

BOSTON SPA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

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.

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.00pm by Zoom.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Marshall (Clerk to the Parish Council), PCSO Gaynor Duffy, Penny Stables and Mike Gadd (Boston Spa Green Group), Keith Jackson (BEET) Jeff Newton (Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Review Group) and one member of the public.

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

1.	Apologies Apologies had been received from Parish Councillor S Courts and Ward Councillors N Harrington and L Richards. Parish Councillors M Harris and E Molyneux were absent.
2.	Police Matters PCSO Gaynor Duffy stated that 2020 had been a quiet year for crime because of the government lockdowns. Keith Jackson raised a concern about the increase in drug dealing in the village as witnesses had seen the exchange of drugs in several key locations. PCSO Duffy said the police had received reports of the hot spots and now knew who several of the suspects were and that one person had been arrested in Wetherby. PCSO Duffy urged the public to report any suspicious activity so that the police can gather further evidence. Penny Stables raised concerns in relation to antisocial behaviour and criminal damage at the derelict St Vincent's School on Church Street where the building has now become dangerous. PCSO Duffy asked attendees to report to the police when youths were on the site so that they could attend. More action was requested to monitor speeding in the village following the introduction of the 20mph speed limit in 2019. Cllr Blake said he had asked the Ward Councillors to fund some traffic officers to monitor speed at the Tadcaster entrance. Keith Jackson said that he had a speed gun which could be lent to the Green Group so that they could also monitor speeding in the village.
3.	Ward Councillor Update Cllr Richards and Harrington had sent their apologies. No apologies had been received from Cllr Alan Lamb.
4.	Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May 2019 The minutes were approved and will be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
5.	Village Centre Plan Keith Jackson stated that many people had worked hard to try and make improvements to the village, and that action now needs to be taken to deliver the village centre scheme. A liaison group has been set up by the Parish Council with members from the Green Group and the new Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Review Group and one meeting had been held so far. The group are now awaiting design plans from Leeds City Council following approval of the budget. Jeff Newton asked about the oak shelter for outside St Mary's Church. Cllr Blake explained that the installation had been delayed because a utilities survey and section 50 permit was required before the pavement could be dug up for the fixings.

6.	<p>Stables Lane Development Project</p> <p>Cllr Alderson said that it was very positive to see so many people using the park and that the Parish Council were now making a good income from fitness and sports class hire. The two new oak gazebo shelters were installed in 2020 using money from the Leeds Park Fund and a donation from Boston Spa in Bloom. The honours board, which was kindly donated by Hartwell Engineering is also now in place. Four new bins have been bought by the Parish Council and the Friends of Stables Lane volunteers are working hard to ensure they are being emptied. The no dogs and dogs-on-a-lead designated areas have been successful and so no PSPO order was felt necessary. Issues of ASB have become more frequent since the lifting of lockdown and a dedicated police officer, PC Erika Bernie, has been nominated to target ASB. The PC has put in a bid in for funding for junior play equipment with the outcome expected in June. The new sign and a noticeboard, donated by Kirby's Builders Merchants, will be mounted at Cohen's Chemist and two new BBQ's have also been delivered.</p>
7.	<p>Boston Spa Voltage Optimisation Project</p> <p>One of the Community Actions in Neighbourhood Plan is a commitment to saving energy. Keith Jackson provided an update on BEET (The Boston Spa Energy Efficiency Trial) detailing a recent assessment of how much excess voltage is being used by properties being served by the High Street substation. BEET will utilise Smart Meter readings to assess the real (excess) voltage every half hour with the hope that this can eventually be reduced. This would conserve electricity for use in charging electric cars, cut utility bills and save Co2.</p>
8.	<p>Highways and Traffic Issues</p> <p>Cllr Blake report that Cllr Molyneux has been compiling a report which is regularly being sent to the Ward Councillors. The High Street has been successfully resurfaced together with Grove Road and the bottom of Clifford Moor Road. Cllr Molyneux is logging areas where parking occurs on double yellow lines. Penny Stables asked if dangerous parking could also be looked at as some cars are parking on the pavement, blocking footways for the disabled and push chairs users. Penny Stables said that the Safe Cycling Route from Boston Spa to Tadcaster is being progressed with Sustrans.</p>
9.	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Cllr Blake said that it was disappointing that the PC no longer receives a Crime Report for the village and that this is now being consolidated into one Wetherby Ward report to reduce police admin. This does not give a detailed picture or allow the PC to see if crime is on the increase.</p> <p>A Woodland and tree survey has been undertaken and new trees have already been planted in the riverside gap near the weir. The Chairman thanked the Green Group for planting the Community Orchard at Deepdale. The Village Hall entrance and toilets have now been refurbished with some funding provided by the Parish Council. The current Village Hall Trustees will apply to become a CIO and the charity will take over ownership of the Village Hall from the Parish Council. The Borlocco House/St Vincent's Church Street development application was refused by planners, but the land has been reserved for building and the PC will work closely with the landowners to agree on a development that will consider the needs and wants of the electorate. The Chairman thanked all the Councillors for their hard work and commitment during the year and said that it would be a great loss when Cllr Gausson leaves in July.</p>
10.	<p>Financial Statement</p> <p>The Chairman stated that there was a £10,000 underspend in 2020/21, largely due to the cancellation of activities because of Covid-19. This money will be put into the PC's reserves.</p>
11.	<p>Matters of interest</p> <p>A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council had considered the planning application to extend Pear Tree Cottage at Spa Lane. The Chairman stated that the PC had agreed to raise an objection due to the scale and design of the extension.</p>

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@bostonpapc.org.uk, or by telephone 07864 649565. The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th May 2022.

Closure - There being no other matters for discussion the Chairman thanked the residents for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 20.30 hours.

Signed
Chairman

Date