

BOSTON SPA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

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 15th May 2024 at 7.00pm at Boston Spa Village Hall

PRESENT: Parish Councillors K Blake (Chairman), G Bowen (Vice Chairman), K Alderson, M Heum, E Alderson, K Alderson, D Taylor.

APOLOGIES: Parish and Ward Councillor P Stables, Cllr S Courts.

IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Marshall (Clerk to the Parish Council), Ward Councillors Norma Harrington and Alan Lamb, Keith Jackson (BEET), Mark Callum (Northern Power Grid) and eighteen 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 Councillor Penny Stables
2.	Ward Councillor update
	Cllr was Lamb was pleased to announce that the roundabout at Grange Moor has been resurfaced this week. Village improvements this year have also included the repositioning and re-laying of the path from Deepdale to the High Street. Changes to parking in Boston Spa are planned and this will improve spaces for the disabled. A road safety group is being set up to tackle speeding and inconsiderate parking. A future concern for Wetherby is the proposed Maltkiln development at Cattal, residents from which will use Wetherby for shopping and services. Regarding other planning issues, Cllr Lamb said he was continuing to work with the various government agencies and LCC to address the dumping of waste at a site on Walton Road which is causing a lot of debris on the road. A concern was raised about a proposed 400 house development in Tadcaster and the pressure this will put on the road network when residents use Boston Spa as a cut through to the A1. One resident raised a concern about the impact of the extension on Martin House. Cllr Lamb confirmed that patient numbers were not expected to increase, however the practices of the construction workers had been poor and that there were some planning enforcement cases being progressed.
3.	Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2023
	The minutes were approved and will be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4.	Boston Spa Energy Efficiency Trial (BEET) – Keith Jackson
	Keith Jackson introduced Mark Callum, the lead engineer from Northern Power Grid working on the BEET project. Residents were given an overview of the project which was prompted by the research of Keith Jackson. The project looks to reduce the voltage level supplied to homes which will save costs and reduce consumption. This is possible because of the live data that NPG can collect on voltage levels from Smart Meters every half hour. The project to reduce the voltage has

	now gone live and be rolled out to 4 million people by the end of this month. A leaflet drop to households will commence w/c 20 May.
5.	Neighbourhood Plan Update – Cllr Gail Bowen
	Boston Spa was an early adopter of the Neighbourhood Plan Scheme. The current plan has influenced change in the village and in its development. Time has moved on, and the plan is now being reviewed by the NP Committee. The Committee is comprised of members of the PC and various community groups. The public consultation commenced in November 2023 and drop-in events have been held at the Village Hall and Deepdale Community Centre. The online consultation is now live. The initial results from the consultation will be published on the Parish Council’s website later this year. Cllr Harrington urged the public to get involved with the consultation as district planning departments are now using Neighbourhood Plans more frequently as a guide in assessing planning applications.
6.	An update from Boston Spa Green Group - Adrian Balcombe
	Adrian Balcombe is the new chair of the Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages Green Group. 2023 was a big year for the group in which they achieved CIO Status and became politically unaffiliated. The group now has a strategy and has 3 main areas of focus: the big bike fix, improving biodiversity and providing education. The Bike Fix Team has repaired and refurbished 700 donated bikes which have now been distributed to those in need of transport in more deprived areas. More grant funding is required this year, and the team needs assistance with admin. The Woodland Creation Team has planted over 1,000 trees and Mike Gadd had led the project to introduce natural fencing and the rewilding of areas around the riverside and Church Fields. The Green Group is continuing to engage with the public and schools. The group is still working towards getting Plastic Free Community Status and hopes this will be included within the revised Neighbourhood Plan. The monthly newsletter is now on a new platform and the public are encouraged to check the Green Group’s website for updates.
7.	Chairman’s Report
	Cllr Blake referred to his report in the Annual Newsletter and gave a quick update on the Village Centre Plan. The majority of the snagging work has been completed and new planters have arrived outside Costcutter. This year, the PC have invested in a new car park surface and new safety matting for the play area at Stables Lane Park. Wetherby has been successful in achieving bathing water status for the River Wharfe. The PC is very grateful to Mike Gadd and his volunteers for the work that has been undertaken to improve the riverside and Church Fields. A new contractor is now looking after the grassed areas at Church Fields and a huge improvement has been seen. Cllr Blake encouraged everyone to take part in the online Neighbourhood Planning Consultation. The PC will continue to invest in Christmas lighting and residents are encouraged to provide feedback on last year’s display and make any suggestions for what should be included this Christmas.
8.	Financial Statement
	The Clerk gave an overview of the PC’s finances. Last year the PC had a c £17,500 expenditure over income which was taken from the PC’s reserves. This money was used to provide the 10% third party funding for the Village Hall’s Biffa Grant to improve the Jubilee Room and toilets, the new Christmas lighting and lamp post converters and to fund £7,500 of emergency tree work required at the riverside and Jackdaw Crag. Unfortunately, a tree survey undertaken last autumn has revealed significant ash dieback and around 40 trees will either require felling or reducing to Eco Poles over the next 3 years. A 23.7% increase in the precept was required in 2024-25 to cover the cost of the work this year.
9.	Invitation to Boston Spa Residents to raise any matters of interest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One resident asked about the timeline for the revised Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Bowen said the Committee was aiming for the end of this year, but that it is important that the plan is given careful consideration. • One resident requested greater traffic enforcement for parking and speeding. Cllr Harrington said that the Ward Councillors had previously provided funding to the police for extra checks. The 20mph zone on the High Street will be lengthened to Deepdale once Church Fields has been adopted by LCC and the 20mph zone is introduced there. • One resident asked about HGVs in the village. It was stated that most of the issues are

	caused by drivers using non-commercial SavNavs which are not designed for HGVs. LCC is looking to install cameras on Wharfe Bridge to detect HGV's but it is important that residents report any incidences to the company operators of the vehicles.
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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

Closure - There being no other matters for discussion the Chairman thanked the residents for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 20:50.

Signed **Date**.....