

BELMONT RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 7th January 2010 at
Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont,**

Present: Mr. P. Edwards Chairman
Mrs. B. Brown
Mr. D. Cook
Mr. R. Loft
Mr. M. Schoffer
Mr. S. Taylor

Apologies: Mr. A. Myatt
Mr. J. Newman
Ms. G. Powell

In attendance: Mrs. E. Kelso Clerk

001/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest. The Chairman explained that due to a change in procedures for dealing with planning applications within Herefordshire Council, District Council Ward Councillors were no longer able to vote on planning applications arising within their Ward and as such a Declaration of Interest for Parish Council meetings was no longer required.

002/10 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December have been circulated. It was agreed to authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

003/10 Clerk's Report

(a) Repairs and Maintenance

Due to other commitments, the schedule for repairs and maintenance was not circulated prior to Christmas. It was agreed that this be circulated before the next meeting.

(b) Parish Plan Update

Nick Sherwood from Localeyes has noted that response to the Localeyes training sessions was not well attended although there continues to be positive comment on the website which will be useful. A draft paper based questionnaire is being

prepared and will be circulated amongst members for comment prior to the next meeting.

(c) **Playbuilder Proposals for Northolme Play Area**

Details of the actual plan for the area was passed to Members before Christmas. Work has now commenced.

(d) **Banking Arrangements**

Further details on proposed changes to banking arrangements will be available at the next meeting.

(e) **2010-2011 Precept**

The precept request, as agreed at the last meeting, has been passed to Herefordshire Council. It was reiterated that estimated element within householders Council Tax pertaining to the parish precept within Belmont is in the region of £32.46 for the year for a Band D property for 2010-2011 (subject to final confirmation by Herefordshire Council) which is below the county average of £34.10 for a band D property for 2009-10.

004/10 Report from West Mercia Police/Parish Watch

No representative from West Mercia Police was in attendance at the meeting but the Chairman, on behalf of Parish Watch, noted that there were few matters to be reported since the last meeting. A trials-type motorbike had been apparently dumped in undergrowth by the entrance to Abbey View Park at the Northolme Road end although there was no reports of it being stolen.

It was noted that the next PACT meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd February at 7pm at Belmont Community Centre.

A copy of the West Mercia Police newsletter is to be circulated to Members.

005/10 Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance so no matters raised under this agenda item.

006/10 Correspondence

In addition to routine items of correspondence circulated to Members, the following items of correspondence have been received since the last meeting:

- Letter from Herefordshire Council regarding the "Place Shaping" consultation which is an opportunity to contribute to the development of planning policies for the county. A launch event is planned at the Kindle Centre on 18th January with other sessions

scheduled for later in the month and in February. Members were invited to notify the clerk if they wished to attend

It was agreed that the Chief Forward Planning Officer be invited to briefly attend our next meeting in February to outline the impact of any proposals on the parish of Belmont Rural.

- Letter advising that the public rights of way officer within Amey Herefordshire is Chris Gardiner. It was agreed that the Public Rights of Way Officer from Amey and Herefordshire Council be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting to be held on 1st April in particular to discuss proposals to upgrade footpath CH7 to a cycleway where it crosses the Parish.

007/10 Payments/Receipts

(a) Payments

Authority was given to make the following payments:

Northolme Community Centre Association Room Hire for December meeting	£14.00
Mr. N. Sherwood Agreed contribution towards printing of Localeyes Leaflets – to come from parish plan budget	£72.50
Cash Petty Cash Reimbursement	£50.13

(b) Receipts

None since the last meeting.

(c) Balances – after above transactions and agreed commitments

Current account	£500.00
Deposit account	£19,962.34
Petty cash	-£0.13

008/10 Planning Matters

(a) Applications received since the last meeting

The following application was received since the last meeting:

Ref: DMCW092894/F
Site: Tesco Stores Ltd., Abbotsmead Road, Belmont

Development: Positioning of site cabin for the storage of chemicals and materials relating to the hand car wash operation on the Tesco car park, and use of the car park for hand car wash operation – retrospective

Comment: Application has been circulated to Members. Whilst the majority of Members indicated that they had no objections to the proposals, several comments were made regarding the hand car wash operation in particular. A copy of the letter sent on behalf of the Parish Council was read out to Members at the meeting.

(b) Notification of planning decisions received since last meeting

Ref: DMCW091612/F
Site: Belmont Lodge and Golf Club
Development: Proposed erection of a marquee for a period of three years – retrospective application
Comment: Application withdrawn

Ref: DMCW092562/FH
Site: 5 Chichester Close, Hereford
Development: Construction of a two storey side extension
Comment: Approved with conditions.

Ref: DMCW092474/FH
Site: 35 Whitefriars Road
Development: Proposed extension over existing garage and office to include a master bedroom and en suite
Comment: Approved with conditions.

009/10 2010-2011 Budget

The Clerk presented a revised expenditure forecast for this finance year 2009-2010, including an agreed expenditure of £5082 for the additional section of the footpath , as agreed at the last meeting. Estimates suggest a budget of approximately £30 - £35,000 for currently unidentified projects, i.e. items not identified in budget projection, for 2010 – 2011. It was agreed to consider allocating these funds to specific projects at the next meeting and in particular to consider whether to continue with the Parish Freighter and Newsletter in the forthcoming financial year.

010/10 Footpath section A – B

Members discussed in some detail a proposal to place an order to continue with the footpath project on Abbey View Park. Prior to the meeting, one section has been completed (referred to as section B – C in the original quotation), one section has been agreed and an order placed (section C – D) at a cost of some £5,032, although work is not expected to commence until March or April, when ground conditions improve. Discussion centred around section A – B at a cost of some £10,379. Members noted that contractors Amey has indicated that the quoted price will be held until 31st March of this year.

Taking into account projected expenditure for this financial year, the Clerk noted that estimated reserves taken forward to 2010-2011 would be insufficient to meet the cost of this commitment; the shortfall being covered by the agreed precept for 2010-2011, half of which will be received in mid April 2010. Once an order for the work is placed, a note of this commitment must be added to the parish council accounts as at 31st March 2010.

Noting the Clerk's concerns and further concern from some Members that all reserves are to be committed to one project in one area of the Parish, it was proposed that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Clerk, be authorised to place an order for the footpath section A – B, subject to prior confirmation that the Parish Council has power to enter into a transaction prior to funds being received to cover the commitment. The Chairman declared the resolution to be unanimously agreed.

011/10 Parish Matters

- (a) Rats have been reported in some areas. Householders need to arrange for exterminators with Herefordshire Council. There is a charge for this service.
- (b) Following recent icy weather, a request for grit bins, particularly on roads where there is a hill such as Dorchester Way and Silver Fir Close. Grit bins were provided in two locations by Herefordshire Council last year but were quickly vandalised and removed by Herefordshire Council. It was suggested that perhaps they could be placed in locations where they might serve a dual purpose of deterring parking on grass verges. It was agreed that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

012/10 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th February at Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont, commencing at 7.15pm.

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