

Belmont Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2016
at Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont

Present:	Mr. Andy Myatt Mr. Adrian Bridges Ms. Aimee Bridges Mr. Ron Loft Mr. John Newman Ms. Des Parish Mr. Derek Preedy Mr. Mark Schoffer	Chairman
In attendance:	Mrs. Liz Kelso Mrs. Tracy Bowes 4 Members of the public	Clerk Ward Councillor, Herefordshire Council (agenda item 1 & 2 only)

001/16 **Apologies, declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation**

Apologies were received from Councillor Evans (unwell).

The following Declarations of Interest were given:

Name	Nature of Interest	Agenda item/Minute ref.
Mr. A. Myatt	Non Disclosable interest as a trustee of South Wye Community Association	Agenda item 5 & 6 Minute Ref.
Mr. J. Newman	Non disclosable interest as a trustee of South Wye Community Association	Agenda item 6 Minute ref.

002/16 **Public Participation**

During the period of public participation, the following items were raised:

- Complaints were made by Members of the Public in attendance about children playing in the street and damaging property.
- A request was received to publicise a new charitable trust operating for the benefit of local residents, set up by the late Beryl Brown.

007/16 Proposal to install dog waste bins

This item was deferred from the last meeting to confirm emptying schedule and to renegotiate the emptying charge.

It has been confirmed that the price of £220.00 per month is for a once per month emptying of each of the five bins. Balfour Beatty will not consider a reduction in price and have advised that in accordance with their contract with Herefordshire Council, any additional bins must be paid in full by Parishes.

Noting that there are no legal reasons for dog waste not to be deposited in normal litter bins, it was agreed not to proceed with this proposal.

008/16 Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

- HALC information corner for 24th December 2015
- West Mercia Police January newsletter

009/16 Planning Matters

(a) Applications

There have been no planning applications submitted for consideration since the last meeting.

(b) Notifications of permitted development

None since the last meeting.

(c) Other Planning Matters

Enforcement Officers are continuing to investigate a report of a possible breach of regulations in Westholme Road and have advised that the portacabin must be reduced in height in order to fall within permitted development rights. The householder has been advised but as yet has failed to comply although the weather has not been suitable for making excavations. The dog grooming business originally to be conducted from this portacabin is now to be carried out from the garage of this property so planning consent will be required. The enforcement officer is allowing a 14 day period for the owner to comply, failing which an enforcement notice will be issued.

(d) Neighbourhood Development Plan

Herefordshire Council has now provided the required planning policies map which has been forwarded to the Steering Group for comments. There is currently a query regarding the

designation of the land at Home Farm as unregistered parkland as Herefordshire Council is claiming this land falls not only within Belmont Rural but in three other parishes. As this crosses the NDP boundary, no designation can be made. This is being raised as a query by the planning consultants, Kirkwells.

A basic conditions statement has also been prepared by Kirkwells which outlines how our NDP meets national NDP requirements and fits within the Herefordshire Core Strategy. Finally a consultation statement, which outlines how we have consulted over our draft plan has now been produced and is awaiting comments by the NDP steering group.

010/16 Draft Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 2016-17

Members discussed the draft Herefordshire Local Transport Plan for 2016-17, noting in particular the proposals for the South Wye area. It was felt that the proposals did not reflect an integrated transport policy and failed to acknowledge that the pinch point for traffic travelling into or across Hereford is the bridge and the roundabout at Asda, which the proposals did not address. Members also felt that an additional cycle lane into Hereford was not required as there is an existing, safer, cycle route along the river. Finally it was noted that the withdrawal of financial support for public transport would inevitably lead to increased traffic levels.

The Clerk was instructed to make this Parish Council's views known via the online reporting system.

011/16 Training

There have been no training courses attended by Members since the last meeting.

Members were invited to indicate whether they would like to attend any HALC training courses and to notify the Clerk accordingly.

012/16 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th February 2016 at Belmont Community Centre, Eastholme Avenue, Belmont, commencing at 7pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

BELMONT RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Finance Working Party
held 11th January 2016

Present: Cllr. A. Myatt
Cllr. Adrian Bridges
Cllr. L. Evans
Cllr. D. Parish
Cllr. D. Preedy

In attendance Liz Kelso Clerk/RFO

1. Review of Financial Records

The financial records, including the Cash Book, bank statements, PAYE records and petty cash records were checked and found to be in order.

2. To consider funding request from South Wye Community Association for funding towards supporting extra opening hours for Belmont Library.

It was confirmed that the grant request from South Wye Community Association for funding towards supporting extra opening hours for Belmont Library could be presented to the Parish Council at its next meeting.

3. Update on changes to banking matters

• Changes to deposit protection limit

The Clerk reported that changes to the deposit protection limit to £75,000.00 meant that some of the parish council funds would not be protected in the event of a failure of the parish council bank as deposits were currently higher than this. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate options to split parish council funds to a second banking provider.

• Issues with Unity Trust Bank

It had been agreed last year that a proposal would be put to the Parish Council to consider transferring the parish council banking arrangements to Unity Trust Bank. However, Unity Trust have now changed their terms and conditions and in particular no longer offer free banking for parish councils. Several parish councils have indicated issues with transferring accounts so it was agreed to reconsider this recommendation before it is put to the Parish Council with particular reference to the provision of electronic banking and the safeguards available so that existing financial regulations can be followed.

- **Williams and Glyns Bank**

The Clerk advised that Royal Bank of Scotland in Hereford is to become a branch of Williams and Glyns Bank following the break up of RBS retail banking. Accordingly the Parish Council accounts will move to Williams and Glyns. It is not known yet what impact this will have on the operation of the Parish Council accounts, nor whether there are likely to be any changes in the options available, particularly with reference to electronic banking. It was agreed to await further details.

4. **Herefordshire Public Green Spaces Community Grant Scheme 2015/6**

The Clerk reported that this grant scheme will close on 27th January. It was agreed to propose to the Parish Council that an application be put in for funding towards the Community Action Day next spring.

5. **Pension provision**

It was noted that the staging date for the parish council to meet its obligations to provide a pension for employees (currently just the Clerk) is scheduled for April 2017. Options for pension provider will need to be agreed by the Parish Council in due course so work will need to commence shortly on this.

6. **Any other business**

There were no other items raised. The meeting was declared closed.

Belmont Rural Parish Council
Meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2016
Minute ref. 005/16(b)
Schedule of Payments approved at the meeting

Payee	Detail	Net	VAT	Total Payment
Hay Tourism	Donation as agreed at meeting held 10th December 2015, Min. ref. 182/15	£ 100.00	£	100.00
South Wye Community Association	Room Hire for Nov. & December meeting room use	£ 42.00	£	42.00
Cash	Petty Cash reimbursement	£ 61.42	£	61.42
			£	-
Payments by Standing Order this month:				
Salaries (net)		£ 860.31		
HRMC		£ 168.97	£ -	£ 1,029.28
Total payments this month:		£ 1,232.70	£ -	£ 1,232.70