

BOSTON SPA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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, sch 12, para 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 13th May 2015 at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room, Boston Spa Village Hall.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors T Gausson (Chairman), T Baker, S Courts, M Heum, S Morritt and S Williams
IN ATTENDANCE: V Hunter (Parish Clerk), PCSO R Jackson, Sgt I McKelvey , 40 members of the public

The Chairman introduced the members of the newly elected Parish Council and the new Parish Clerk and thanked the previous Parish Clerk, who was in attendance. He then welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.

1.	<p>Apologies Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Beeson and Newton</p>
2.	<p>Police Matters PCSO Jackson provided an update to the 2013/2014 figures, which had been incorrectly reported last year. The number of crimes in 2013/2014 was 93 crimes (not 54 as previously notified). The number of crimes in 2014/2015 was 97 an increase of 4. The breakdown of 2014/2015 crimes was as follows – Arson 6 (3 arrests), Burglary Dwelling 6 (8 arrests, 1 charged), Burglary Other 20 (2 arrests), Criminal Damage 25 (4 arrests), Theft from Dwelling 1, Theft from Motor Vehicle 8, Theft non-specific 28 (7 arrests), Theft Shop 2 (1 Community Resolution), Robbery 1 (2 remanded in custody). PCSO Jackson also provided details of the recent speed checks conducted in Boston Spa. In response to a question from a member of the public Sgt McKelvey explained the recent restructuring of Leeds District and confirmed that the Police Station at Wetherby continues to be manned 24 hours although there is no longer public access to the station. Requests for assistance are routed through the main police control centre at Elland Road but would in most cases result in response from Wetherby based officers. There were no further questions and PCSO Jackson and Sgt McKelvey were thanked for attending the meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Ward Councillor update No Ward Councillors in attendance.</p>
4.	<p>Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2014 The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>
5.	<p>Matters arising from the meeting</p>
	<p>i) Update on Highway improvements in relation to the Church Fields development – These were a requirement of the planning consent and are designed to ensure that the highway operates well with the new development. Discussion on how best to implement the requirements are ongoing between Leeds City Council and Taylor Wimpey. The Parish Council is represented on the Community Liaison group. A proposal for a 20 mph speed limit has been produced by Leeds City Council and passed to Taylor Wimpey.</p>

	<p>ii) Update on Tesco application for the Crown Hotel – Residents were notified that Tesco has now withdrawn from their planning application (before the application was determined) and have told the Wetherby News that they no longer plan to open a store in Boston Spa. There is a rumour another supermarket may be interested in the site. The Chairman explained the process by which local communities can apply for buildings to be registered as an Asset of Community Value. If an application was successful the body applying for the registration would be given six months to raise the funds to buy the asset before any alternative application would be considered.</p> <p>iii) Update on Grove Road planning application – A decision is now due in early June. The dismissal of the Farsley appeal had given grounds for optimism as dismissal was on the grounds that Leeds CC had demonstrated a satisfactory 5-year land supply. However, the applicants have now applied for a judicial review of the Farsley decision so the position remains uncertain.</p>
6.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan for Boston Spa – Geoff Shaw - Chairman, Boston Spa Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group presented an update of the work since the last meeting. Geoff reported that the Group was now nearing the end of a long journey, during which they had faced many obstacles, not least of which was the need for the policies within the Plan to be in accord with Leeds Core Strategy. In particular the delay by Leeds in agreeing their Site Allocations has caused delays to the Plan. It is anticipated that a Plan summary will be circulated before end of June and exhibitions are planned for 3rd and 4th July. The Neighbourhood Plan Group is keen that as many as possible attend the exhibition particularly the young. With this in mind competitions are being organised within the local schools. Following the exhibitions a questionnaire will be issued. The key question will be – do you agree with our policies, plans and aspirations? Geoff confirmed that Leeds have been impressed with the level of consultation undertaken to date. A finalised plan will be produced taking into account any required amendments. It is anticipated that a referendum will take place early in 2016, following which the Plan will become a binding document. Members of the public expressed thanks the Neighbourhood Plan Group for the work that had been done to get the Plan to its current state.</p>
7.	<p>Update on the feasibility study for a Hydropower project and next steps - Councillor Susan Williams</p> <p>Cllr Williams reported that Arup & Co had been commissioned to undertake a feasibility study (funded by the Government). Initial consultation had indicated the public were generally supportive of the proposal subject to sensitivity over the location. The feasibility study had identified four possible sites of which only one (parallel with the Fish Pass) was acceptable to the Environment Agency, whose approval is essential. Two types of turbine were considered of which only one, an Archimedian screw is suitable. The feasibility study had identified that financially the best return would come from a 100 kw turbine costing £1m to build, which would generate net revenue of approximately £48,000 per annum after repayment of borrowing costs. This income would be guaranteed for 20 years based on Government feed-in tariffs and then would require the electricity to be sold commercially. Cllr Williams advised that a late stage the Environment Agency had introduced conditions that would reduce the flow make the scheme not financially viable. Discussions began with a company (Hydrosense Renewables), who are experienced in negotiating with Environment Agency. A Joint Venture with Hydrosense Renewables was considered but in the end it was decided that a straightforward land lease would be better. This would substantially reduce the risk to the Parish Council although would result in reduced revenue. The Parish Council has now appointed solicitors (paid for by Hydrosense Renewables) to draw up a Heads of Terms</p>

	<p>agreement, which will form the basis of the land lease agreement. The benefit of the land lease agreement is that the Parish Council will receive a fixed income (currently estimated at £12,000) index linked for the next 20 years followed by % of revenue from sale of electricity. Cllr Williams reported that Hydrosense Renewables were keen to offer a Community Share option for the scheme.</p> <p>In response to a question from a member of the public, it was confirmed that planning permission would be required for the scheme. Geoff Shaw confirmed that the project is in line with Leeds Core Strategy.</p>
8.	<p>Stables Lane – future provision of facilities – open discussion</p> <p>Cllr Baker confirmed that the Parish Council is keen to generate discussion over a period of time on what should happen at Stables Lane once the ongoing insurance claim had been successfully concluded. He outlined the current uses that were currently being made of the facility – including successful tennis and bowls clubs, allotments, an outdoor gym and the annual Gala. Suggestions that had already been made were for increased car parking, a running/walking path, childrens playground and a bandstand. Residents were asked to asked to put forward their suggestions via the Website Message Board or by contacting the Parish Clerk.</p> <p>Residents expressed concern about possible vandalism/antisocial behaviour depending on what use the field was put to. Another resident expressed concern about the current limited access from High Street and suggested that the facility would benefit from access from other directions and possible creation of a through-route.</p> <p>A member of the public suggested that discussions on Stables Lane should be incorporated into a plan all amenity space including land at Church Fields.</p> <p>In response to a question about the future of the Community Centre at Deepdale, the Chairman of the Deepdale Management Committee said that there are no plans for any changes to the facility at the present time.</p>
9.	<p>Chairman’s Report</p> <p>The Chairman’s report was published in the Annual Newsletter, which was delivered to all households. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Brian Charlton, David Thomson Robert Wivell and Mark Yeadon who between them had served on the Parish Council for around 80 years and who had stood down at the recent election.</p>
10.	<p>Financial Statement</p> <p>A statement had been prepared and distributed to the meeting. There were no questions.</p>
11.	<p>Invitation to Boston Spa Residents to raise any matters of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A number of residents had not received a copy of the newsletter. Anybody who had not received a newsletter was asked to contact the Parish Clerk. ii) It was reported that the Farmers Market stallholders had expressed concern about the level of business and there was strong possibility that if this did not increase, the market would have to close – residents were urged to use it or lose it.
<p>Next meeting: The Parish Council holds its meetings on the third Monday evening of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Boston Spa. All meetings are open to the public. Any specific matters for the attention of the Parish Council should be sent to Val Hunter, Clerk to the Parish Council, The Village Hall, 199, High Street, Boston Spa LS23 6AA, by email: clerk@bostonpapc.org.uk, or by telephone 01937 842247. The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th May 2016.</p>	

Closure - There being no other matters for discussion the Chairman thanked the residents for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 21.00 hours.

Signed
Chairman

Date