

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, 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 8th May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room, Boston Spa Village Hall.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors S Morritt (Chair), M Heum, K Alderson, K Blake, T Gausson, S Courts

IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Marshall (Clerk to the Parish Council), Ward Councillors Norma Harrington & Alan Lamb, Police Inspector Richard Horn, Vikki Taylor, Police Board Officer for Wetherby and Boston Spa, 7 members 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, the Ward Councillors and Police representatives.

1.	<p>Apologies Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors J Lyne, M Harris and Ward Councillor G Wilkinson.</p>
2.	<p>Police Matters Police Inspector Richard Horn presented an update on local crime matters. It was stated that Wetherby police station will not reopen as a police station but will be used as a base for officers to improve response times. The police should still be contacted by phone or the website as appropriate. In comparison to other areas it was stated that Boston Spa and Wetherby have a very low crime rate.</p> <p>It was noted that there has been a rise in Anti-Social behaviour in the village over recent months with two individuals causing the majority of the issues. A resident stated that Stables Lane Village Park has become an area where youths are now starting to congregate and use the under 10's play area. One resident mentioned that parents of children attending Boston Spa Brownies declined to allow their children to participate in Brownie activities at Stables Lane because of the rowdy behaviour and bad language of teenagers. One resident from the Bowling Club said it was important that the youths did not push people out of using Stables Lane because of intimidation.</p> <p>Inspector Horn confirmed that the police are working closely with Children's Social Care and local schools to provide multi-systemic therapy that will prevent young people prone to anti-social behaviour from moving into more serious crime. Inspector Horn recommended that people remain vigilant and report any instances in which they feel threatened by youths in the village. Residents asked if they could do anything to prevent Anti Social behaviour. Inspector Horn advised that it was fine to approach teenagers, but to call the police if they feel threatened, even calling 999 if necessary where calls received can be triaged by priority. Taking photographs and passing them on to the Police can also be useful in evidence to place perpetrators at the scene.</p> <p>It was recommended the PC invest in a place where teenagers can congregate as Boston Spa has few facilities for youths. Cllr Blake advised that the Skate Park is used as a congregation area and that there is little trouble. Cllr Alan Lamb advised that a youth summit had been organised for people aged 8-18 from Wetherby and Boston Spa to assist them in deciding how a budget of £10,000 could be spent in providing facilities and activities for young people. Wetherby Town Council is working in partnership with Youth Services and schools to engage with teens directly.</p> <p>This issue of car theft in the village was raised. It was advised that the majority of car thefts are committed by people from outside the village where cars have been stolen to order. Inspector Horn advised residents to make sure all vehicles are locked and that keys are not left in an accessible place</p>

	<p>where they can be taken by thieves. To help prevent house burglaries, the Police are doing spot checks, posting 'gotcha' notes to residents where windows have been left open and houses left vulnerable.</p> <p>The Police were asked about drugs. Inspector Horn confirmed that there is not a drugs issue in Boston Spa, but mentioned that cannabis use across West Yorkshire is on the increase and drug driving is becoming a particular concern. On being asked about the police view on the 20mph zones in Leeds, Inspector Horn confirmed that the Police treat them as self enforcing. One resident raised a concern was about the pollution generated by cars driving at a slower speed.</p>
3.	<p>Ward Councillor update</p> <p>Cllr Lamb reflected back over the last year, with success in keeping Boston Spa High School open and becoming a part of the Gorse Academy Trust. Wetherby High School now has the good Ofsted rating and there is a proposed new building for the school.</p> <p>The proposed Zebra Crossing at Westwood Way is being processed through the LCC highways programme with every indication that this will be funded by Leeds City Council. If this is proved not to be the case, funds would be made available from the Taylor Wimpey money provided for traffic mitigation. The crossing should be built by the end of the calendar year.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the number of new houses required in Leeds has been reduced from its original 70,000 target to 52,500 and that we now have a 5 year land supply. This should put less pressure on the need to build houses in Boston Spa. Cllr Lamb advised that the recent rejection of the development at 86 High Street would be reviewed again at Plans Panel on 16 May. Political pressures have meant that the planning officers must give strong reasons why the development cannot go ahead. Cllr Lamb will meet with planning officers on 9th May. In regards to the proposed development on Church Street, it was advised that the plan is not viable as it stands and smaller, accessible housing is required for older people and young families.</p> <p>Following complaints from residents in regards to illegal and inconsiderate parking on the High Street, a greater traffic warden presence had been requested in the village. Cllr Lamb advised that 143 parking tickets have been given out on High Street this year. Cllr Morrith asked that the double yellow lines be repainted as some had started to wear away. Sightlines outside junctions are being reviewed by LCC.</p> <p>Cllr Lamb confirmed that primary schools in Boston Spa, Bramham and Thorp Arch are now at full capacity and that some Boston Spa children are being given places at Wetherby schools. Cllr Lamb confirmed that the city council have a legal duty to ensure that every child has school place and the expansion of St Mary's and St Edward's is already being planned. Expansion of Primrose Lane and Lady Hastings at Thorp Arch is not possible because of lack of land space. Money from Church Fields has been allocated to go toward education.</p>
4.	<p>Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2018</p> <p>The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.</p>

6.	<p>Stables Lane Development Project</p> <p>Cllr Alderson gave an update on the development of the Stables Lane Village Park. Despite some initial problems with funding, Leeds City Council had come forward with a grant of £38,000 which had funded the installation furniture and BBQs. 26 new trees had been planted following a successful tree sponsorship scheme. Cllr Alderson gave special thanks to the Parish Council and a local resident who had managed the project at no charge as well as the 22 local people who had sponsored trees.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Phase 2 will cost £250,000-£300,000. This will cover the cost of play equipment for older children, shelters for teenagers, a multi-user games area and a seated gathering area. Improvements to the entrance and the installation of the proposed plaza area are also in plan. It was also noted that the eventual development of the land on Church Street would open the west side of the park, making it much more accessible for residents around the village. The next stage of the project is to raise money and volunteer knowledge and expertise is also needed. Cllr Alderson thanked the Friends of Stables Lane committee (FOSL) which is comprised of 10 members and 50 volunteers for making the park a success.</p>
8.	<p>People Friendly Village Centre Working Group</p> <p>Cllr Gausson gave an update on the activities undertaken by the PFVCWG, the committee of volunteers that exists to help improve the village centre and implement the neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>Extensions to the proposed 20mph speed limit zone had been requested to improve traffic calming from outside St Mary's Church to the end of Spa Surgery and build outs are under consultation.</p> <p>For a number of years, the matter of paving the village centre has been under discussion. This would reduce traffic speeds and accidents and give the village a different quality and feel. Cllr Lamb confirmed that he had met with Jenny Fisher from the design team at LCC to discuss the vision for how the centre could look with the retention of the existing zebra crossing outside CostCutter. The funds are now in place and discussions are in advanced stages. Three possible types of scheme will go ahead for public consultation.</p> <p>Draft guidelines for the appearance of shop fronts and doors have now been produced for review by the Parish Council and these will become part of the conservation area planning guidelines once approved.</p> <p>Efforts are being made to make the village more dementia friendly and Parish Council members and the PFVCWG will attend Dementia Awareness training.</p> <p>At the Church Fields development, it was confirmed that £11,000 was given by Taylor Wimpey to replace the trees that has died. A maintenance company is now contracted to water the trees with financial penalties incurred if any of the trees die.</p>
9.	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>The Chair's report is published in the Annual Newsletter and is available to view on the Parish Council website (Meetings/Annual Reports).</p> <p>Cllr Morrith thanked all those involved in making Boston Spa a great place to live, acknowledging the contribution made by members of the FOSL and PFVWG working groups of the Parish Council and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Spa In Bloom • The Gala Committee • The Festival Team • The newly formed team of litter pickers.
10.	<p>Financial Statement</p> <p>A statement had been prepared and distributed to the meeting. No comments were received.</p>
11.	<p>Invitation to Boston Spa Residents to raise any matters of interest</p> <p>i) One resident raised the issue that the hedgerows at Church Fields are looking unsightly. Cllr Gausson confirmed that residents bordering the hedge had been visited or given a letter advising</p>

	ii)	<p>them not to cut the hedge. It was confirmed that native species would be introduced over time and the ivy reduced.</p> <p>One resident stated that he had thought the Parish Council had undertaken a lot of highly beneficial work over the last 3-5 years and that this had not gone unrecognised by the residents of Boston Spa.</p>
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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. All 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 6th May 2020.

Closure - There being no other matters for discussion the Chairman thanked the residents for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 21:13 hours.

Signed

Chairman

Date