

Belmont Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 2nd October 2014 At Belmont Community Centre, Eastholme Avenue, Belmont

Present: Mr. A. Myatt
Mr. A. Bridges
Mr. K. Baynham
Mr. D. Cook
Mr. P. Edwards
Mr. B. Hubbard
Mr. R. Loft
Ms. D. Parish
M. Schoffer

In attendance: Mrs. E. Kelso Clerk
Ms. N. Silver Herefordshire Council
2 Members of the public

133/14 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation

The following declarations of interest were received:

Name	Nature of Interest	Agenda item/Minute ref.
Mr. A. Bridges	Disclosable pecuniary interest as a director/trustee of Northolme Community Centre Association	Agenda items 16:
Ms. D. Parish	Disclosable pecuniary interest as a director/trustee of Northolme Community Centre Association	Agenda item 16
	Non-disclosable pecuniary interest as a director/trustee of Northolme Community Centre Association	Agenda items 7.1 & 7.2
Mr. A. Myatt	Non-disclosable pecuniary interest as a trustee of South Wye Community Association	Agenda items 11 & 14
	Non-disclosable pecuniary interest as item refers to neighbouring property	Agenda items 15 & 19
Mr. B. Hubbard	Non-disclosable pecuniary interest as item refers to neighbouring property	Agenda item 19
Mr. P. Edwards	Non-disclosable pecuniary interest as partner is director of NCCA	Agenda item 16

There were no further declarations of interest.

There were no requests for dispensation and no apologies.

It was agreed that agenda items be taken in an order other than that which appears on the agenda so that those attending the meeting as guests or speakers can leave at the end of their area of interest, and in acknowledgement of the standing order requiring that the Chairman vacates the chair during discussion on any item where the Chair declares an interest.

Councillor Bridges in the Chair for the following items:

134/14 Update on future of Belmont Library

(a) Presentation

Ms. Silver, Head of Community and Customer Services, gave the background to the library service and effect of budget cuts last year, explaining that many small libraries had become community libraries under the control of local communities/parish councils with "Friends of the Library" groups being formed to raise funds to maintain and extend the service. Further savings will be required in the forthcoming year and the purpose of the presentation is to give the Parish Council an opportunity to consider the way forward in conjunction with the South Wye Community Association.

Looking at data relating to visits to the Library, it was acknowledged that the library was not suitable as a community library due to the high number of visits/users. Users appear to come from a wide area and now just the Parish of Belmont Rural.

It was agreed that an approach be made by Herefordshire Council to Hereford City Council for funding towards the cost of running the library as many City residents used the facility. It was further agreed that once the final shortfall could be identified, that options for the future, which might include reducing the library hours, the use of self serve equipment or possibly the use of the library room outside of library hours by other groups, could be considered alongside the financial constraints.

(b) Outline of proposed extension to Belmont Library

Members noted a proposal by South Wye Community Association to consider an extension to the library room at the Community Centre in order to make the room more usable for potential future use outside of the library opening hours. A draft plan was identified indicating a capital cost in the region of £85,000 for a 60sq metre extension.

135/14 To consider application for funding towards the cost of a Christmas Concert at Belmont Community Centre

It was agreed that a grant of £400 be offered to South Wye Community Association towards the cost of holding a free Christmas Carol Concert for local residents in December, on the usual terms and conditions.

136/14 To consider revised quote from BBLP for footpath linking Abbey View Park with Jubilee Field

In August, authority was given to the Clerk to accept the quotation from BBLP for the additional footpath provided that the cost had not risen more than 5%. Members noted that the final revised cost from Balfour Beatty Living Places amounted to £3,329.09, or a rise of 11%. It was agreed that authority be given for the Clerk to accept this final quote and to press for work to commence.

It was further noted that a final quote for the additional drainage works requested from Balfour Beatty was still awaited. For the avoidance of any doubt, the location of the additional drainage requirements was marked on a map and a small working party would be formed to identify the locations on site and mark up the site accordingly.

137/14 To consider draft Management Plan for Jubilee Field

Noting that work had today started on cutting the grass on Abbey View Park, it was agreed to defer a decision on the draft management plan for Jubilee Field pending clarification of the extent of work to be undertaken under the public realm contract by Balfour Beatty Living Places.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Balfour Beatty to confirm that the brambles on Jubilee Field would be flail cut so that volunteers can begin work on removing the bramble roots.

Councillor Myatt returned to the Chair for the remaining items.

138/14 Public Participation

There were no further items raised under this agenda item.

139/14 To approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September had been previously circulated. Subject to the correction of two typographical errors, it was agreed that the Chairman be authorised to sign as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

140/14 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report as attached to these Minutes was noted.

141/14 West Mercia Police/Parish Watch Report

West Mercia Police were not in attendance at the meeting. Councillor Edwards reported that other than a car fire at Belmont Pools, no other matters had been highlighted or reported under Parish Watch.

142/14 Correspondence

Other than routine items, notification has been received from the Department for Transport of the intention to stop up the Highway at Broxash Drive during building work.

143/14 Finance Matters

(a) Notes from the Finance Working party meeting held on 23rd September 2014

Notes from the Finance Working party meeting were received.

(b) To authorise payments for October 2014

Authority was given to make the following payments:

Hay Tourism Number 2 account Donation as authorised at meeting held 4.9.2014	£50.00
Northolme Community Centre Association Room hire for Kraftimonkies summer holiday club As agreed at meeting held 5.6.2014	£567.00

(c) Balances

Current account:	£500.00
Deposit account:	£106,106.53
Petty cash:	£119.20

(d) Budget Review – Year to Date

The Clerk presented the review of expenditure to date and forecast expenditure for the financial year, as attached to these Minutes.

Members noted that Herefordshire Council has requested precept requests by end December 2014 so it was agreed that preliminary budget proposals would be considered at the next meeting. Members were requested to consider potential projects and expenditure for the forthcoming financial year but were reminded that the purpose of such projects was purely to ensure sufficient funding is allocated to appropriate budget headings. Inclusion in budget discussions did not infer that any project or proposal would proceed as it would need to be considered as a separate agenda item in its own right. It was suggested that items such as a ball park, road crossing for the A465 or play provision might be considered.

144/14 Planning Matters

(a) Applications

There were no planning applications due to consideration and no notifications of development under permitted development rights.

(b) **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Members noted the report from the NDP Steering Group meeting held on Wednesday 10th September.

The first discussion draft produced by Kirkwells has now been received and Members were invited to forward their comments to the Councillor Bridges no later than Tuesday 7th October.

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group would take place on Wednesday 8th October at Belmont Community Centre, starting at 7pm when Paula Fitzgerald from Kirkwells would be in attendance to discuss the discussion draft.

145/14 Training

There were no requests for training and no reports from training sessions attended.

Members were reminded of the following (free) session in October:

- “Blue Light” – the second in a series of informal meetings with the Police Commissioner Bill Longmore and local Superintendent Sue Thomas.

146/14 Ward Councillors Report

Members noted a verbal report from Councillor Edwards and written report from Councillor Bridges on their activities as Ward Councillors. Of particular note within the Parish was the proposal to upgrade the CH7 footpath to a cycleway towards Belmont Abbey.

147/14 Parish Council Newsletter

It was agreed to form a working party to draft a Parish Council newsletter with the aim of bringing forward a draft for consideration to the next meeting. It was further agreed that part of the newsletter might be formed from a questionnaire to seek residents views on potential projects for funding through the precept.

148/14 Adoption of Revised Standing Orders

It was agreed that the Revised Standing Orders, as produced to the meeting be hereby adopted.

149/14 To consider application for funding towards the cost of a Children’s Christmas Party at Northolme Community Centre

In accordance with the request for funding towards the Children’s Christmas party to be held at Northolme Community Centre, it was agreed to offer a grant of £450 under the usual term and conditions.

150/14 Request for donation from Dore Community Transport

Having supported this charity in previous years, it was agreed that a donation of £250.00 be made to Dore Community Transport in accordance with their request as produced to the meeting.

151/14 To consider the purchase of spare parts for existing litter bins

It was agreed that the clerk be authorised to purchase four liners (at a cost of £22.60 each) and four replacement tops (at a cost of £93.70 each) for the merlin litter bins to replace those damaged around the parish.

152/14 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6th November at Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, commencing at 7pm.

Appendix 1
Belmont Rural Parish Council
Meeting held on Thursday 2nd October 2014
Clerk's Report

1. Bus Shelter

BBLP has been reminded of the promise that the work on the bus shelter should start in September but has now confirmed that work will start on the kerb area during the first week of October. However, the delivery date for the new shelter is not until mid November so for some period, there will be no shelter at this location. A temporary bus stop sign will remain in place until the new shelter is in place.

2. Litter Bins

The promised quotation from BBLP for a replacement bin on Abbey View Park is still outstanding despite several reminders from the Clerk. There is a separate agenda item with regard to spare parts for existing bins.

3. Consultation on Travellers Sites

Responses to the questionnaire on the consultation on travellers sites have now been returned to the Clerk.

4. Parish Council information evening

HALC has been asked to provide a cost, for the information evening discussed at the last meeting, and a provisional date.

