

BOSTON SPA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

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 4th May 2022 at 7.00pm at Boston Spa Village Hall

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Marshall (Clerk to the Parish Council), Ward Councillor Norma Harrington, PCSO Lou Crossland, PS James Allen, Keith Jackson (BEET) and four 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, Ward Councillor Norma Harrington and the representatives from West Yorkshire Police.

1.	Apologies Apologies had been received from Ward Councillor Linda Richards.
2.	Police Matters PS James Allen reported that crime in the Wetherby Ward remained generally quite low with occasional burglaries. The Neighbourhood Police Team have Wetherby have 6 officers. PCSO Louise Crossland confirmed that she is out on the streets on Boston Spa every day. One resident asked about drugs. The police confirmed that there have been some reports of dealing in the area but that incidences are very low. The public are encouraged to report suspicious behaviour or any exchange of packages that they witness, together with dates, times and descriptions of the people involved. Car registration numbers should also be submitted as cars can be tracked and then stopped and searched. PS James Allen said the police were aware of the vandalism at Stables Lane and are working with the landowners of the St Vincent's/Church Street site to prevent trespassing on the land. Youths can be prosecuted for entering a derelict building as this is a criminal offence. One member of the public asked about HGVs that are travelling through the village for non-delivery purposes. PS James Allen said that the police now have a portal to which dashcam footage can now be uploaded to report such incidences.
3.	Ward Councillor Update Cllr Harrington reported that the Ward Councillors have been working hard with LCC to ease the public out of Covid restrictions and things are now getting back to normal. Over the last year, the Ward Councillors have worked closely with the police to help resolve parking and speeding issues and have continued to fund overtime for the traffic police to carry out speed checks. There have been checks on Clarendon Road and at the Tadcaster entrance to the village. Speeding is fairly minimal, and the public's perception of speeding is higher than its occurrence. One member of the public raised a complaint about speeding on Primrose Lane, which is mainly caused by parents dropping and collecting children from the schools on Westwood Way. Cllr Harrington said she would ask if a police speed check could be carried out on Primrose Lane but stated that police resource is limited to just one day per month across the Ward. Cllr Harrington reported that Cllr Richards has been working with schools in Boston Spa and has asked them to speak to parents about parking and speeding. Cllr Blake said it would be raised at the next PACT meeting and could also be put on the next PC agenda. Cllr Blake thanked Cllr Harrington for her and the other Wetherby Ward Councillors' support over the last year.
4.	Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2021 The minutes were approved and will be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
5.	Village Centre Plan

	<p>Cllr Bowen provided a background on the development of the village centre plans and how they have changed over the last year following resident and business owner feedback. The latest plan for the village centre now includes loading areas and the light-controlled crossing will be retained because the level of traffic on the A659. LCC Highways have said they are committed to carrying out the work and hoped to do it in August during the holiday period.</p>
6.	<p>Stables Lane Park</p> <p>Cllr Alderson provided an update on improvements to the park over the last year. Many more people are now using the park and it is positive to see people of all ages making use of the facilities. The park is now used frequently by runners and those taking part in fitness classes. The new junior play equipment has been installed at a cost of £80,000 and is being enjoyed by the older children. Cllr Alderson thanked the Clerk for her assistance with the administration of the FCC grant for its purchase. A new gate has been installed to make the park more secure and new playground and gym equipment safety signs have now been mounted. It is hoped that access to the park will be improved with the eventual development of the Church Street site as the only entrance currently is from the northeast side. It is hoped that there will be eventual access from the northwest and southwest corners and an entrance from St Mary's School is being explored. Cllr Alderson expressed his disappointment at the amount of vandalism at the park since the lifting of lockdown and said that the ASB Officer from LCC and the Police Crime Prevention Officer have visited the site and have been very supportive in their recommendations. The PC is now looking at some enhanced security measures. Cllr Alderson said that funds raised from the park from both sports class hire and through donations had been very positive in 2021 and that the PC will continue to invest in its enhancements.</p>
7.	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>The Chairman thanked his fellow councillors and the Clerk for their work over the past year. It was a great loss that Cllr Gausson had left the PC after many years to move to the south. Another Councillor, Matt Harris had also left the PC. The ownership of the Village Hall has now been passed over to the CIO and the hall operates separately from the PC. This CIO status has meant that the Village Hall have been able to secure a grant of £100,000 for replacement of windows. Work to improve outdoor spaces has been carried out and a new footpath surface was laid at the riverside by The Conservation Volunteers. Options are being looked at for wheelchair access to the riverside via a smoother path at Wharfe Bridge. The PC continue to look at planning requests each month and respond where appropriate. The PC is still awaiting the TRO to prevent parking on Church Mews by customers visiting The Crown. This has been a frustrating process, but progress finally is being made.</p>
8.	<p>Financial Statement</p> <p>Cllr Blake reported the PC had £49,000 of income over expenditure during the 2021-22 financial year. This was because of the receipt of £40,610 in CIL monies which have been earmarked for the Village Centre Plan. Additional monies were saved as the Ward Councillors provided the funding for the Christmas Lights at Millennium Gardens. Proceeds from the hire of Stables Lane for recreational use had been extremely high in 2021 because of the need to exercise outdoors. Cllr Blake also gave thanks to the organisers of the Classic Car Rally and the Festival Group who donated money raised on the day. This has been put into reserves to be invested in the development of Stables Lane Park.</p>
9.	<p>Matters of interest</p> <p>A member of the public raised the issue of land at Fountains Avenue being untidy and the paths uneven. Cllr Blake said this would be put on the agenda at the next PC meeting.</p> <p>Keith Jackson gave an update on BEET stating that this had suffered a delay but that he was working with the project board and Ofgem to try and push the project forward.</p> <p>Cllr Alderson expressed his thanks and appreciation to Cllr Richards for her assistance in ensuring that graffiti at Stables Lane was swiftly removed by the LCC Graffiti team.</p> <p>Keith Jackson asked whether FOSL could have another meeting to talk about future developments of the park. Cllr Alderson said that he would organise this.</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 3rd May 2023.

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

Date 17th May 2023



Chairman