

ANNUAL REPORT

2012-13

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 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 2001 census (the latest for which figures are available) identified that 3,382 residents live within the Parish although housing developments since then have increased this number. 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:

Belmont Rural
Parish Council

c/o 5 Deerhurst Drive
Belmont
Hereford
HR2 7XX

Tel: 07722 872 180
E-Mail:
belmontrural@yahoo.co.uk

www.belmontrural-pc.gov.uk

BELMONT RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors

Ken Baynham	12 Wenlock Close, Belmont	Tel: 01432 274 363 E-Mail: ken.baynham@yahoo.co.uk
Adrian Bridges (Vice Chairman)	4 Broadholme Road, Belmont	Tel: 07982 425 895 E-Mail: abridges@herefordshire.gov.uk
David Cook	9 Yarlinton Mill, Belmont	Tel: 01432 355109 E-Mail: davidcook984@btinternet.com
Phil Edwards	11 Cedar Avenue, Belmont	Tel: 01432 350688 E-Mail: pjedwards@herefordshire.gov.uk
Brian Hubbard	52 Dorchester Way, Belmont	Tel: 01432 274801 E-Mail: bcwhubbard@tiscali.co.uk
Ron Loft	1 Sydwall Road, Belmont	Tel: 01432 273650
Andy Myatt (Chairman)	50 Dorchester Way, Belmont	Tel: 01432 263415 E-Mail: andmor.home@btinternet.com
Des Parish	28 Wyedean Rise, Belmont	Tel: 01432 263687 E-Mail: desireeparish001@aol.co.uk
Mark Schoffer	7 Silver Fir Close, Belmont	Tel: 01432 344441 E-Mail: marann58@btinternet.com

Parish Clerk

Liz Kelso 5 Deerhurst Drive, Belmont
Tel: 07722 872180
E-Mail: Belmontrural@yahoo.co.uk

District Councillors

Adrian Bridges	4 Broadholme Road, Belmont	Tel: 07982 425 895 E-Mail: abridges@herefordshire.gov.uk
Phil Edwards	11 Cedar Avenue, Belmont	Tel: 01432 350 688 E-Mail: pjedwards@herefordshire.gov.uk

Glenda Vaughan-Powell 6 Charlton Avenue, Newton Farm
Tel: 01432 360 456
E-Mail: gvaughan-powell@herefordshire.gov.uk

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Neighbourhood Development Plan</i>	1
<i>Meeting dates</i>	1
<i>Achievements</i>	2
<i>Summary accounts</i>	3
<i>Your Parish Council</i>	4
<i>Contact Us</i>	4

Forthcoming Parish Council Meeting dates

2013

8th August— Northholme
19th September— Belmont
31st October—Northholme
12th December—Belmont

2014

23rd January—Northholme
6th March— Belmont
17th April—Northholme
29th May—Belmont

All meetings start at 7pm with a 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 2013

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. The last full elections were held in May 2011.

Parish Councils are funded through the Council Tax and for the 2012/3 year, the household council tax payment allocated to your parish council was £45,000 for the year which amounts to an average 62p per week per band D household. Your Parish Council spent £70,180 during the year ended 31st March 2013 and details of how this was spent is explained on pages 2 and 3.



Parish Council meetings are held approximately every six weeks and for 2013-2014 will alternate between Belmont Community Centre and Northolme Community Centre. Meetings are usually on a Thursday evening from 7pm onwards. 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 and further details are available from the Parish Clerk at the address given on page 4.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Neighbourhood Development Plans were established under the Localism Act 2011 and offer communities opportunities to shape the places in which they live, decide locations for new homes and businesses and get more involved in creating

planning policies. Forming part of the Local Development Plan, they deal with land use issues.

Your Parish Council has started the process of developing its own Neighbourhood Development Plan alongside a new Parish Plan and is looking for volunteers to help with the

process. Whether you can offer a regular time or just the occasional help, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Clerk, whose address can be found on page 4.

This is an important project where you can really make a difference to your community.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2012-2013

As usual, it has been an active year for the Parish Council and it is difficult to single out just a few items of note

Footpaths and Facilities

Over the last year your Parish Council has continued with the provision of informal footpaths around Abbey View Park, with an additional path across Abbey View Park West, towards Home Farm, along the CH7 public footpath towards the stile. A further path was created linking Sydwall Road with Belmont Road alongside the brook, formalising a route long used by residents into a path which can be used in all weathers. An additional access for all path was also created at Belmont Pools linking Westholme Road with Haywood Lane. These paths have proved popular with all ages, enabling access even in the wettest of weathers to encourage young and old to walk, run or cycle and enjoy the peace and open spaces of our parish.



Belmont Haywood Country Park

Signs

New signs have been installed to properly identify Abbey View Park and we plan to complete work on the culvert linking Abbey View East with Jubilee Field in the near future.

Coppin Rise Play Area

The provision of leisure facilities for all ages is of particular importance to your

parish council and this year has seen Belmont Rural Parish has continued to work with Herefordshire Council to maintain and improve the current play facilities for our young people. Following a survey of local residents last year, we have now installed a much needed equipped toddler play area on the open space area in Coppin Rise thanks to an Awards for All lottery grant.



Coppin Rise Play Area

Abbey View Park

We are currently working with drainage experts and landowners Herefordshire Council to identify a permanent solution to the drainage problems of the kick about area at Northolme, and has continued to press for the identification of additional active use open space for our young people

Community Centres

Within this Parish we are fortunate to have two community centres and your Parish Council has supported both the Northolme Centre and the Belmont Centre during the year. Your Parish Council has contributed towards the cost of the new



Belmont Centre

extension to the Belmont Centre and has helped to fund additional equipment to support computer classes and a film and photo appreciation group currently being established at the Centre. Support was also given to the Santas Grotto which has become a regular event at the Belmont Centre at Christmas.

At the Northolme Centre, your Parish Council supported the holiday children's play club run by Kraftimonkies Holiday



Northolme Centre

Club, has contributed towards the Christmas Carol Concert which has become a regular feature in support of St. Michael's Hospice and supported the Jubilee Fun Day at the Centre which, despite the wet weather was a resounding success.

It is worth remembering that both these community centres are run by people who are volunteers and who give their time, energy and often money to provide these facilities for local people. Both Centres would welcome more voluntary help and your Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers for both Centres for the vital work they do in keeping the Centres available for us all.

Planning

Your Parish Council considers and makes observations on planning applications each year ranging from the addition

of a conservatory to a dwelling to large scale developments. A relatively large development of approximately 85 homes on land currently forming part of Home Farm has generated substantial interest amongst residents



Land at Home Farm

this year and a special meeting was held by the parish council to hear local views on the development and to present these as part of our formal response to the application. Although initially refused by the planning authority, Herefordshire Council, the applicants have lodged an appeal now scheduled for July this year.

Website

This year your Parish Council also launched it's own website which is a great way of finding out about the work of the Parish Council and keeping up to date with issues around the parish. Check it out at www.belmontrural-pc.gov.uk.

Councillors

Finally, the Parish Council has said goodbye to one of our Parish Councillors, Ms Glenda Vaughan-Powell who resigned through ill health this year and we are delighted to welcome Ken Baynham as a Parish Councillor.

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2013

2011/12	INCOME	2012/13
£45,000.	Precepts	£45,000
£20	Bank Interest	£23
£0	Grants and other income	10,591
£45,020	TOTAL INCOME	£55,591
	EXPENDITURE	
£9,896	Staff Costs	£12,296
£1,080	General Office Costs	£1,193
£852	Insurance	£857
£13,007	Purchases	£37,909
£260	Room Hire	£321
£286	Repairs and Maintenance	£1,481
£4,438	S137 Payments	£4,098
£417	Community Building Grants	£9,150
0	Advertising and Publicity	0
£706	Subscriptions	£917
£405	Audit Fees	£405
£106	Election Costs	0
£351	Parish Plan	0
£218	Training	£228
0	Website	£1,124
£100	Sundry Expenses	£201
£32,122	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£70,180
£12,898	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(£14,589)
	RESERVES	
£37,824	Balance brought forward	£50,722
£12,898	Net expenditure	(£14,589)
£50,722	BALANCE	£36,133