

Belmont Rural Parish Council

**Minutes of a meeting held on
Thursday 24th February 2011
At Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont**

Present:	Mr. P. Edwards	Chairman
	Mrs. B. Brown	
	Mr. D. Cook	
	Mrs. D. Killeen	
	Mr. R. Loft	
	Mr. A. Myatt	
	Mr. J. Newman	
	Mr. M. Schoffer	
	Mr. S. Taylor	
In attendance:	Mrs. E. Kelso	Clerk
	CSO A. Liquorish	West Mercia Police
	5 members of the public	

015/11 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

There were no apologies.

Councillor Edwards declared a personal interest as a member of another authority in agenda items 10 & 11 (minute reference 024/11 and 025/11) and Councillor Brown declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 15 (minute reference 029/11) as a member of the Management Committee for the Northolme Community Centre.

016/11 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was agreed that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at the meeting held on 13th January 2011.

017/11 Clerk's report

(a) Annual Report

Members noted that the Annual Report has now been printed and at the time of the meeting was in the process of being distributed alongside the questionnaire and a flyer for the information evening next week. There was a slight increase in the print quotations for these documents but with one distribution rather than two, distribution costs have been reduced and the total cost will be less than the original

agreed budget. The Clerk thanked Ms. Parish and others who had stepped in to help with the distribution at short notice and to the printers for printing all the documents with a much quicker turnaround than usual.

(b) Management of land behind Dorchester Way

There will be a site visit in connection with the drafting of a management plan for the Abbey View Park area on Monday 28th February. The Clerk and Councillor Myatt will attend on behalf of Belmont Rural Parish Council.

(c) Localism Bill

A report into the implications of the Localism Bill was promised for this meeting but as HALC are to hold a meeting on this subject next week, this item has been deferred to a later date.

The Clerk noted that several draft consultations on the practical implications of aspects of the Localism Bill have been received but comments made by Members may require amendment following the HALC briefing.

(d) Fencing for the junior play area at Northolme

An offer for funding, as agreed at the last meeting, has been made to Herefordshire Council and as instructed that offer is conditional upon an acceptable revised plan to show the extent of the fencing so that the current kick about area is not reduced. A site visit has taken place which was attended by nearby resident Mrs. Clare, an officer from Parks and Countryside and Councillors Cook and Edwards to review the options for the redesign of the earth mound and a revised plan should be received shortly once the location and detail of a nearby gas monitoring device is clarified.

018/11 Report from West Mercia Police/Parish Watch

CSO Ali Liquorish reported just three calls reporting anti social behaviour since January including an incident on 5th February when litter was thrown from a car which was reported. The individual involved was issued with an £80 fixed penalty notice and there have been no further incidents.

Significant changes are taking place within West Mercia Police locally. PC Andy Larkin is working across South Wye with the Community Support Officer Tem. Inspector Nick Semper has also returned to cover the area as part of his new duties.

Under Parish Watch, Members noted minor incidents when litter bin lids had been lifted and reports of thefts from agricultural buildings and heating oil thefts just outside the parish boundaries.

019/11 Correspondence

Other than routine correspondence which has been circulated to Members or items which are the subject of a separate agenda item, the following correspondence have been received:

- Financial statements relating to the activities of the South Wye Community Association for the year ending 31st December 2010. These will be circulated to members for information.

020/11 Payments/Receipts**(a) Payments**

Authority was given to make the following payments:

Northolme Community Centre Association Room Hire for January meeting	£22.50
Cash Petty Cash reimbursement	£68.41
Reprodux Printing of Annual Report, Questionnaire and Information Evening Flyer	£509.00
D. Parish Distribution of Annual Report, Questionnaire and Flyer	£150.00

(b) Receipts

Bank interest received December 31st: £4.28

(c) Balances

Current account:	£500.00
Deposit account:	£35,600.94
Petty Cash	£6.59

021/11 Planning Matters**(a) Applications received since the last meeting**

Ref:	DMS/110116/FH
Site:	15 Wenlock Close, Belmont
Development:	First floor extension over existing garage
Comments:	Plans have been circulated. Members expressed concern that the application indicated an extension over a garage but then showed the garage as converted to living accommodation, removing parking provision in an area with very limited on road parking. Members recommended refusal of this application on the grounds that there was insufficient provision of off road parking within the property boundary. Herefordshire Council has been notified accordingly
Ref:	DMS/110219/FH
Site:	4 Forde Lane, Belmont
Development:	Replacement of rear conservatory with single storey extension
Comments:	Plans have been circulated. Members had no objections to this development although it was noted that gas venting measures would be required under the floor of the extension. Herefordshire Council has been notified accordingly.

(b) Other Planning Matters

- Members to note that Tesco have applied to extend their licence to sell alcohol by two hours on a Monday and two hours on a Saturday. The Clerk has submitted an objection to these proposals on the grounds that there is evidence of anti social behaviour and litter particularly around the two communities centres at night and extending the period for the sale of alcohol after the time when Community Support Officers go off duty could lead to further disruption to local people.
- A letter has been received regarding a possible change to the system for consultation on planning with the proposal that at some unspecified date in future, planning consultations will move to e-consultations, i.e. online rather than the provision of paper plans. Members noted that this has several implications as it will be necessary for the Clerk to print copies and will not be able to print large scale plans for large developments. Applications will be available online and Members discussed the option to review applications at parish council meetings with the aid of a laptop and projector although noting that the venues used by the parish council do not have a Broadband wireless capability. The Clerk was instructed to notify Herefordshire Council of these comments and concerns.
- Councillor Edwards reported that he had been approached as Chairman of the Parish Council by a Mr. Faizey acting on behalf of potential developers who had acquired an option to purchase part of Home Farm land with a view to building 100 – 150 houses on the site. After consulting with Herefordshire Council forward planning officers and the Clerk, the Chairman reported that he had advised Mr. Faizey that Home Farm meadows are regarded as historic parklands in the County Unitary Development Plan. Due to this designation and public major concerns of additional

traffic being generated on the A465 Belmont Road to the City, there would be huge opposition to any further development in or around Belmont. He also noted the current uncertainty regarding any relief road for Hereford and a shortage of family space for active ball games within the existing Parish developed areas.

No further action was required at this stage pending a further approach, if any, from the developers.

022/11 To receive District Councillor Reports

Members noted that Councillor Powell and Councillor Davies were not in attendance at the meeting and had not submitted a written report.

Councillor Edwards provided a report on his activities as a District Councillor, including the following:

- Made representation to Licensing Authority opposing Tesco application to extend sales of alcohol from 06:00 Hrs Monday to 24:00 Hrs on Saturdays.
- Wrote opposing Government when they planned to sell off Forestry Commission sites.
- Site met with Parish councillors, member of the public & Parks Officer regarding Play Area fencing proposals at Abbotsmead / Northolme area.
- Reported fly tipped household waste at Westholme Rd & Wheatridge Rd Public open Space areas, Newton Brook area to be cleared of litter.
- Arranged pothole repairs in Southolme Rd, Whitefriars Rd & Chancel View.
- Arranged a Ward Cllr meeting with Amey Officers (Cllrs Davies & Powell unable to attend but Cllr David Taylor from Clehonger did) to further discuss the Traffic Regulation Order required for the A465 speed limit extension
- Continued to press for action on the list of 18 outstanding items of repairs and maintenance with Amey officers, achieving 6 further items completed
- Attended 'Access to Employment Event' hosted by Councillor Killeen through her Newton Farm Community Association role.
- Tabled a question to Herefordshire Council due to meet 4th March asking what it can do to prevent or reduce traffic chaos when City emergency and routine street work takes place.
- Requested Abbey View East drainage gulley be cleared to reduce water logging of Northolme Road Playing Field.

023/11 Training

(a) To receive reports from parish councillors who have attended HALC training sessions

Councillors Brown, Myatt, Loft and Schoffer have recently attended HALC's Roles and Responsibilities course. Councillors Brown, Loft and Schoffer also attended Finance and Procedures and Councillor Schoffer and the Clerk attended Elections Made Easy.

Members were thanked for attending the courses and Councillor Brown recommended HALC courses to all members as highly informative and practical.

Members noted with thanks Councillor Brown's written report on the two courses. The only area where BRPC practice differs from recommended practice is with the consideration of planning applications as some local authorities hold separate planning meetings at which applications are considered and commented upon. It was suggested that the procedure for dealing with planning applications could be reviewed later in the year after the elections in May.

(b) To consider requests for additional training requirements

HALC will be holding an information evening on the Localism Bill on Thursday 10th March. Cost: Free of charge. Councillors Edwards and Schoffer and the Clerk indicated they would like to attend.

HALC training course "In the Hot Seat" for Chairmen and prospective Chairmen/women to be held on Tuesday 22nd March, 7pm – 9pm at Brockington. Cost: £20.00. Anybody wanting to attend was requested to contact the Clerk.

It was agreed that the Clerk attend a Society of Local Council Clerks regional conference in Worcester on 17th March at a cost of £40 plus mileage.

024/11 Consultation – Review of Existing Speed Limit on A465 at Belmont

Members considered Herefordshire Council proposals for a 40mph speed limit out towards the Clehonger turn along the A465, being broadly in line with Members recommendations during a similar consultation last year. Councillor Edwards in his District Councillor role had attended an Amey meeting with Councillor Taylor from Clehonger during which Councillor Taylor had confirmed that Clehonger Parish Council would not be supportive of the 40mph limit extending into the Clehonger Road.

After a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed to support the proposals for an 18 month experimental order to create a 40mph limit to extend from the end of the current 30mph limit out to beyond the Abbey complex, on the A465 and Ruckhall Lane. The Chairman reported that Amey may be able to introduce two central reservation points on the A465 to aid people crossing from the Abbey grounds to Newton Coppice or the bus stop at this location. Appropriate signage for this edge of the Country Park area was also supported.

025/11 Abbey View Park

(a) To consider additional bins and signage

In introducing this item, Councillor Myatt explained that in order to encourage dog walkers to pick up after their dogs he felt BRPC should be providing appropriate

bins/litter bins and signage at the entrances to Abbey View Park and nearby public open space areas.

Noting that authority had been given for one additional bin several months ago but a location could not be agreed with nearby residents, it was unanimously agreed that two additional bins be provided at locations to be agreed.

It was further agreed that the Clerk be authorised to discuss signage with Parks and Countryside Officer, Rob Hemblade with a view to identifying appropriate signage for consideration at a later meeting. Wording along the lines of “Welcome to Abbey View Park. Please act responsibly and use the litter bins provided” is to be investigated.

(b) To consider completion of footpaths

Councillors Myatt, Loft and Edwards had recently attended a site visit with representatives from Amey to consider a proposal to complete the circular footpath around Abbey View Park and the potential for extending this towards the second gate off Dorchester Way which leads towards the land currently referred to as the land behind Dorchester Way. It was acknowledged that when the full project was first discussed, it had been hoped that Herefordshire Council would fund the final section as the route follows the CH7 footpath route towards Belmont Abbey and Clehonger. However, with current budget restrictions, it seemed unlikely that funding would be available in the short to medium term. Consideration was now being given to the Parish Council completing this project.

After some discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Myatt and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the footpath identified as D to A on the plan be completed at a cost of £12,260.00. Reminding Members that the annual precept process had included considerations for further footpath costings, Councillor Edwards proposed an amendment to the resolution to include an additional section of footpath over the culvert towards the second gate to Dorchester Way at an additional cost of £3,405, or a total cost of £15,665.00. There was no seconder to this amendment so the original proposition was put to the vote, which Councillor Schoffer requested be a named vote. On a show of hands, votes cast were:

Councillor Brown	For
Councillor Cook	For
Councillor Edwards	For
Councillor Killeen	Abstained
Councillor Loft	For
Councillor Myatt	For
Councillor Newman	For
Councillor Schoffer	Against
Councillor Taylor	For

The Chairman declared the resolution approved with seven votes in favour.

Councillor Killeen requested that a letter be sent to Herefordshire Council to request a contribution towards the cost of the path as it is a public right of way.

Councillor Schoffer asked that it be recorded that he was not in favour of any further expenditure being directed towards Abbey View Park as he felt nothing had been done for other areas of the parish. Members were reminded that all had been asked to submit ideas for projects with evidence of support for consideration. It was agreed that potential play areas in Coppin Rise and Westholme/Wheatridge Roads would be considered at the May meeting.

026/11 May meeting dates

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting be held on Thursday 19th May, at the Northome Community Centre, commencing at 7:15pm. It was further agreed that a parish council training session would take place on Thursday 12th May for the benefit of both new and returning parish councillors.

027/11 Information Evening

Members were reminded about the Information Evening on 3rd March, starting at 7.30pm at the Northolme Community Centre. The Clerk outlined the proposed format for the evening which would include an opportunity for members of the public to meet with current councillors and learn of their experiences. Identity badges would be provided to Members on the evening so that they are clearly recognisable.

028/11 Forthcoming Elections

(a) Nomination packs and procedures

Members noted that nomination packs for the elections are now available from the Clerk or can be downloaded from the Herefordshire Council elections website. The timetable for submitting applications can be found in the pack although candidates were advised to submit their application well before the deadline so that any errors can be corrected within the time limit.

(b) Poll Cards

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to request the issue of poll cards for the parish council election to be held on 5th May, at an estimated cost of £900 which would be borne by the parish council.

029/11 Christmas Carol Concert

Following from the success of the Christmas Carol Concert in 2010, Members noted the Northolme Community Centre's request for funding towards the cost of a carol concert in 2011 with the Northolme Centre acting as the lead organisation to hold the funding for the event. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Schoffer that a grant of £500.00 be offered to meet the costs of a Carol Concert with payment expected to be made when requested in October/November. The resolution was carried unanimously. Councillor Brown, having declared a prejudicial interest, did not vote.

030/11 Parish Matters

- (a) It was reported that the footpath leading from Westholme Road to Haywood Lane required sweeping as leaves were making it slippery. The Clerk was instructed to request a sweep from Rob Hemblade.
- (b) Members noted that the barrier between the road (Haywood lane) and the pools has been damaged. The Clerk was instructed to report this for repair.
- (c) Councillor Myatt volunteered to repair the Dorchester Way notice board.
- (d) It was reported that hedges and shrubs are growing over the footpath in Sydwall Road. The Clerk was instructed to request that Amey cut the shrubs back.

031/11 Public Participation

During the final period for public participation, the following items were raised:

- It was noted that a kerb stone in Broadholme Road has finally been repaired after a wait of nearly 2 years.
- It was reported that a request to reduce lighting levels at the mini roundabout at the junction of Broadholme Road and Abbotsmead Road is being received but it appears not all members of the public in the immediate vicinity support the proposal. The Chairman suggested that residents conduct their own survey/petition to ascertain support for the project.
- A request was received for further plastic matting under the play equipment at the new toddler play area adjacent to the Northolme Centre. The Clerk was instructed to approach Parks and Countryside at Herefordshire Council.

- It was noted that the grass on the main Tesco roundabout has been damaged by vehicles. It had been proposed some months ago for a hard shoulder to be engineered around the roundabout to reduce the risk of vehicles running across the grass. The Clerk is to write to Amey for an update on these proposals.
- It was requested that consideration be given to creating a traffic regulation order or bye law to regulate the parking of vehicles on grass verges as current legal provision was felt to be ineffective. It was noted that the procedure for creating a bye law was a lengthy one and some felt that the current solution of action being taken by Enforcement Officers was a more practical solution. However, the Clerk was instructed to contact Herefordshire Council's Richard Ball to introduce a new policy to support enforcement action..
- The poor quality of black plastic bags provided to householders by Herefordshire Council was felt to be the reason why so many bags left for collection at the roadside are splitting on collection day, depositing rubbish which isn't then picked up when the refuse collectors pick the bags up. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Waste Contracts Manager at Herefordshire Council to pass on these concerns.
- Shrubs reported as badly pruned by Amey contractors last autumn now appear to have died and need to be replaced. The Clerk is to request replacement shrubs from Amey.
- The speed reduction bricks in Dorchester Way have not yet been repaired. This item is one of several being pursued by the Chairman
- Repair work to drainage close to the Tesco garage petrol tanker exit appears to be too far away from the area where water was pooling as standing water was observed whilst engineers were completing drainage work last week. The Chairman had previously noted this and was pursuing the matter with Joseph Neil of Amey.

032/11 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th April at the Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont, commencing at 7.15pm.

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