

Belmont Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 5th February 2015 At Belmont Community Centre, Eastholme Avenue, Belmont

Present: Mr. A. Myatt
Mr. A. Bridges
Mr. D. Cook
Mr. B. Hubbard
Mr. P. Edwards
Mr. R. Loft
Ms. D. Parish
Mr. M. Schoffer

In attendance: Mrs. E. Kelso Clerk
3 members of the public

014/15 Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that a vacancy had been created by the resignation of Councillor Ken Baynham. The elections office have been notified and the vacancy will be advertised. However due to the proximity of the elections, the Parish Council will be able to decide whether to co-opt an individual for the few weeks before the elections or not.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to Mr. Baynham and thank him for his service to the Parish Council.

015/15 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation

There were no apologies.

The following declarations of interest were received:

Name	Nature of Interest	Agenda item/Minute ref.
Mr. A. Myatt	Non Disclosable pecuniary interest as home borders land under discussion	Agenda item 11.2
	Non disclosable pecuniary interest as trustee of South Wye Community Association/Belmont Centre	Agenda item 12
Ms. D. Parish	Non Disclosable pecuniary interest as a director/trustee of Northolme Community Centre Association	Agenda item 15
Mr. A. Bridges	Non Disclosable pecuniary interest as a director of Northolme Community Centre Association	Agenda item 15
Mr. P. Edwards	Non Disclosable pecuniary interest as husband of a director of Northolme Community Centre Association	Agenda item 15

There were no further declarations of interest.

There were no requests for dispensation.

016/15 Public participation

During this period of public participation no items were raised by members of the public present.

017/15 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January had been provided to Members. It was agreed that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

Following a question the Clerk's advice that information items be not appended to the Minutes was noted.

018/15 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report, as provided to Members, was noted

019/15 West Mercia Police/Parish Watch

West Mercia police were not in attendance at the meeting . It was noted that there were no other items to report under Parish Watch this month.

020/15 **Correspondence**

Since the last meeting, the following item of correspondence, other than items dealt with elsewhere on the agenda, had been received:

- Balfour Beatty will be holding two Parish Briefings on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th March at their Thorn office. Members wishing to attend either briefing should notify the Clerk.
- Herefordshire Council are seeking views on adult learning provision within the County and have asked for information on learning activities or learning needs within the Parish, no later than 28th February. Learning provision within the county is being requested from the Community Centres but Members are to be asked to forward their views on learning needs to the Clerk no later than 25th February.
- An exhibition of the proposed South Wye Transport Package and Southern Link Road was held at the Three Counties Hotel on 29th January. Unfortunately, notice of this event was not sent to the Parish Council until 48 hours beforehand so difficult for most people to attend. However, the Clerk has been advised that the Parish Council will have an opportunity to comment on the proposals when the planning application is submitted.
- A training event for tree wardens and prospective tree wardens was held in Kington on 1st February. Details were emailed to members but there were no requests to attend.
- There has been a request for an additional litter bin at the end of Wenlock Close. The Clerk is seeking advice and permission from Herefordshire Council and there will be an agenda item on this at the next meeting.
- Notification has been received from Herefordshire Council of the proposal to widen the footpath through the parish from Hunderton towards Ruckhall Lane – mostly along the CH7 footpath route – to allow shared cycle/pedestrian use.

021/15 **Financial Matters**

(a) **Report from the Finance Working Party**

Members the report from the Finance Working Party meeting held on 26th January.

(b) **Payments**

Authorisation was given to make the following payment :

Petty cash reimbursement	£97.39
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It was agreed a request for payment of the subscription for Herefordshire Association of Local Councils be deferred pending further information from the Clerk on the level of increase from the previous year.

(c) **Balances**

Current account:	£500.00
Deposit account:	£89,886.31
Petty Cash	£27.61

022/15 **Planning Matters**

(a) **Applications for consideration now**

None since the last meeting

(b) **Notifications of permitted development**

None since the last meeting

(c) **Update on Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The updated Strategic Environmental Assessment has now been received from Herefordshire Council, which forms part of the documents for the formal consultation period. One change to the NDP was requested, relating to the policy regarding the golf course and this has now been amended. Members were provided with a copy of the revised pages.

The NDP and associated documentation will now form part of the formal six week consultation period under Section 14 to start on 9th February. Once the elections are complete, formal submission of the plan can be made to Herefordshire Council in preparation for the referendum.

023/15 **Ward Councillors Reports**

Members noted ward councillor reports from Councillor Edwards and Councillor Bridges.

The Vice Chairman took the chair for the following two agenda items; the Chairman having declared a non discloseable pecuniary interest in those agenda items.

024/15 **To note update on progress of management Plan for Jubilee Field**

Members received a report on the progress of the Management Plan for Jubilee Field, noting that a further meeting of the working party is envisaged to finalise the plan prior to submission to Balfour Beatty for their comment/input.

025/15 **To consider requests for funding towards the continuation of the library service at Belmont Community Centre**

(a) **Application from Herefordshire Council for £3,000.00**

Details of the application by Herefordshire Council for funding of £3,000 to support the running costs of the library service at Belmont had been provide to Members. It was agreed that the sum of £3,000.00 be offered to Herefordshire Council for the 2015-2016 financial year subject to the parish council's usual terms and conditions for grant funding. It was also agreed that the offer be conditional upon Herefordshire Council entering into a dialogue

with the Community Centre with regard to the best use of the room currently occupied by the library service.

(b) Application from South Wye Community Association for £2,000.00

Details of the request for £2,000.00 from South Wye Community Association to cover half of the shortfall in room hire income resulting from the reduced payment for the library room at the Centre payable by Herefordshire Council Library Service had been provided to Members. After a brief discussion, it was proposed that the sum of £2,000.00 be offered to South Wye Community Association for the financial year 2015-2016 in support of the library service at Belmont. The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

The Chairman returned to the Chair for the remaining agenda items.

026/15 To agree format and budget for a parish council information evening for prospective parish councillors

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Information Evening to be held on Thursday 12th March would include:

- a presentation by Lynda Wilcox on behalf of HALC,
- displays and photographs from around the Parish to highlight the achievements of the Parish Council in recent years
- Information on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, and
- Free refreshments

It was further agreed that the event be held at Northolme Community Centre and a maximum budget of £100.00 for room hire and refreshments was allocated.

027/15 Quarterly Newsletter

The draft quarterly newsletter, as presented to the meeting, was agreed. It was further agreed that a maximum budget of £400.00 be allocated for printing and distribution costs. The newsletter will be distributed in time to give notice of the Information Evening next month.

028/15 Northolme Summer Fun Day

Members noted the proposed Summer Fun Day at the Northolme Community Centre to be held on 20th June 2015. It was agreed that the Parish Council should participate with a table or display of information on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

029/15 Planting Agreement for Stanbrook Road

It was agreed at the last meeting to fund replacement shrubs for those that have died in a small area of public open space in Stanbrook Road at a total cost not to exceed £40.00. Members noted that Herefordshire Council require that the Parish Council enters into a planting agreement for this work, requiring detailed plans drawn to scale and an indemnification to be provided . It was agreed that the nature of the agreement was disproportionate to the small work envisaged which was intended as a gesture of goodwill to replace the shrubs and it was further agreed that the planting agreement not be entered into.

Members noted the Clerk's advice that the project should not go ahead without the planting agreement as required by the landowners.

030/15 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th March at Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont, commencing at 7pm.