

# Belmont Rural Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont

|                       |                          |                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Present:</b>       | Mr. M. Schoffer          | Chairman               |
|                       | Mr. A. Bridges           |                        |
|                       | Mr. D. Cook              |                        |
|                       | Mr. P. Edwards           |                        |
|                       | Mr. B. Hubbard           |                        |
|                       | Mr. R. Loft              |                        |
|                       | Mr. A. Myatt             |                        |
|                       | Ms. G. Powell            |                        |
|                       | Mr. S. Taylor            |                        |
| <b>In attendance:</b> | Mrs. E. Kelso            | Clerk                  |
|                       | PC R. Bradley            | West Mercia Police     |
|                       | CSO J. Merrick           | West Mercia Police     |
|                       | Mr. A. Faisey            | Lioncourt Homes        |
|                       | Ms. S. Manns             | Pegasus Planning Group |
|                       | 14 Members of the public |                        |

### 001/012                      **Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest or apologies.

### 002/012                      **Parish Councillor vacancy**

It was noted that Councillor Stuart Taylor had tendered his resignation from the Parish Council as he is to move away from the Parish. Members thanked Councillor Taylor for his efforts as a Councillor and wished him and his family well in their new home. The Clerk outlined the procedure for notifying the Elections Office of a vacancy and, if 10 members of the public do not request an election, the process for co-option of a Councillor. It was agreed that notices should be placed on noticeboards advertising the vacancy to encourage candidates to come forward.

### 003/012                      **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 had been previously distributed. A further copy was provided to members with an amendment to the previous draft. It was agreed that the amended Minutes as produced to the meeting be accepted and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

**004/012 Clerks Report**

**(a) Playbuilder Site, Northolme**

It was noted that some repair work has taken place at the Northolme Site but this had not been completed.

**(b) Abbey View Park**

The “No Dog Fouling” notices have been received and now await installation. Councillor Edwards and Councillor Hubbard agreed to install the signs around the entrances to Abbey View Park.

**(c) Litter Bins**

Formal authority from Herefordshire Council of permission to install the litter bins and confirmation that they can be included in the usual emptying by Focsa has delayed installation of the litter bins.

**(d) Tesco Roundabout**

The Clerk has received confirmation that the additional hard shoulder around the Tesco roundabout is scheduled for work by Amey but a date has not been set.

**(e) Website**

There has been no further progress on this over the Christmas period.

**(f) Newsletter**

Quarterly newsletter prepared by Roderick Robinson has been printed and is awaiting delivery. The additional sheet with the parish plan questionnaire results is with the printers and should be received shortly. Amy Bridges will be delivering both items.

**(g) Repairs and maintenance**

Items reported at the last meeting have been passed to Amey/Herefordshire Council as appropriate. Councillor Myatt reported that the work required to repair the notice board in Dorchester Way was more than originally anticipated but would be completed soon.

**005/012 Correspondence**

The Parish Council has been invited to send a representative to attend a Locality Working seminar for Hereford at Brockington on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February from 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

## 006/012 Report from West Mercia Police/Parish Watch

PC Roger Bradley outlined changes to the South Wye Team of West Mercia Police and explained that in addition to the monthly newsletter, members of the public and councillors could stay up to date with news through the Twitter site.

It was noted that anti social behaviour appeared to be decreasing in the area. There had been two house burglaries; one in Deerhurst Drive and another in Hunderton. Under Parish Watch it was noted that a number of empty cans and bottles were being left close to Tesco.

Members were reminded of the new non-emergency number – 101 – which can now be used to report incidents.

## 007/012 Payments/Receipts

### (a) Payments

Authority was given to make the following payments:

|  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| Newton Farm Community Association<br>Grant for Santas Grotto as agreed at<br>Meeting held 15.12.2011 |         | £300.00 |
| Herefordshire Council<br>Dog Fouling notices   |         | £100.00 |
| Hillarys Blinds<br>Payment for Blinds at Belmont Community<br>Centre                                 | £416.67 |         |
| VAT thereon  | £83.33  |         |
| Total payment:   |         | £500.00 |
| HSBC Invoice Finance (UK) Ltd.<br>Payment for litter bin purchased from<br>Swintex Ltd.              | £158.50 |         |
| VAT thereon  | £31.70  |         |
| Total payment:   |         | £190.20 |
| Northolme Community Centre Association<br>Room Hire for November and December meetings               |         | £51.00  |
| Cash<br>Petty Cash reimbursement   |         | £98.95  |
| PIP Printing<br>Printing of quarterly newsletter   |         | £144.00 |

**(b) Receipts**

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Bank Interest to December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2011. | £5.59 |
|--|-------|

**(c) Balances**

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Current account: | £500.00    |
| Deposit account: | £51,242.91 |
| Petty cash:      | (£23.95)   |

Current commitments amount to: £14,484.15

**008/012 Planning Matters****(a) Applications received since the last meeting**

None

**(b) Observations passed to Herefordshire Council since the last meeting**

None

**(c) Notification of planning decisions received since last meeting**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Ref:         | DMS/113060/F   |
| Site:        | 6 The Meadows, Belmont   |
| Development: | Re submission of refused application DMS/111433/F<br>Proposed extension and alterations to existing garage and formation<br>of self contained annexe |
| Comment:     | Permission granted with conditions   |

**(d) Other Planning Matters**

It was noted that a planning application had been submitted for car parking and signage in connection with Belmont Haywood Country Park, to be located off Waterfield Road which falls within Hereford City.

**009/012 Presentation from Lioncourt Homes**

The meeting heard a presentation from Mr. Andy Faisey from Lioncourt Homes and Ms. Sue Manns from Pegasus Planning Group about proposals from Lioncourt Homes to develop part of the land currently forming part of Home Farm. The presentation indicated that out of a total of 5 hectares of land, 3 would be developed for housing on the South East corner of the site with access via Ruckhall Lane, being a reduction on previous proposals for this site. It was stressed that planning permission had not yet been sought but this presentation formed part of an initial consultation prior to submission of an application for planning permission. The presenters noted the historic meadows nature of the land, the challenges with traffic movements, and the current lack of safe active use public open space for ball games within the general Belmont area.

During the period of public participation on this agenda item, concern was expressed by those present on:

- the impact of additional housing on traffic flows into and out of Hereford during peak periods,
- the perceived negative impact on existing housing, particularly along the Wenlock Close area of the Parish,
- lack of capacity within existing water supply and sewerage systems to support additional housing,
- the impact of the development on what is currently designated as historic parkland.

It was also noted that Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy is not due for completion until the summer 2012 which would identify the preferred route for the Hereford Relief Road. Waiting until the route of the relief road had been identified was suggested. It was also noted that during a recent presentation by Herefordshire Council's forward planning team, officers had indicated that there was currently no support for additional housing on the identified land at Home Farm.

Finally it was noted that Belmont Rural Parish Council had not been asked to support or reject proposals for Home Farm at this stage. However, it was noted that during the recent parish plan update questionnaire, residents had overwhelmingly indicated a lack of support for any additional development within the Parish.

## **010/012                      2012-2013 Precept**

The draft operating budget forming part of the 2012-2013 Precept was agreed at the last meeting, this agenda item considered the final precept request and discussion therefore considered expenditure plans on non-recurring items.

Members noted that several potential projects identified through the Parish Plan update process amounted to a considerable level of expenditure which could only be met through either additional grant funding or through building up a reserve over a period of years. It was agreed that a medium to long term plan which prioritised projects based on the parish questionnaire should be considered and this will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the precept for 2012/13 should remain as in the previous years, that is £45,000.00. The Clerk was instructed to notify Herefordshire Council accordingly.

## **011/012                      Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

Members considered ways of supporting or running events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. Two projects were discussed:

### **(a)      The Big Lunch**

This builds upon an annual event originally promoted by The Eden Project which is being supported as a Diamond Jubilee event in 2012 and is an opportunity for communities to come together for a picnic lunch. Members noted that a Big Lunch can be simply hosted by providing a venue for families to come together and bring a picnic lunch, or host

organisations can provide food. It was agreed that the two Community Centres within the Parish may wish to host such events on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and the Parish Council could support such events through voluntary help or, if requested, through financial support. The Clerk would encourage the Community Centres to consider running events for the Diamond Jubilee and if appropriate, consider any requests for support at the next meeting.

**(b) Tree Planting**

Following a suggestion from a member of the public in attendance at the meeting, it was agreed to consider a project to plant trees as a formal and sustainable way of marking the Diamond Jubilee. The land behind Dorchester Way was suggested as a potential site. The Clerk was instructed to investigate the practical and financial implications of such a project for further discussion at the next meeting.

**012/012 Naming of the land behind Dorchester Way**

Members considered a list of names originally put forward by members of the public during the parish plan questionnaire process to name the lane currently known as the land behind Dorchester Way. After a brief discussion, a member of the public in attendance suggested Jubilee Field in recognition of the proposal in the previous agenda item to plant trees to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee on that land. On a show of hands vote the resolution was carried. Councillor Edwards asked that his vote against the resolution be recorded as he believed public responses via the parish plan updating were being ignored.

The Clerk was instructed to notify Herefordshire Council of the proposed name accordingly.

**013/012 Parish Matters**

- (a) Councillor Powell reported that the Children's Party that she had arranged and funded had been a great success and she thanked Belmont Community Centre for the provision of the room free of charge.
- (b) It was noted that the repair to the roundabout on Waterfield Road had been completed but to a poor standard. Councillor Edwards as Ward Member agreed to take this up with Amey.
- (c) The Clerk was instructed to request a sweep along the pathway connecting Belmont Medical Centre with Yarlington Mill.
- (d) Councillor Edwards presented a report on his activities as Ward Member since the last meeting, a copy of which is attached.
- (e) Members noted that a newsletter on progress on the Country Park is to be issued shortly. A copy will be distributed to Members when available.
- (f) A vehicle has damaged the roundabout on the junction of Abbotsmead Road and Broadholme Road. The same vehicle has been seen driving dangerously around the roundabout and will be reported to police by Councillor Bridges.

- (g) It was noted that contractors Amey dispute that damage to shrubs reported to Herefordshire Council last year has been caused by poor pruning and has attributed the damage to frost damage. There is no indication yet when the shrubs will be replaced.
- (h) Concern was again expressed at the poor quality of the Herefordshire Council provided black bags and the green bags which the public must purchase and use for the disposal of garden and green waste. Councillor Edwards reported that it is not certain that black bags will be provided free of charge by Herefordshire Council in future as he noted that Cabinet were considering this subject at present.
- (i) It was noted that trees planted in the meadow as part of the Belmont Haywood Country Park by developers re poorly planted and not staked so that they are growing at an angle making them more susceptible to weather damage. This is the second time many of the trees have been planted and Herefordshire Council officers have pointed out the inadequate planting methods. The developers are conditioned to plant and maintain the trees for a period of five years so those that die must be replaced.

#### **014/012                      Public Participation**

During the final period for public participation, a member of the public expressed concern at the use of Amey as the preferred contractor for footpath work. It was explained that as Belmont Rural Parish Council did not own any of the land within the Parish and some of the areas where footpaths have been installed at Parish Council expense were areas requiring specialist engineering work as former landfill areas, the choice of contractor fell to Herefordshire Council.

#### **015/012                      Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March at Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont, commencing at 7.15pm.

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