanked the Clerk and all Parish councillors for their efforts.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everybody who had been involved in the Heritage Trail project, which had been omitted from the annual report but which had been a great success.</p>
11.	<p><b>Financial Statement</b></p> <p>A statement had been prepared and distributed to the meeting.</p> <p>A resident commented that the PC precept represented very good value for money, reflecting the amount of work that is done on a voluntary basis.</p>
12.	<p><b>Invitation to Boston Spa Residents to raise any matters of interest</b></p> <p>i) An update on the Crown Hotel was requested – The Chair confirmed that the PC has recently written to Enterprise Inns and is awaiting reply</p> <p>ii) A question was asked about the PC's position in relation to the revised plans for Thorp Arch. The Chair confirmed that this has not yet been formally considered by the PC but that the previous concerns re increased traffic over the bridge remain. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that a pre application is expected in June or July.</p> <p>iii) A resident requested permission to address the meeting about his concerns about traffic issues within the village. The Chair invited residents to submit suggestions on how these could be alleviated.</p> <p>iv) A resident confirmed that a meeting on the referendum is due to take place in the Village Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> May with speakers from both sides</p>
<p><b>Next meeting:</b> The Parish Council holds its meetings on the third Monday evening of the month 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 Val Hunter, Clerk to the Parish Council, The Village Hall, 199, High Street, Boston Spa LS23 6AA, by email: <a href="mailto:clerk@bostonspapc.org.uk">clerk@bostonspapc.org.uk</a>, or by telephone 01937 842247. The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017.</p>	
<p><b>Closure - There being no other matters for discussion the Chairman thanked the residents for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 21.05 hours.</b></p>	

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....