

BOSTON SPA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2025

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of the Parish electorate. It is not a Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council Chairman calls 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 7th May 2025 at 7.00pm at Boston Spa Village Hall

PRESENT: Parish Councillors G Bowen (Vice Chairman), K Alderson, D Taylor, A Watts.

APOLOGIES: Parish and Ward Councillor P Stables. Cllrs K Blake, S Courts, E Alderson, M Heum.

IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Marshall (Clerk to the Parish Council),

GUESTS: Ward Councillors Norma Harrington and Alan Lamb.

Cllr Gail Bowen, the Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.	Apologies
	Apologies had been received from Councillor Penny Stables
2.	Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2024
	The minutes were approved and were signed by the Cllr Gail Bowen, the Vice Chairman as a correct record.
3.	Update of Leeds Local Plan – Cllr Lamb
	Leeds is the second largest local authority in the UK with 850,000 people (the first being Birmingham). The Local Plan update 2022-2040 has commenced with the SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment) and the SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) having been completed in 2022. A further stage, the Call for Sites is yet to be undertaken. This is when landowners can submit land to be used for housing and employment. Around 20% of the land submitted is eventually approved in the plan. The main issues for Leeds, and Wetherby in particular is the lack of affordable housing. The next stage of the local plan will start in June until September. The consultation will eventually go to Public Enquiry in 2026.
4.	Ward Councillor Update and Q&A's
	Cllr Harrington's focus is currently on flood prevention following recent heavy rain which caused roads to become unpassable. Cllr Harrington is working with the drainage teams to ensure all drains are unblocked and the Resilience Team to develop resilience plans for the Parish Councils. The Flood Prevention Team are also looking at rivers. Cllr Lamb said the revised plans for the proposed TRO at Westwood Way were received on 7 th May and the Ward Councillors will be examining these over the coming week.
5.	An update from Boston Spa Green Group – Adrian Balcombe
	Over past year, The Green Group's main projects have been the Big Bike Fix, providing education to schools and developing green areas and wildlife corridors. 900 bikes have

	<p>been fixed and donated since the Bike Fix Project started and the group will be seeking further grant funding this year to get to the 1,000-bike milestone.</p> <p>Volunteers have worked hard at Church Fields to create natural hedges, install a new set of steps and reduce erosion alongside the footpaths. Further tree planting has been undertaken in Wetherby. The group is continuing to work with schools to assist with Climate Action Plans and engage with local communities through evening wildlife walks and talks, butterfly counting and showing ecology films. A community energy generation project is being explored. The Green Group were thanked by Cllr Alderson for their work on trees, hedges and the new bin store at Stables Lane Park.</p>
6.	Neighbourhood Plan Update – Cllr Gail Bowen
	<p>The new Neighbourhood Plan is still in production. The key topics are Energy, Buildings, Transport, Green Spaces & Biodiversity and Business & Community. Parking, speeding and HGVs are still a big concern for the village, as well as capacity at local doctors' surgeries. The quality of the water in the Wharfe in Boston Spa is also an increasing concern. NPAG realises there is a lack of affordable housing and facilities for teenagers. The group is in urgent need of more volunteers to assist with the development of the plan. Cllr Anne Watts is leading a team to develop a Resilience Plan for residents.</p>
7.	Chairman's Report
	<p>Cllr Bowen read a summary of Cllr Blake's report which had been included in the Annual Parish Newsletter. Village Centre work is largely complete with some minor issues still to be resolved. Improvements have been made to the car parks with the addition of disabled bays. Stables Lane Park continues to be very popular, and more improvements are required to the car park. The Council now has a Community Events Committee, and preparations are being made for a one-day summer Party in the Park and a Christmas event in December. Investments are being made in the allotments with a new fence and gate at the Primrose Hill site. Tree works are ongoing on the riverside and Baxters, the contractors are working collaboratively with Mike Gadd to make improvements at Church Fields. The PC is hoping to work more closely with the Leeds Planners to ensure progress is made on the Church Street/Hollydene Nurseries site. Thanks were given to the Councillors, Ward Councillors, Clerk and volunteers for all their hard and commitment over the past year.</p>
8.	Financial Statement
	<p>The Clerk gave an overview of the PC's finances. In 2024-25 the PC had a £18,816 underspend against precept: £6,560 of this was for Stables Lane Park and £6,400 for tree works. These amounts have been put into dedicated reserves for the coming year. Overall, the Parish Council had a £6,500 expenditure over income as £27,500 was used from a dedicated reserve for the resurfacing of the Stables Lane car park. The PC's precept in 2025-26 is £78,417.</p>
9.	Invitation to Boston Spa residents to raise any matters of interest
	None.
	With no further business the meeting closed at 19:50