

Belmont Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th September 2013 At Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont

Present: Mr. A. Myatt Chairman
Mr. A. Bridges
Mr. K. Baynham
Mr. D. Cook
Mr. P. Edwards
Mr. R. Loft
Mr. M. Schoffer

In attendance: Mrs. E. Kelso Clerk
Mr. R. Morgan Representing South Wye Community Association
(agenda items 13 & 14 only)
4 members of the public

131/13 Public Participation

During the initial period of public participation, a petition was presented to the Parish Council requesting that the bus shelter immediately outside the Tesco store be upgraded to include sides to protect those waiting for a bus from the elements in winter. The Clerk accepted the petition on behalf of the Parish Council and noted that this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

A complaint regarding litter at the bus stops on Belmont Road was also received.

132/13 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

Apologies were noted from Councillor B. Hubbard and Councillor D. Parish.

The following declarations of interest were made:

Name	Nature of Interest	Agenda item/Minute ref.
Councillor A. Bridges	Non disclosable pecuniary interest as a member of Northolme Community Centre Association	8 – 140/13
Councillor A. Myatt	Non disclosable pecuniary interest as Trustee and Treasurer of South Wye Community Association	13 – 113/13 14 - 114/13

There were no requests for dispensation.

133/13 To consider request for funding towards Christmas Carol Concert

It was agreed that this item be taken earlier than on the agenda at the request of the Chairman of South Wye Community Association, in attendance at the meeting.

The item was presented by Mr. Morgan, as Chair of the South Wye Community Association, noting that upon reflection some of the costs originally presented had been over-estimated. After a brief discussion, during which it was noted that the charity being supported this year was Barrs Court School, it was AGREED that a grant of £450.00 be offered towards the cost of staging a Christmas Carol Concert at Belmont Community Centre on Saturday 14th December. Councillor Myatt abstained from voting.

The Clerk was instructed to issue a formal offer to SWCA on the terms and conditions as recommended by the Finance Working Party.

134/13 To consider request for funding to support a Kidercize Class at Belmont Community Centre

As with the previous item, it was agreed that this item be taken earlier than on the agenda at the request of the Chairman of South Wye Community Association, in attendance at the meeting.

The item was presented by Mr. Morgan, as Chair of the South Wye Community Association, noting that upon reflection some of the costs of supporting this music and movement class for toddlers had been over-estimated. After a brief discussion, it was AGREED that a grant of £270.00 be offered towards the cost of running a Kidercize Music and Movement class for toddlers at Belmont Community Centre. Councillor Myatt abstained from voting.

The Clerk was instructed to issue a formal offer to SWCA on the terms and conditions as recommended by the Finance Working Party.

135/13 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th August

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th August had been previously circulated. It was RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceeding at that meeting. Councillor Bridges and Councillor Schoffer abstained from voting, having not attended the meeting.

136/13 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report had been previously circulated and was noted.

137/13 West Mercia Police/Parish Watch Report

West Mercia Police were not in attendance but Councillor Edwards, representing Parish Watch, reported that there had been some damage to the rubber matting in the play area at Belmont Country Park which had been reported to the Police, Parks and Countryside Team at Herefordshire Council and the owners of the site.

138/13 **Report from the Finance Working Party**

The Report from the Finance Working Party was noted.

139/13 **Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted:

- Information from Herefordshire Council on the Annual Strategic Housing Land availability Assessment (SHLAA). As Belmont Rural is conducting a Neighbourhood Development Plan, a separate SHLAA is not required.
- Information Corner from Herefordshire Association of Local Councils.
- A consultation on proposed restructure of the Community Protection Team.
- West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner 's consultation on the Police Community Engagement Strategy.

140/13 **Financial Matters**

(a) **Payments**

The following payments were APPROVED:

Training fees for Clerk to attend CiLCA training session	£50.00	
VAT	£10.00	
Total payment:		£60.00
External Audit fee	£300.00	
VAT	£60.00	
Total payment		£360.00
Repairs and maintenance of notice boards		£246.00
South Wye Drug and Alcohol Forum Grant as agreed at meeting held 8.8.2013		£380.00
Room hire for August meeting		£25.50
Petty Cash reimbursement		£129.39

(b) Receipts since the last meeting

None.

(c) Balances held:

Current account:	£500.00
Deposit account:	£50,887.59
Petty cash:	- £4.39

141/13 Planning Matters

**(a) To consider observations/comments on planning application ref. 132163/FH
3 Abingdon Drive**

Members considered this application and had NO OBJECTIONS to the proposed development.

(b) To note planning decisions since the last meeting

None.

(c) Other planning matters

It was noted that an unauthorised development had been reported in Forde Lane which has been reported to the Enforcement Team of Herefordshire Council.

142/13 Update on Neighbourhood Planning

The update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan was noted. It was AGREED that the Clerk be authorised to sign the Service Level Agreement detailing the support available from Herefordshire Council.

It was further AGREED that the Clerk be authorised to prepare a grant funding application in connection with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

143/13 Training

It was AGREED that Councillor Bridges be authorised to attend HALC training on Procedures and Finance session on 26th October at a cost of £50.00

It was further AGREED that HALC be requested to provide in-house updating on the Code of Conduct at a cost of £100.00. This training will take place on 15th October at 7pm, venue to be confirmed.

144/13 To approve revised Financial Standing Orders

It was noted that revised Financial Standing Orders were required to bring the Parish Council Standing Orders in line with the current National Guidelines although the amendments were minor. It was AGREED to defer this item until the next meeting.

145/13 To consider request for donation to The Haven

A general request for a donation had been received through the HALC Information Corner. After some discussion, it was AGREED not to offer a donation to this organisation.

146/13 To approve the Risk Management Procedure

It was AGREED that the Risk Management Procedure as presented to the Meeting, be adopted.

147/13 Information item: Parish Matters

Members noted:

- A verbal report from Councillor Edwards on activities in his Ward Councillor role
- A question relating to progress by Herefordshire Council/Amey in identifying a resolution to the drainage issues for the kick about area at Northolme
- A verbal report from Councillor Bridges on activities in his Ward Councillor role
- A hedge in Westholme Road adjacent to the planter requires cutting back
- Overgrown hedges and grass verges throughout the Parish; there having been no grass cutting or grounds maintenance work by Herefordshire Council contractors for several weeks
- A bin in Yarlington Mill has not been emptied recently.

129/13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 31st October 2013 at Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont, commencing at 7pm.

130/13 Confidential item: Update on Code of Conduct complaint

In accordance with Standing Orders, this item was considered without members of the public in attendance. Members noted a verbal report from the Clerk on the formal session of the Standards Committee on 10th September. Due to the absence of the subject Member, no resolution had been possible but the matter should be resolved in early October.