

# Belmont Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013  
At Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont

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

**In attendance:** Mrs. E. Kelso Clerk  
3 members of the public

## 131/13 Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and invited comments or queries that were not otherwise on the agenda for this meeting. During this period a member of the public asked if the parish council would be represented at the forthcoming appeal into the proposed development at Home Farm. It was noted that Ward Councillors would be attending.

## 132/13 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

Apologies were noted from Councillor Hubbard and Councillor Parish.

There were no requests for dispensation.

Declarations of Interest were noted as follows:

Name	Nature of Interest	Agenda item/Minute ref.
Councillor A. Bridges	Non disclosable pecuniary interest as a trustee and director of Northolme Community Centre Association	8 – 138/13
Councillor A. Myatt	Non disclosable pecuniary interest as Trustee and Treasurer of South Wye Community Association	8 – 138/13 12 - 142/13

133/13                    **Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2013**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September had been previously circulated. It was agreed that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

**134/13                    Clerks Report**

The Clerks report updating progress on items since the last meeting was noted.

**135/13                    West Mercia Police/Parish Watch Report**

A verbal update on changes to the local policing plan was provided by Councillor Edwards as Parish Watch co-ordinator.

**136/13                    Report of the Finance Working Party**

The report of the Finance Working Party was noted with no queries or comments from members.

**137/13                    Information item: Correspondence**

Other than routine items circulated to members, the following item had been received:

- Notification of Herefordshire Council's budget consultation is now available online. Members with access to the internet/emails have been sent the link to the consultation and a hard copy would be circulated after the meeting. Members were encouraged to forward their comments as an individual.

**138/13                    Financial Matters**

**(a)    To approve payments to be made for October 2013:**

Authority was given to make the following payments:

Northolme Community Centre Association Room Hire for Kraftimonkies Holiday Club Per approval ref. 118/13		£357.00
Mr. B. Hubbard Purchase of bulbs per approval ref. 120/13	£39.85	
Plus replacement shrub	£5.50	
Total payment		£45.35
South Wye Community Centre Association Grant payment for Christmas Carol Concert Per approval ref. 133/13		£450.00

South Wye Community Centre Association		
Room Hire for September meeting	£30.00	
Room hire for Finance working party meeting	£13.50	
Total payment:		£43.50
Petty cash reimbursement		£101.36

**(b) To note account balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013**

Current account:	£500.00
Deposit account:	£73,693.61
Petty cash:	£23.64

Notes:

- £25,000, being the second half of the annual precept for 2013-2014 was received on 25<sup>th</sup> September, and
- £5.61 was received as bank interest on 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- Current commitments, i.e. where orders have been placed but goods/services not yet received or invoiced amount to £12,484.14.

**139/13 Planning Matters**

There were no planning applications received since the last meeting.

Members noted that the postponed appeal in respect of the Land at Home Farm was scheduled to start on 12<sup>th</sup> November at the Town Hall. The Inquiry is expected to last for 4 days and will start at 10.00am.

**140/13 Update on Neighbourhood Planning**

Unfortunately, the planned meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning team with Mr. Bannister from Herefordshire Council had to be postponed and will now take place on 6<sup>th</sup> November at Belmont Community Centre, starting at 7pm.

**141/13 To approve requests for training**

There were no outstanding requests for training.

The Code of Conduct update training was rescheduled for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at Northolme Community Centre, starting at 7pm.

**142/13 To consider proposals for Belmont Library including provision of financial support of £5,000 pa from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

Members noted the report from meetings attended by the Clerk regarding the future of the library

service at Belmont and the indication from Herefordshire Council that due to budget constraints, the library service throughout Herefordshire could no longer be supported in its current format. After several discussions between stakeholders, Herefordshire Council indicated that it would be looking for a contribution towards the operating costs of the Belmont Library in the region of £5,000 but in return would support a move by the South Wye Community Association to extend the library opening hours, free of charge, with the help of volunteers and encourage use of the library and community centre computer equipment for public use out of the usual library opening hours.

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bridges that an offer of £2,000 be made to Herefordshire Council to support the Library service at Belmont, contingent upon a reduction in the current rent for the library room by the South Wye Community Association of £2,000 and contingent upon Herefordshire Council seeking further contributions from other parishes whose residents use the library at Belmont. Upon a vote, the resolution was approved. Councillor Schoffer asked that the record show that he abstained from voting.<sup>1</sup>

### **143/13 Financial Reports**

Members noted the financial report presented by the Clerk showing expenditure to date for this financial year and forecast expenditure for the full year, being in line with budgeted expenditure. There were no questions raised on the report.

### **144/13 To consider operating budget for 2014-2015**

The Clerk presented a draft operating budget for 2014-2015, i.e. referring to revenue expenditure but excluding projects, grants and donations. After some discussion, the budget, amounting to a planned expenditure of £22,000 was agreed with Councillor Edwards abstaining from the vote.

The Clerk noted that the budget for grants, donations, projects and capital expenditure would be presented to a later meeting whereupon a final precept for the year 2014-2015 could be determined.

### **145/13 To approve revised Financial Standing Orders**

Members noted the revised Financial Standing orders as presented to the meeting which reflected the National Association of Local Councils Model Financial Standing Orders as updated.. It was agreed that these be adopted by the Parish Council as presented to the meeting.

### **146/13 To consider donation to Dore Community Transport**

It was agreed that a donation of £200.00 be offered to Dore Community Transport in recognition of the excellent service offered to residents within the Parish.

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<sup>1</sup> As amended at the meeting held 12.12.2013

**147/13            To consider donation to Citizens Advice Bureaux**

It was agreed to offer a donation of £400.00 to Herefordshire Citizens Advice Bureaux in recognition of the service offered to residents of the Parish. It was further agreed that when writing to CAB, the Clerk enquire about the numbers of residents accessing their services living within the Parish.

**148/13            To consider request for grant from Newton Farm Community Association towards the cost of running Santas Grotto**

Members noted a request for a grant of £500 from Newton Farm Information Centre towards the cost of the Santas Grotto this year. It was also noted that the Finance Working Party had requested additional information from the applicant but to date no response had been received. As it was not possible to confirm whether residents within the Parish would benefit from the grant requested, it was agreed that no offer of a grant could be made this year. The Clerk was instructed to notify Newton Farm Information Centre accordingly.

**149/13            To receive tree survey report and consider recommendation for additional trees as specified in the report.**

It was agreed this item be deferred pending further clarification on the cost, if any, of the additional trees identified in the report. It was also agreed that a site visit to confirm the location of the proposed additional trees would be required prior to any decision, and a community consultation take place in accordance with previously stated policy on such matters.

**150/13            To consider relocation of bin on Abbey View Park East**

Having recovered the bin which was removed from Abbey View Park East, Councillor Bridges has asked that the location of this well-used bin be reconsidered to avoid it being removed in future. Taking into consideration comments from members of the public in attendance living close to the proposed site, it was agreed that the bin be moved towards the Centre of the gate onto Abbey View Park from Dorchester Way but subject to confirmation from Herefordshire Council that the location is considered appropriate for emptying.

**151/13            To consider the introduction of tulip bulbs in Northolme Road shrub bed**

It was agreed that the tulip bulbs taken from the planter in Westholme Road be replanted into the shrub bed on Northolme Road.

**152/13            Information item: Parish Matters**

(a)      Councillor Adrian Bridges presented a report into his activities as a Ward Councillor since

the last meeting.

- (b) Councillor Phil Edwards presented a report into his activities as a Ward Councillor since the last meeting.
- (c) It was noted that a weed spray would be needed in the spring.
- (d) Members were reminded of the Christmas Carol Concert at Belmont Community Centre on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets are available from the Community Centre.

**153/13      Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at Belmont Community Centre, commencing at 7pm.

**153/13      Confidential item: Report on Code of Conduct complaint.**

In accordance with standing orders this item was considered without members of the public present.

Members received an update on the progress of the Code of Conduct complaint brought on behalf of the Parish Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9pm.