

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of
The Parish of Belmont Rural
Held on Thursday 16th May 2013
At Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont**

Present: Councillor P. Edwards Chairman
9 Members of the public

In attendance: Mrs. E. Kelso Clerk

001/013 **Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Belmont Rural, explaining that the meeting was not a parish council meeting but a meeting of residents of the Parish and that the Annual Parish Council Meeting would take place immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting.

002/013 **Statement from Belmont Rural Parish Council**

The Chairman read out the Annual Statement from Belmont Rural Parish Council on the work of the Parish Council in the preceding year, as attached to these Minutes.

003/013 **Reports from Organisations Working Within the Parish**

(a) South Wye Community Association/Belmont Community Centre

The work of South Wye Community Association/Belmont Community Centre was outlined by Mr. Andy Myatt, as attached to these Minutes.

(b) Northolme Community Centre Association

Mr. Adrian Bridges presented the report from the Northolme Community Centre Association, as attached to these Minutes.

(c) West Mercia Police

Representatives from West Mercia Police were unable to attend due to an incident in Hunderton but had spoken to the Chairman prior to the meeting, indicating that an incident had occurred in Golden Post that had resulted in three people sustaining injuries and were in hospital following what was believed to be a local incident. The suspects had been detailed by the police and there was no further danger to the public at large.

(d) Parish Watch

On behalf of Parish Watch, Councillor Edwards gave a verbal report noting that there had been less incidents of anti social behaviour in the preceding year, with the most notable incidents being racist graffiti earlier in the year and reports of rowdy behaviour from out of control parties and alcohol.

Outside the Parish there have been incidents of objects placed on railway lines at Redhill which are of particular concern. Camera surveillance is now in place and a programme of visits by British Transport Police to local schools and youth organisations has started to educate young people in particular to the dangers of placing objects on railway lines not only being danger to those responsible but also danger to those using the railway legitimately.

In response to a comment regarding incidents occurring after 10pm when local Police Community Support Workers finish work, it was noted that PCSOs would be working extended hours in future.

004/013 Any Other Business

Under this agenda item, the Chairman announced that after many years as Chair or Vice Chair of the Parish Council, he would be standing down as Chairman at the end of this meeting but remaining a Parish Councillor.

There being no further business, the Chairman announced the meeting closed at 19.15.

ATTACHMENT 1
STATEMENT FROM BELMONT RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

BELMONT RURAL

PARISH COUNCIL

STATEMENT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

16th May 2013

I am pleased to have this opportunity to outline some of the activities of your Parish Council over the preceding year.

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 in the few minutes available at this meeting.

Much of the work of any Parish Council is devoted to the provision or safeguarding of facilities for local people within the Parish. 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. 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 to prevent this year's winter flooding in the very near future. Finally a trial wild flower bed, planned last year but delayed by the dreadful weather, should be completed over this year.

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.

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. This is a particularly difficult area due to the proximity of the formal landfill and the extensive use of the area so in conjunction with efforts to resolve the problems, your parish council has continued to press for the identification of additional active use open space for our young people

Within this Parish we are fortunate to have two community centres and your Parish Council has supported both this Centre and the Belmont Centre during the year. Your Parish Council has contributed towards the cost of the new extension to the Belmont Centre which was formally opened last week 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 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. I know both Centres would welcome more voluntary help and on behalf of your Parish Council I'd 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.

The Parish of Belmont Rural is a pleasant place to live with low levels of criminal activity. Fewer incidents of anti social behaviour were reported during the year and your Parish Council continues to work with the local authority and West Mercia police to tackle these issues. We have also worked with Herefordshire Council to deal with issues such as graffiti, underage drinking and damage to the local environment from cars parking on grass verges and dog mess. Parish Watch is a Parish Council supported voluntary effort along the lines of the former neighbourhood watch scheme and has provided valuable contribution both to the debate on anti social behaviour and on a more practical level to helping to keep our Parish a safe environment to live. I'd like to thank everyone involved in Parish Watch for all their efforts this year.

Environmental matters are always high on the Parish Council agenda. Pride in Parish is a Parish Council sponsored initiative to improve the environment in which we live and volunteers regularly conduct litter picks throughout the Parish. New signs have been installed this year to remind those few dog walkers who don't pick up after their dogs that they are required to do so. Again, I'd like to use this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their work which is not often seen, but always valued.

Planning matters are also a major item of work of a Parish Council, which has a statutory right to be consulted on development within the Parish. 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 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 and we await details of when this will take place.

At a time national planning policy is changing and the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan is not yet completed, planning matters have been and will continue to be an important element of Parish Council work in the months to come. The Localism Act provides an opportunity for Parish and Town Councils to influence planning within their area through a Neighbourhood Development Plan which is drawn up at a very local level by local residents. Your Parish Council has just begun the process of drawing up a Neighbourhood Development Plan together with a new Parish Plan which will enable all residents to have a much greater influence on local development and the work of your Parish Council in the future. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with this process and would welcome hearing from anyone who can offer occasional or more regular help with this work.

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 by Mr. Ken Baynham as a Parish Councillor. Councillor Baynham is unable to be with us today as he is on holiday but has already made a valuable contribution to our work.

ATTACHMENT 2
STATEMENT FROM SOUTH WYE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Annual Parish Meeting 16 May 2013
Report from South Wye Community Association

Unfortunately the perilous condition of Herefordshire Council's finances may impinge upon the future wellbeing of the Belmont Community Centre.

In year ending 31 December 2012 South Wye Community Association had a gross income of £35,500 and a gross expenditure of £23,000. We regularly received monthly rentals in excess of £1,900 with regular outgoings of £900 and were able to save a substantial contingency reserve. It should be noted a grant of £7,000 from the Parish Council towards the extension of the main meeting room is included in both the income and expenditure figures. Our audited Financial Statements can be seen on the Charity Commissioners website and Belmont Rural Parish Council also has a copy.

Year 2012 was quite eventful, but the Association's main preoccupation was the delivery of the room extension at the Belmont Community Centre. Though we had the necessary funding and Planning Permission, a Structural Engineer's Report, Architect's Drawings, Building Regulations and an acceptable Competitive Tender had been selected from the five submitted, completion of the extension was delayed until May this year by an alleged land ownership issue with a neighbour. We confirm South Wye Community Association has HM Land Registry documents and deeds which prove we own the Belmont Community Centre and its car park.

This year, 2013, started badly when Slimming World migrated to Saxon Hall, after more than ten successful years building up their business at the Belmont Centre. Over £600 per month of room rent was lost to us. The closure of the Belmont Library by Herefordshire Council must be considered. The loss of this well used local public facility would also reduce the association's revenue by another £830 per month. The Library lease stipulates that a 6 months notice of termination, by either the Landlord or Tenant, has to be given on an anniversary date of the lease's commencement. The lease commenced on 1st April 2009 and is set to end on 31st March 2014 if it goes full term. We will insist that the terms of the lease are honoured.

The Belmont Centre could not be sustained by its remaining monthly income if the Library is closed. Our income may be reduced even further if Greencroft is axed by Herefordshire Council. This too is a possibility.

The Association's current financial situation is sound. We have no appreciable debt and have approximately £34,000 in the bank. This total includes £5,000 of unspent grants for equipment that has not yet been purchased due to the delayed completion of the extension.

In the short term South Wye Community Association can use its reserve funds to pay for the Belmont Centre's regular outgoings, but a definite line will be have to be drawn in our account, below which the Centre will have to close, unless a substantial number of additional paying customers are found, and/or alternative funding becomes available.

We do not intend to close the Belmont Centre unless there is no alternative way of complying with Charity Law. South Wye Community Association has put too much time and effort into the Belmont Centre to give it up when the going gets tough.

Thankfully we have the goodwill of our remaining user groups: Mum's &Tots, Lunch Club, Hatha Yoga, Apostolic Church, Kung Fu, & Community Cafe. We will need everyone's full support in the future. We are actively considering running two Tots Groups per week and

starting an Afternoon Tea Club. We want to get the Film & Photo Club established as soon as we have the large TV installed.

Finally I am pleased to report that Mr Ron Morgan has agreed to become a Trustee of the South Wye Community Association. We now have over two dozen volunteers we can call upon to help run the Centre and everyone is pulling together to move the Centre forward.

Andrew Myatt
Trustee & treasurer
South Wye Community Association

ATTACHMENT 3
REPORT FROM NORTHOLME COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

Annual Report to Belmont Rural Parish Council Thursday 16th May 2013

NCCA Objects:

- To provide a community centre for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Belmont Rural in the County of Herefordshire without distinction of political religious or other opinions including use for meetings, lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
- To establish or secure the establishment of a community centre

The Memorandum and Articles of Association for Northolme Community Centre Association were signed and implemented on 20th September, 2005 and amended on 10th September, 2010

Activities and achievements

2012 was a momentous year for Northolme Community Centre! Following the successful launch of the new playground in 2011 Community Spaces provided us with a grant of £2740 to promote the playground and we did this by providing two sessions of Wildplay in April and July 2012. A large amount of the remainder of the funding went towards the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Funday, together with a generous donation from Belmont Rural Parish Council for which we would like to personally thank you for this. This event was a triumph for the Parish despite the weather, the success was down to the many groups who worked together with us to provide a super funday for local children. The Directors of Northolme Community Centre would like to pass on our personal thanks to Marcia Frampton and Joyce Clare who worked so hard to provide the tea party, and also, special thanks to all Northolme Committee Members, who worked so hard for this event.

Later in the year we once again gave 165 local children the thrill of meeting Father Christmas, through our Schools Christmas Event, and we held a Christmas Concert in aid of St Michael's Hospice, this event again supported by Belmont Rural Parish Council.

We continue to help support Krafti Monkeys holiday playdays and this year two of our committee members started providing a regular coffee morning, which has also been a great success.

We have also raised funding and received grants for two smaller projects, one is that we now have the kit and knowhow to do our own electrical testing, and the other is that we have provided a projector, screen and laptop for use in the community

centre, thanks to South Wye Development Trust and Herefordshire Council respectively, for these two benefits.

Our final act this year has been to apply for Planning Permission to extend the building, to provide an additional meeting room, better toilet facilities and additional storage for the Centre, so we are looking forward to an eventful New Year in 2013 as we explore the funding opportunities to secure this.

Again, we have enjoyed a steady increase in weekend and children's party bookings, which have helped us meet the costs of running the Centre, as well as increasing our regular classes and activities.

New Directors / Trustees

We were very pleased to be able to welcome Ron and Mo Morgan as Directors this year, and they have worked extremely hard, both with organising the Christmas Concert and with putting on the regular Coffee Mornings and providing fantastic support during the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations. However, it was sad to see them leave due to personal circumstances after such a short spell.

I would also like to congratulate Adrian, not only does he do a brilliant job as Secretary to NCCA, and keeping our website up to date, but also became a Parish Councillor, and a Ward Member for Herefordshire Council.

Finally, congratulations also to our Treasurer, Des, who also became a Parish Councillor this year and continues to provide valuable support to the Community Centre.

Names of Directors: (at the end of the year 2012)

Frances White Chair
Beryl Brown Vice Chair
Desiree Parish Treasurer
Adrian Bridges Secretary
Andy Myatt
Ron Morgan
Mo Morgan

Financial Policies:

We have held our party room hire rate at £10.00 per hour, but we increased our regular bookings rate to £9.00 per hour this year. We also introduced a £50 discretionary bond for evening parties, refundable after the event due to some weekend bookings that not only cause the Directors concerns, but there was an impact on the local community with these.

We have continued to attract external funding for improvements to the amenities we are able to offer, and for running charitable events.

The Directors are extremely grateful to our supporters, and would like to pass on our thank you to Community Spaces, The Hereford Lions Club, South Wye Development

Trust, Herefordshire Council and individual donors, but a special thank you to Belmont Rural Parish Council and the current Councillors to which we thank you all for your generosity.