

**Parish of Belmont Rural
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Thursday 29th May 2014 at
Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont**

Present: Councillor A. Myatt Chairman
18 members of the public

In attendance: Mrs. E. Kelso Clerk

001/14 **Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Belmont Rural and explained the format for the evening.

002/14 **Annual Statement from Belmont Rural Parish Council**

The Chairman read out the Annual Statement from Belmont Rural Parish Council, as attached to these Minutes.

In response to a question by a member of the public, the Chairman reported that in connection with the proposal to renew the bus shelter outside Brook Farm Court, it was not proposed to create a layby at that location as it was felt there was insufficient land to achieve this. However, the pavement level would be increased so enable easier access for wheelchair users.

003/14 **Information from organisations working within the Parish**

(a) **Northolme Community Centre Association**

Mr. Adrian Bridges delivered a statement from the Northolme Community Centre Association about their activities in the previous year and plans for the future, including enlarging the Centre and taking over responsibility for the Centre building and Car Park from Herefordshire Council.

(b) **South Wye Community Association**

The Chairman read out a statement from the South Wye Community Association from the Belmont Community Centre, as attached to these Minutes.

(c) **Parish Watch**

Councillor Phil Edwards gave a verbal report on the Parish Watch scheme which had been set up as a Neighbourhood Watch scheme some years ago, noting that crime levels within the Parish had continued to drop from previous years.

Councillor Edwards as District Councillor thanked the community centres and volunteers for all the work they have done for the benefit of the Belmont Parish community.

004/14 **Neighbourhood Development Planning**

Councillor Bridges, as chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning within the Parish, explaining the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan, its role within planning procedures and law and the current status of the Belmont Rural Parish Plan.

During discussions following the presentation, suggestions for items to be identified within the plan included potential areas for further development, the importance of energy efficient development, the future of the former golf course, impact of any future major road and transport initiatives by Herefordshire Council, leisure and social facilities and protection of the community centres.

Members of the public in attendance were encouraged to volunteer for the steering group and/or attend steering group meetings and were asked as a minimum to respond to any questionnaires or feedback requested as part of the plan development process and encourage their neighbours to do so too.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and declared the meeting closed.