

BOSTON SPA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023

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 1st and June 1st (LGA 1972, schedule 12, paragraph 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 17th May 2023 at 7.00pm at Boston Spa Village Hall

PRESENT: Parish Councillors K Blake (Chairman), G Bowen (Vice Chairman), K Alderson, S Courts, S King, M Heum

APOLOGIES: Parish and Ward Councillor Penny Stables

IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Marshall (Clerk to the Parish Council), Ward Councillors Norma Harrington and Alan Lamb, Keith Jackson (NPAG) and two members of the public.

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

1.	Apologies Apologies had been received from Ward Councillor Penny Stables.
2.	Police Matters No member of the police were in attendance. Cllr Blake gave an update from the latest PACT meeting. Anti-social behaviour is relatively low and incidents at Stables Lane seem to have declined.
3.	Ward Councillor update Linda Richards has been replaced by Cllr Penny Stables from the Green Party as Ward Councillor following the May Election. A resident complained about the seating in Millennium Gardens placed by Salt and asked whether details of the outdoor seating licence could be obtained over concerns about disabled access. It was also reported that gathering drinkers are blocking the car park entrance and that Tom Foolery is restricting the pavement with tables and chairs. Cllr Lamb said he would go and inspect the areas. Cllr Lamb said the Ward Councillors are looking to set up a disability group to assist with these issues. The resident also complained about the neglected paths on the grassed areas at Fountains Avenue and Egglestone Square which are LCC Highway's responsibility. Cllr Harrington said that Cllr Richards had been looking into this and that she would pick it up. The surfacing on the road at Fountains Avenue was also reported to be in a poor condition. Cllr Lamb said he would check the Highways maintenance plan to see if it was on the schedule.
4.	Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2022 The minutes were approved and will be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
5.	Village Centre Plan
	Cllr Blake reported the work hadn't gone as smoothly as was hoped but it now only a few days from completion following a 4-5 week delay because of drainage issues. Speculation had taken place on social media about the cost of the project and the alleged waste of tax payers' money. It was made clear that the £340,000 cost had been covered entirely by monies provided from housing developments. The work was included in the original Neighbourhood Plan on which all residents were consulted. Many people have been involved in the development of the plan over the last nine years and thanks were offered to those who had participated. Cllr Blake said it was

	important that people were encouraged to come into the village and use the shops now that the work had been completed.
6.	Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Gail Bowen
	Cllr Bowen gave an overview of the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan. The plan is currently under review by the new Neighbourhood Planning Committee. Particular focus will be placed on improving public transport and public areas to create a healthier place for people to live and run businesses. Public engagement in the update of the Neighbourhood Plan will be really important. One resident stated the need for more affordable housing as local people have been priced out of the housing market in Boston Spa. More investment in services is required as the schools are at their capacity and the surgery is becoming oversubscribed.
7.	An update from Boston Spa Green Group- Adrian Balcombe
	The Green Group now has 250 volunteers in the community. The group ran two successful energy fairs in Wetherby Town Hall. A key project has been the Big Bike Fix, with 450 bikes fixed and donated so far. The Green Group has worked with all the local schools to educate and assist with funding initiatives. Boston Spa is working towards being a Plastic Free Community and there is a strong focus on providing recycling solutions. The group has planted 400 trees and an Eco Charter is being created for the Parish Council. The group is continuing to work towards obtaining CIO status.
8.	Chairman’s Report Cllr Blake highlighted the key points in his annual report from the Annual Parish Newsletter.
9.	Financial Statement The PC’s 2022-23 income over expenditure is £31,367 which is comprised of £20K is from CIL, which has been committed to the Village Centre Plan and £11K from the Stables Lane budget which will be put in reserves for the park. Cllr Blake said there had been a 9.5% increase in the 2022-23 budget to cover inflation and the potential cost of waste management and recycling at Stables Lane Park.
10.	Invitation to Boston Spa Residents to raise any matters of interest 20mph speed limit and speeding in the village – Cllr Harrington confirmed that regular speed checks are being undertaken by the police. Antisocial behaviour from students from Boston Spa Academy – Cllr Harrington said more money being provided to the youth team and there is now a Tuesday night youth club in Boston Spa. The ASB Team have been going into all the local schools and the new PCSO is engaging well with young people in the village. Crime across the Wetherby Ward is decreasing, and Boston Spa Academy has recently been scored Outstanding by Ofsted. A new High School is set to open at Red Hall on the A58 which will shrink the catchment area for Boston Spa Academy. Cllr Harrington said that any incidents should be reported to the school.

Next meeting: The Parish Council holds its meetings on the third Monday evening of the month at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Boston Spa. Meetings are open to the public. Any specific matters for the attention of the Parish Council should be sent to Deborah Marshall, Clerk to the Parish Council, The Village Hall, 199, High Street, Boston Spa LS23 6AA, by email: clerk@bostonspapc.org.uk, or by telephone 07864 649565. The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th May 2024.

Closure - There being no other matters for discussion the Chairman thanked the residents for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 20:20

Signed (Chairman)

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