

## ANNUAL REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

### Your Parish Council

Belmont Rural Parish Council was established as a parish in its own right in April 2000, having been a ward within the Parish of Clehonger prior to then. The Parish falls within the Belmont Rural Ward of Herefordshire Council.

The Parish Council boundaries are formed by Newton Brook to the South and East, Ruckhall lane to the West, and the River Wye to the North. The 2011 census (the latest for which figures are available) identified that 3,769 residents live within the Parish. In total, there are approximately 1700 dwellings in the Parish.

Parish Councillors are elected at elections held every four years and are volunteers who receive no payment of any kind for the valuable work they carry out on behalf of the local community. If a parish councillor resigns during his/her term of office, local residents can request a full election. In the absence of such a request, the parish council are free to co-opt a suitable candidate. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor and would like more information on the role, please contact the Parish Clerk whose details can be found below.

The Parish Council has one part time employee, the Parish Clerk, who is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Parish Council, for arranging and attending all Parish Council meetings, for maintaining all Parish financial and other records and for advising Parish Councillors on matters of procedure or law to enable them to carry out their decision making functions.

This newsletter is produced and printed by:

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Parish Council

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## BELMONT RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

### Parish Councillors

<b>Adrian Bridges</b> (Vice Chairman)	4 Broadholme Road, Belmont	Tel: 07982 425 895 E-Mail: adrianbridges500@gmail.com
<b>Aimee Bridges</b>	4 Broadholme Road, Belmont	Tel: 01432 276 905 E-Mail: aimeebbridges13@gmail.com
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<b>Mark Schoffer</b> (Chairman)	7 Silver Fir Close, Belmont	Tel: 07875 014860 E-Mail: markschoffer@gmail.com

Vacant  
Vacant

### Parish Clerk

Liz Kelso 5 Deerhurst Drive, Belmont  
Tel: 07722 872 180  
E-Mail: Clerk@Belmontrural-pc.gov.uk

### District Councillor

Tracy Bowes 17 Bodmin Close, Belmont  
Tel: 07710 557 560  
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### Forthcoming Parish

#### Council Meeting dates

#### 2016

11th August—Belmont  
8th September—Northolme  
13th October—Belmont  
10th November—Northolme  
8th December—Belmont

#### 2017

12th January—Northolme  
9th February—Belmont  
9th March—Northolme  
30th March—Annual Parish Meeting—Belmont  
13th April—Belmont  
11th May—Northolme

All meetings are held in the Community Centre as indicated and start at 7pm and include a brief (15 minute) period of public participation when members of the public can raise items of interest or concern

## INTRODUCTION

### Welcome to the Annual Report for the Parish of Belmont Rural for the year ended 31st March 2016

Parish Councils represent the grass roots level of local government and provide a means by which local people can influence their local environment and the provision of services.

Parish Councillors are volunteers who are elected to office through local elections which are held every four years. All parish councillors were elected or co-opted to the Council in May 2015 and details of current councillors can be found on page 4

Parish Councils are funded through the Council Tax and for the 2015/6 year, the household council tax payment allocated to your parish council was £50,000 for the year which amounts to an average 64p per week per band D household. Your Parish Council spent £29,224 during the year ended 31st March 2016 and



details of how this was spent is explained on pages 2 and 3. Parish Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month and alternate between Belmont Community Centre and Northolme Community Centre. Meetings usually start at 7pm. Members of the public are very welcome

to attend Parish Council meetings and at the discretion of the Chairman, can speak on some agenda items. Dates for forthcoming meetings are on the panel on the left can be found on notice boards and our website. Further details are also available from the Parish Clerk at the address given on page 4.

## A HUGE THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all those who braved the weather and joined the Community Action Day on Jubilee Field last month. Good progress was made to clear parts of the site, cut back shrubs and overgrown trees and start work on a section of the land where wild flowers are to be encouraged.

There's more about the Jubilee Field project on page 2 but if you would like to help maintain this area, watch out for the next Community Action Day coming in the Autumn.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

As in the previous year, your Parish Council has devoted considerable time and effort this year in meeting the ever changing demands of local government in a climate of reducing budgets but increasing needs.

### Neighbourhood Development Plan

As more parishes develop Neighbourhood Plans, or you may have attended meetings of the parish council, you should be becoming more familiar with Neighbourhood Plans which enable local communities to set development plans for their area. Your Parish Council has been working through the quite complex requirements of a Development Plan for some time now but is nearing the point when the draft plan will be sent for independent examination in accordance with Regulation 16 of the



Abbey View Park

Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. This is a major milestone and represents many months of hard work on the part of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with the help of consultants Kirkwells. Once submitted in draft form under Regulation 16, the document starts to carry weight in terms of the influence it can have on planning applications that are submitted within the Parish. The independent examiner can make comments and recommendations before the draft plan

is then voted upon by residents in a referendum which will be organised by Herefordshire Council on our behalf.

### Community Consultation

In November last year as part of a regular quarterly newsletter your Parish Council took the opportunity to ask all residents for their views on potential spending priorities. For those of you who took the time and trouble to respond either



Belmont Centre

using the paper questionnaire or our electronic version, thank you. This has helped to ensure that this parish council has a clear view of the things that matter most to you so that we can direct your money to those projects.

The results clearly showed that the most important project for local residents was support for the library service at Belmont Community Centre which, along with most libraries throughout the county, was threatened with closure as a result of budget cuts. Your Parish Council was delighted to learn that Herefordshire Council has committed to supporting the Library Service at Belmont for a further twelve months.

Other projects scoring highly on the questionnaire included improvements to the public open spaces, grass cutting and the maintenance of footpaths.

### Jubilee Field

In recognition of the importance of public open spaces, to all residents, your Parish Council has recently been granted a licence to maintain Jubilee Field. This is an area of land named in honour of the Queen's Jubilee and can be found behind Dorchester Way. It can be accessed from Dorchester Way or via one of two footbridges off Abbey View East. Formally part of the gravel washing area when gravel extraction took place on what is now Abbey View Park, the land was acquired by Herefordshire Council in 2005 as an area of public open space. Lack of regular maintenance resulted in the area becoming overgrown so last year your Parish Council approached Herefordshire Council with a view to taking over the maintenance of the area. *Earlier this year a licence was granted to permit the parish council to maintain the land and work started with a Community Action Day held in May.* Since then an area has been cleared ready for wild flower seeds and plugs and a shed is currently being installed to hold a range of gardening equipment for the volunteers who have been working on this site to use.

If you would like to be part of this project, or perhaps you have an idea to enhance this site, please contact the Clerk at the address on page 4.



### PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Since the end of the Financial Year, two Parish Councillors have tendered their resignation:

Andy Myatt joined the Parish Council in June 2007 and more recently had held the post of Chairman of the Parish Council.

Lyndsey Evans joined the Parish Council at the last elections in May 2015

Both continue as active members of South Wye Community Association and the Parish Council thanks them both for their contribution to the community and wishes them well for the future. At the time of writing, therefore, there are vacancies for two Parish Councillors for Belmont Rural. If you think you might be interested in fulfilling this important role, please contact the Clerk whose details can be found on page 4.



## SUMMARY ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

2014/5	INCOME	2015/6
£46,649	Precept	£46,904
£43	Bank Interest	£53
£8,544	Grants and other income	3,627
<b>£55,236</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£50,584</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
£12,290	Staff Costs	£12,351
£1,353	General Office Costs	£1,271
£593	Insurance	£628
£6,533	Purchases	£1,567
£478	Room Hire	£413
£773	Repairs and Maintenance	£103
£1,330	S137 Payments	£1,517
£4,583	Grants & Donations	£8,400
0	Advertising and Publicity	0
£1,137	Subscriptions	£1,262
£450	Audit Fees	£450
£0	Election Costs	£59
£6,848	Neighbourhood Development Plan	£0
£300	Training	£773
£554	Website	£429
(295)	Sundry Expenses	£0
<b>£36,927</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£29,223</b>
<b>£18,309</b>	<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>£21,361</b>
	<b>RESERVES</b>	
£65,830	Balance brought forward	£84,139
£18,309	Net expenditure	£21,361
<b>£84,139</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>£105,500</b>