

Belmont Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2011 at
Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont

Present:	Mr. P. Edwards	Chairman
	Mrs. B. Brown	
	Mr. D. Cook	
	Mr. R. Loft	
	Mr. A. Myatt	
	Mr. J. Newman	
	Mr. M. Schoffer	
In attendance:	Mrs. E. Kelso	Clerk
	4 members of the public	

001/11 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Councillor Dawn Killeen and Councillor Stuart Taylor. Councillor Edwards declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (minute reference 008/11) as a member of another authority.

002/11 Minutes of the previous meeting

These had been previously circulated. It was agreed that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting .

003/11 Clerk's report

(a) Commemorative Benches

As noted at the last meeting, the two benches will be installed when weather conditions permit. Members noted the proposed inscription on the benches and had no objections to these.

(b) Salt Bins

The Clerk has received no response to her letter regarding salt bins, but noted that none have been installed within the last few weeks.

(c) Annual Report and Questionnaire

There has been no further progress on this item due to the Christmas shut down. The Clerk will review the questionnaire in the light of proposals in the Localism Bill before sending for printing.

(d) Information Evening

It was agreed that the Information Evening be held on Thursday 3rd March from 7.30 – 9.30. HALC has indicated that Lynda Wilcox will be able to attend on that date.

(e) Kraftimonkies Holiday Club

It was noted that the Kraftimonkies Holiday Club activities at Christmas had gone ahead as previously planned.

(f) Christmas Carol Concert

The Christmas Carol Concert was a great success and agreed funding has been passed to St. Michael's Hospice. A total of £460.00 had been raised. Members thanked all the organisers but in particular Mrs. Joyce Clare for arranging the event. It was suggested that this should be a regular event at Christmas and that this be discussed further at the next meeting.

(g) Newsletter Distribution Contract

As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk has approached both individuals who helped with the distribution of flyers for the Parish Meeting. Whilst both are happy to help with future distribution requirements, neither wished to bid for or take on the entire contract. It was agreed that when the next newsletter is ready for distribution, consideration will be given to how this should be distributed.

(h) Parish Meeting held 18th November

Notes/Minutes from this meeting are still awaited from HALC.

(i) Management of Land Behind Dorchester Way

The Clerk has been advised by Herefordshire Council Parks and Countryside Dept. that the proposal put forward to Herefordshire Council by the Parish Council has been adopted for the management of the land behind Dorchester Way. Officers from Amey, together with an expert in Bee conservation have been asked to develop a plan which will then be discussed with BRPC. It was suggested that perhaps a presentation on Bee Conservation might be a topic for the next Annual Parish Meeting.

(j) Footpaths on Abbey View Park

The Clerk reported that she had noted some damage to the surface of the footpaths around Abbey View Park as a result of the severe weather and had notified Amey accordingly.

004/11 Report from West Mercia Police/Parish Watch

A representative from West Mercia Police was not in attendance and Members asked that the police be asked to provide a written report whenever they are unable to attend meetings. It was noted due to West Mercia Police restructuring, Belmont Ward would now be policed through a variety of new measures.

The Parish Watch report indicated no reports of anti social behaviour over the Christmas period although two litter bins had been vandalised and voluntarily repaired by The Chairman using a spare bin top held in store. Some incidents of theft arising outside our parish boundary were noted and in particular a rise in theft of heating oil from rural properties.

005/11 Correspondence

Other than routine items, the following items of correspondence have been received since the last meeting:

- E-Mail from Jesse Norman attaching a newsletter and invitation to a second Broadband conference on 11th February which Councillor Schoffer indicated he would attend. Members also noted reports of a successful bid for a faster broadband service south of the County, but excluding the Belmont Rural area. Councillor Newman said he hoped to discuss this further with MP Jesse Norman.
- Letter from Dr. Leslie Lumsdon, Bus Co-ordinator for Rail for Herefordshire, urging support to retain local bus services was noted.
- Letter regarding the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012. Members were encouraged to consider a Diamond Jubilee event to be held in 2012.
- HALC will be holding a training event, “websites made easy” on Thursday 17th February. Any member wishing to attend was instructed to contact the Clerk.
- Information on the new Localism Bill has been received from HALC and was provided to Members for information. It was agreed that this be the subject of further discussion at a later meeting. However, significant issues to emerge so far include:
 - A new power of general competence providing much greater power for parish councils to deliver services locally although the suggestion is that only some parishes will be eligible for this power, perhaps similar to quality status and/or the power of well being
 - Changes to the centralised audit regime
 - New disclosure requirements particularly with regard to expenditure in excess of £500.00 and new public right of veto for “excessive” council tax rises
 - Possible additional role in the Community Right to Buy community assets
 - Greater involvement in community planning
 - Changes to the Standards Board Regime including abolition of the concept of pre-determination
- Members were invited to the formal opening of the new children’s play area for those under the age of 8 years, to be held on Saturday 5th February from 2 – 4pm.

006/11 Payments/Receipts**(a) Payments**

Authority was given to make the following payments:

Northolme Community Centre Association Grant for CCTV – as agreed at last meeting		£2,000.00
Northolme Community Centre Association Room hire for Parish Meeting held 18 th November	£15.00	
Room Hire for December meeting	£22.50	
Room Hire for Kraftimonkies Holiday Club	£52.50	
Total payment		£90.00
Herefordshire Association of Local Councils Course fees for HALC training – 3 councillors To attend 2 events @ £30.00 per individual per event		£180.00
Society of Local Council Clerks Subscription for 2011		£118.00
Cash Petty cash reimbursement		£111.41

(b) Receipts

None since the last meeting.

(c) Balances

Current account	£500.00
Deposit account	£37,744.49
Petty Cash	(£35.41)

007/11 Planning Matters**(a) Applications received since last meeting**

Ref:	DMS103259/FH
Site	6 Tavistock Drive, Belmont
Development:	Proposed two storey extension
Comments:	Plans currently in circulation

(b) Observations passed to Herefordshire Council

None since the last meeting.

(c) Notifications of planning decisions received since last meeting

- Ref: DMS102783/F
 Site: Macdonalds Restaurant, Belmont Road
 Development: Refurbishment of restaurant and patio area. Changes to elevations including removal of order booth and additional cladding. Replacement signage.
 Comments: Approved with conditions.
- Ref: DMS102782/A – Advertising Consent
 Site: Macdonalds Restaurant, Belmont Road
 Development: Advertising consent
 Comments: Part approval/part refusal of consent to display advertisements. The banner advertisement was refused by virtue of its size, scale, prominence and position this was considered to be an obtrusive feature that would adversely impact on the amenity of the locality.
- Ref: DMS/1026/40/FH
 Site: 15 Wenlock Close, Belmont
 Development: First floor extension over existing garage with attic conversion in new roof space and conversion of existing garage into utility room with toilet
 Comment: Application withdrawn
- Ref: DMS/102577/F
 Site: Tesco Stores, Abbotsmead Road, Belmont
 Development: Proposed expansion of existing bulk storage area
 Comment: Application approved with conditions. In particular, Members noted that a requirement for insulation was contained within the permission to reduce noise emissions for those living nearby.

008/11 Application for funding – fencing for junior play area at Northolme Road

Councillor Phil Edwards declared a personal interest in this item as a member of another local authority (Herefordshire Council).

Following a request at the last meeting for Herefordshire Council to consider fencing the playbuilder site in Northolme Road, Members considered a proposal from Herefordshire Council together with a request for a contribution in the region of £2,435 towards the costs of the proposal. In considering the proposals, Members expressed concern that the provided plan showed the earth mound would be changed to facilitate fencing but as the mound would remain outside the fencing, it might encroach upon the current kick about area. There was also concern about the installation of gates for vehicle access.

After some discussion it was agreed that funding of £2,000 be offered subject to a revision of the plans to ensure that the kick about area would not be reduced in any way and the provision of an effective means of blocking vehicular access to the grass at the top of the turning area in Abbotsmead Road. In notifying Herefordshire Council accordingly, the Clerk was also instructed to request that the no alcohol signage which had been installed on the original fencing, be replaced. The Clerk was also instructed to write to Herefordshire Council to ensure that in future, the newly fenced area is included in the dog control orders banning dogs from within the fenced play area.

009/10 Procedures for public speaking at Parish Council meetings

At the request of Councillor Schoffer, it was agreed that the summary note printed on the back of the agenda copy made available to members of the public should be amended to include the provision that the time allowed for members of the public to speak at parish council meetings is 15 minutes in total and no more than 3 minutes per individual speaker. It was noted that this is not a change to the previously agreed procedures, but a change to the wording used on the summary.

010/11 Litter Picking arrangements

The Clerk presented a report on litter picking arrangements employed by other parish councils within the region, including the use of volunteers or the option to employ an individual a few hours a week to pick up litter in the parish, and the implications and considerations for each option.

Noting a comment that when requested to do so, Amey will arrange additional litter picking, it was agreed that the current informal arrangement of Pride in Parish volunteer litter picking continue on an ad hoc basis should be continued and BRPC was grateful for this support.

Members also noted that litter from Tesco appeared to be on the increase and when contractors were seen blowing leaves from a grounds maintenance exercise at Tesco into the roadway, advice from Herefordshire Council to Councillor Myatt was that this action was recommended so that Amey contractors could clear rubbish etc. From the gutters. Councillor Edwards reported that in his District Councillor role he had written to Tesco head office regarding the poor standard of fencing on the Tesco site and would report the increasing litter problem too.

011/11 District Councillor Reports

- **Councillor Phil Edwards**

Councillor Edwards presented his District Councillor report since the last meeting including:

- Reporting deep pothole on A465 Belmont Road awaiting repair
- Reported manhole cover sinking & clattering on A465 road to City
- Gaining Recycling Aluminium Foil System at the Rotherwas site
- Reported flytipping along the walkway by Newton Cottages. Sydwall Road and CH7 areas
- Reminded contractors of the need to fit litter bin tops securely
- Noted litter bin by Newton Cottages had cover removed and taken. Repaired voluntarily
- Pressed for additional street gritting during snow and ice period
- Attempted to gain fencing repairs in Canterbury Close, edge of brook area
- Pressed for 18 listed repair and maintenance items with Amey
- Noted that he did not support the proposal for a kick about area further along Dorchester Way which was proposed at the District Councillors site visit with Herefordshire Council officers as he felt it would have a detrimental impact on nearby housing.

Councillor Edwards also reported the death of Highways Maintenance Manager Steve Thompson.

- **Councillor Glenda Powell**

Members noted apologies from Councillor Powell who was unable to offer a report as she had fallen during the bad weather, resulting in a hospital stay.

- **Councillor Heather Davies**

Councillor Davies in attendance at the meeting reported that a decision had been taken on the land behind Dorchester Way and that it would be cut twice per year with no kick about area and that she had proposed a kick about area further up Dorchester Way on the other side of the main road. Councillor Davies also reported that she had provided West Mercia Police with a chain to put across the Northolme Centre Car Park to prevent vehicles accessing the car park which would be used by the police when necessary.

012/11 Parish Matters

- (a) It was noted that in a number of areas, hedging was encroaching on footpaths and pavements.
- (b) It was noted that the blackberry bushes in Westholme Road had now been cut.
- (c) It was agreed that the Clerk be instructed to write to Herefordshire Council and contractors Focsa to thank them for their efforts in clearing refuse during the particularly bad weather before Christmas.

013/11 Public Participation

There were no new items raised during the final period of public participation.

014/11 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 24th February at Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Avenue, commencing at 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.