

# **PARISH OF BELMONT RURAL**

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Belmont Rural held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May at Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont, at 7.15pm**

Present: P. J. Edwards Chairman  
16 Members of the public

In attendance: Mrs. E. Kelso Clerk  
PC Fiona Farrington West Mercia Police

### **1/10 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all members of the public to the meeting and explained the format for the evening.

### **2/10 Report from Belmont Rural Parish Council**

An annual review of the work of the Parish Council was given by the Chairman, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

### **3/10 Reports from local community groups**

#### **(a) West Mercia Police**

PC Fiona Farrington reported on recent face-to-face meetings with residents in Dorchester Way and a further meeting planned for the Northolme area in the near future. These meetings and PACT surgeries will continue and in future be linked to themes such as shed crime.

Locally the number of reported incidents was low although there has been a broken window in Dorchester Way, some antisocial behaviour linked to the play area in Canterbury Close and a report of eggs being thrown at cars in Dorchester Way.

Changes in policing teams and methods of work now mean that officers can be sent to any area where trouble is reported and not just remain within the locality. The importance of reporting incidents was stressed.

The Chairman thanked PC Farrington for attending and stressed the importance of local police teams' local knowledge.

(b) Kraftimonkies holiday club

A brief report from Kraftimonkeys holiday club was read by the Clerk, noting that the planned Easter activities had been curtailed due to low numbers attending. This would be discussed further during the Annual Parish Council meeting.

(c) South Wye Partnership

A report was given on activities by the South Wye Partnership, particularly with reference to the Belmont Pools, noting that a volunteer group had been formed and a litter pick and tidy up will take place shortly. Details will be on noticeboards.

(d) St. Francis Mums and Tots

Councillor Andy Myatt, on behalf of the South Wye Community Association, reported that the St. Francis Mums and Tots, who meet at the Belmont Community Centre, were thriving with some 16 children regularly attending.

(e) South Wye Community Association

Councillor Andy Myatt gave a report on the current progress at the Belmont Community Centre. A copy of that report is attached to these Minutes.

#### **4/10 Any other business**

Opening the meeting to comments from those in attendance, the following points were raised:

(a) **Abbey View Park**

Councillor Heather Davies, in attendance, asked if the Parish Council has any plans for Abbey View Park other than the footpaths. On behalf of the parish council, the Clerk replied that the Parish Council had not discussed any other developments.

(b) **Hedge laying**

A number of residents expressed concern about the recent pleaching of hedges maintained by Herefordshire Council along the CH7 footpath which affected the view from their property.

The Chairman explained that the hedge laying, carried out as a training project by the Wye Woods Project in conjunction with Herefordshire Council, would encourage stronger growth of the ancient hedgerow and had been carried out partly in response to requests from footpath users for overgrown areas to be cut back, for safety reasons and in response to an individual living rough in the hedgerow. There were no plans to continue with the hedge laying which had now stopped.

Some residents felt that they should have been consulted prior to work commencing and concern was expressed that parts of the hedgerow were too mature to undergo pleaching. In response to a question as to whether the parish council had requested that the hedges be cut back, the Chairman responded that this activity was not at parish council request although Belmont Rural Parish Council had been advised of the activity.

(c) **Consultation**

Some residents in attendance expressed concern at a perceived lack of consultation by Herefordshire Council and the parish council whenever any activity was carried out within the parish such as the cutting back of hedges or tree thinning on the Tesco roundabout. There was also criticism of the standard of work by Herefordshire Council contractors. It was suggested that the Parish Council invite representatives of Herefordshire Council Parks and Countryside Department to attend a forthcoming parish council meeting so residents could raise their concerns directly. Details would be placed on notice boards.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm