



Belmont Rural Parish Council

39/17

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Belmont Rural Parish Council held at Northolme Community Centre, Northolme Road, Belmont, on Thursday 13th July, 2017.

Councillors Present

Cllr Adrian Bridges (Chairman)
Cllr Aimee Bridges
Cllr Neil Hooper
Cllr Ron Loft
Cllr John Newman
Cllr Des Parish
Cllr Derek Preedy
Cllr Gemma Watkins

In Attendance

Tony Ford – Clerk.
Cllr T Bowes (Ward Councillor)

Members of the Public – 12

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Andrew Cooper

2. Written requests for Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation

3. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were as follows:-

Councillor	Yes	No	Agenda Item		Disclosure
Cllr Adrian Bridges	X		12.3.4	Payment of invoice-Reimbursement to Cllr Bridges	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest
Cllr Aimee Bridges		X			
Cllr Neil Hooper		X			
Cllr Ron Loft		X			
Cllr John Newman	X		10	Belmont Community Centre Signage-Trustee SWCA	Non- Disclosable Pecuniary Interest
Cllr John Newman	X		12.3.6	Payment of invoice-Trustee SWCA	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest
Cllr Des Parish		X			
Cllr Derek Preedy	X		12.3.7	Payment of Invoice-Personal Payment	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest
Cllr Gemma Watkins		X			

4. Minutes - To receive, approve and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of The Parish Council held on 9th June 2017.

Cllr Des Parish asked for clarification on Agenda Item 4..... 'access, which had not been cut' it was agreed that the word 'not' be deleted.

With reference to page 5 paragraph 3 'Cllr Des Parish asked for the unauthorised opening to be closed and the tractor use the main gate. Cllr Des Parish also asked why the opening was not an agenda item. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the issue of the closure of the opening had been discussed in depth as part of the discussion and agreement of the Jubilee Management Plan, which has been agreed and further discussion was not needed.

Subject to the deletion of 'not' from Agenda Item 4, paragraph 4 the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was signed.

The Chairman again had to remind Councillors that any queries or amendments to be sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting and no later than 24 hours beforehand. This would not ensure the meeting is run more efficiently, but gives the clerk the opportunity to make any necessary alterations.

5. Public Participation

- Northolme Community Centre – There is a need to stop kids using the building wall for ball games, spoken to Cllr Bowes, would like to look at the possibility of a Ball Court next to the building. There would be full public consultation on the matter. Requested that Agenda Item 21 be deferred.
- Parishioner (Mr H) Rubbish bin in Stanbrook Road next to the bus stop -Clerk to inform Balfour Beatty.
- A request was made for Green Bags to dispose of shrubs cutting from Volunteer work done on behalf of the Parish.
- Fly-Tipping- Back of property no. 44 Chichester Close – Clerk to report to Balfour Beatty.
- Footpath on Abbey View West is in a state of disrepair – Cllr Adrian Bridges stated that this would likely be a project for next year.
- Recycling Area at Tesco- Belmont is in a dire state with rats and needs to be cleaned up – Clerk to speak to management at Belmont Tesco.
- The hedge on Jubilee Field should be reinstated to protect wildlife habitat. Dog walkers going through the opening wildlife will disappear. Cllr Adrian Bridges informed the Parish Council that there was going to be a meeting with a Wildlife Trust representative regarding Jubilee Field. The meeting to be attended by Cllr Adrian Bridges, Cllr Neil Hooper and two parishioners. Cllr Des Parish asked if she could attend. Cllr Adrian Bridges informed the Parish Council that the Parish Council would be informed on the outcome of the meeting.

CUB

- Dorchester Way access to Jubilee Field access currently not suitable for Wheel Chairs, Grass Snake habitat so it should be left as it was, in addition someone has used a chainsaw to cut down trees, Cllr Neil Hooper informed the Parish Council that no trees had been cut down. Cllr Des Parish commented that the Parish Council had not agreed to an opening here.
- Parishioner commented that the outcome should be brought back to the Parish Council following expert advice.

6. Ward Councillors Report

In reply to a query from Cllr Des Parish, the Clerk informed the Parish Council that he was in communication with Balfour Beatty to arrange a site visit to agree the specification before presentation to the Parish Council for approval.

In reply to another query from Cllr Des Parish, Cllr Adrian Bridges informed the Parish Council that grass cutting for Jubilee Field, Abbey View East and Abbey View West was not in the Balfour Beatty Contract and therefore not on the grass cutting schedule.

Cllr Tracy Bowes (Ward Councillor) highlighted that other Parishioners were pleased with the grass cutting carried out by the Parish Council.

Cllr Ron Loft also highlighted that Balfour Beatty was a private enterprise.

The report (Appendix1 refers) was noted.

7. Planning Application – To consider Planning Application 172214 – 11 Hartland Close Belmont, Hereford HR2 7SL

Cllr Tracy Bowes (Ward Councillor) informed the Parish Council that there was an appeal against the original decision, and that they had agreed to remove the bottom steps and the summer house building.

Cllr Des Parish noted that in correspondence that they had quoted another application incorrectly as it had been refused.

During discussions, it was noted that what was being proposed did not impact on the River Wye. Having considered the matter the Parish Council resolved that the proposed application had far less visual and physical impact on an AONB and had no objection to it.

Action Clerk to inform Herefordshire Council of the Parish Council's decision.

8. Previous Actions

Cllr Adrian Bridges informed the Parish Council that due to other commitments he was unable to complete the agreed final version of the Jubilee Field Management Plan and the Enhanced Management Plan and would endeavour to have this ready as soon as possible. The update was noted.

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9. Footpath

Cllr Des Parish informed the Parish Council that she used footpath CH7 at least twice a day, and had a concern regarding speeding cyclist, Cllr Des Parish also highlighted that the footpath was used by many parents and children. The area of concern was Wyedean Rise, crossing the bridge towards Hunderton and Sydwall Road. Cllr Des Parish asked the Parish Council to consider locating two barriers one on the bridge and one further up from the bridge. It was also noted by the Parish Council that due to the width of the footpath a cycle path was not viable.

Cllr Adrian Bridges tabled an article on Design Principles for Cycling and read out the following extracts:-

- Section 2 – People like simple, direct routes:- *'maintains momentum, and routes are shorter and wayfinding is easier'*.
- Section 4 – People want to maintain momentum:- *'stop start cycling is hard work, cycle infrastructure should never involve 90 degree angle turns, but instead should aim towards smoothness of movement. Cycle tracks along a road must not give way at every side road or driveway. Crossings should detect the presence of cyclists like most traffic lights'*.
- Section 7 – People want unobstructed routes:- *'no driver would tolerate trees, wheelie bins, utility boxes, or lighting poles in the middle of the road. Obstructions of any kind make cycling more difficult, especially for those with disabilities using tricycles or trailers.'*

Cllr Adrian Bridges summarised that routes are to be kept clear, barriers discourage cycling. Cllr Adrian Bridges also stated that he could not support Cllr Des Parish motion as it was against guidelines, the option to have white lines was not viable as the footpath was not wide enough.

Cllr Adrian Bridges put forward an amendment to the motion and it was seconded.

Cllr Aimee Bridges stated that she could not support the motion due to its impact on cyclists.

Cllr Derek Preedy highlighted that some cyclist speed and some do not.

In discussions mention was made of installing signs, Cllr Adrian Bridges highlighted that a sign could be helpful *'slow on footpath'* where this crosses Abbotsmead Road. However, the Parish Council was trying to promote cycling.

Having considered the matter the Parish Council resolved that no action was to be taken on the matter.

10. Belmont Community Centre Signage

The Parish Council considered the removal, renaming and reinstatement of the sign at the corner of Southolme and Eastholme. Having considered the matter the Parish Council resolved that a double sided standard brown sign with the name *'Belmont Community Centre'* be purchased and installed.

Action – Clerk to arrange purchase and installation

11. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Clerk informed the Parish Council of the receipt of the signed Decision Document highlighting the modifications required to the Belmont Rural Neighbourhood Development Plan following the examiners report. The Decision Document had been forwarded to Kirkwells who were working on updating the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

CJB

12. Finance

12.1. The Bank Reconciliation (Appendix 2 refers) as at 13th July 2017 was presented and the balance summarised as follows.

Treasurers Account £ 500.00

Deposit Account £ 109,968.77

Total £ 110,468.77

12.2. Receipts – None

12.3. To authorise payment of invoices as per payment schedule

Payment Schedule 13 th July 2017				
Ref	Payee	Amount £	VAT	Detail
1	HALC	240.00	40.00	08/03/17 (7387) Clerks Recruitment Service
2	R. D. Rose	150.00	n/a	14/06/17 Internal Audit services
3	Mike Darley	610.00	n/a	16/06/17 (296) Part Payment – Weed Spraying
4	Tool Station	224.70	37.45	10/06/17 (OWW742523392) Litter Pickers
5	Broxap Ltd	604.80	100.80	14/06/17 (211567) Set of Lockable Heavy weight Steel socketed Goals
6	South Wye Community Association	18.00	N/a	10978 -Room Hire 9 th June 2017
7	Derek Preedy	1,294.00	N/a	Handy man duties June 2017 /installation of goal posts
8	Arrow Plant and Tool Hire	992.63	138.51	25/04/17- Hire of Excavator
9	Powells Forest & Garden Equipment	246.00	41.00	10/06/17 (029036) Blower
10	Safety Firm	244.85	37.35	15/05/17 (1741) Vis Vests
11	Post Office Ltd	337.36	N/a	Tax period 2 & 3

All payments authorised for payment and cheques to be signed.

Noted Clerk Salary Payment by Standing Order on 28th June as agreed at Parish Council meeting 9th March 2017 – Agenda Item 24

13. Traffic Calming Measures

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the replacement Traffic Engineer had been identified and contact made, and that he was waiting for a reply. The Clerk was asked to proceed as previously agreed. (Noted)

14. Code of Conduct

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that HALC had advised that Parish Councils await the outcome of a national review of the Code, which was expected to be completed in early 2018. Parish Councils should then consider any amendments in readiness for the elections in 2019. **Having considered the matter the Parish Council resolved to accept the advice of HALC.**

15. Security of Email System

The Clerk requested that Border Office Supplies and Systems (BOSS) review security on the Parish Council Laptop, Council's email and associated systems. Cllr Adrian Bridges informed the Parish Council that this was not a reflection on Cllr Neil Hooper who looked after arrangements but bearing in mind what had happened with the NHS, it was advisable to get independent advice. Having considered the matter the Parish Council authorised the Clerk to deal with BOSS.

Action Clerk to liaise with BOSS.

16. Abbey View East and Abbey View West Footpaths

During consideration of the matter a contractor advised that weed spraying should not be carried out due to the impact on the wildlife. Cllr Des Parish disagreed with the advice of the contractor as weed spraying had been carried out in the past. A parishioner suggested that the Parish Council seek advice from The Wildlife Trust. (Cllr Parish left the meeting for a minute) Having considered the matter The Parish Council agreed to defer the matter until the Chairman had liaised with the Trust.

Action Chairman to liaise with the Wildlife and submit a report to the next meeting

17. Handyman Services

Cllr Des Parish asked for confirmation that the Handyman did mowing as well, she also asked that future Handyman Reports should not be opinionated

A short discussion took place regarding the maintenance of bridges. The report (Appendix 3 refers) was noted.

Action Cllr Derek Preedy to seek indicative costs for work on bridges.

18. Parking at Community Hospital Sites and Community Hospitals

The Parish Council was informed that Wye Valley NHS Trust had introduced car parking charges at their community hospital sites from Monday 10th July 2017. The charges were noted.

19. Hedge Cutting Equipment

Cllr Derek Preedy informed The Parish Council that over the years hedges had grown to over fourteen feet and that Balfour Beatty would no longer carry out these works due to Health and Safety issues. There was now a need for proper equipment.

A parishioner felt it was not a Parish Council issue.

Cllr Tracy Bowes (Ward Councillor) highlighted that parishioners had complemented the work of the Parish Council.

Cllr Des Parish queried if health and safety was an issue with Balfour Beatty why was it not an issue for the Parish Council. Cllr Des Parish also raised the issue in Wyedean Rise.

Cllr Derek Preedy was asked to inform the Parish Council of the hedges that would require cutting. The Clerk would also contact Geoff Tarring at Herefordshire Council.

Action Cllr Derek Preedy to identify hedges to be cut.

Action Clerk to contact Geoff Tarring at Herefordshire Council

20. Community Action Day 2nd September 2017

The Parish Council considered the matter and agreed to prioritise work as follows

1. The Brook – Jubilee Field
2. Large hedge Glastonbury Close
3. Planting Wild Flowers (If still needed)
4. Brook – Westholme Road.

21. Northolme Community Centre

Cllr Neil Hooper informed the Parish Council that there was the possibility of a purpose built metal fence being available for free, which could be used to help prevent balls hitting the outer walls of Northolme Community Centre. Having considered the matter it was agreed not to progress the matter.

22. Website Enquiry Form

Cllr Neil Hooper highlighted the difficulty relating to enquiry forms as there was no facility for enquiries to be emailed to a designated email address. (Noted)

23. For Information Items

The Clerks report was noted.

24. Confirmation of date and place of next meeting 10th August 2017, Belmont Community Centre @ 7.30pm

Ward Report July 2017

Balfour Beattie have confirmed that they are unable to remove the graffiti off the bench due to lack of resource. As the graffiti is not offensive I understand there is no obligation for them to remove.

Balfour Beattie have advised they are currently awaiting an order with regard to the path at Stoneleigh Drive.

I have liaised with the police regarding several parking issues recently, a warning notice has been issued to one vehicle and the police have been carrying out several spot checks along Westholme Road. The Council's Enforcement Officers have also been out as I received complaints that some vehicles were parking over the bobbles which indicate to partially sighted people they are at a road junction. So far the enforcement officers have found no vehicles parked on the bobbles but I have provided the member of the public with a telephone number to report if they see anyone parked on them.

Well done to the Parish Councillors who came to the Community Action Day, a lot of hard work and great progress was made on a particularly hot day.

I have been temporarily appointed as a Parish Councillor for Madley due to the resignation of all parish councillors and the Clerk. This is a temporary measure to allow vacancies to be declared and the business of the parish council to continue. Councillor Jon Johnson and Councillor Steve Williams are also temporary appointments.



Bank Reconciliation as at 13th July 2017

Opening 1 st April 2017	Treasures Account	500.00
Opening 1 st April 2017	Deposit Account	126,940.10
	Total	127,440.10
Add	Receipts	27,503.35
	Total	154,943.45
Less	Payments to 13 th July 2017	44,474.68
BALANCE		110,468.77
30 th June 2017	Bank Statement Treasures Account	500.00
30 th June 2017	Bank Statement Deposit Account	115,099.79
TOTAL		115,599.79
Less Outstanding Cheques		
979	168.68	
988	240.00	
989	150.00	
990	610.00	
991	00.00	
992	604.80	
993	18.00	
994	1,294.00	
995	992.63	
996	246.00	
997	244.85	
998	337.36	
999	224.70	
Total o/s payments		5131.02
BALANCE		110,468.77

Handyman report for month ending June 2017.

Goalposts now installed and noted that they are being used. Sometimes to swing on.

Substantial mowing and strimming taken place in the following areas.

Yarlington Mill, Coppin Rise, Dorchester Way, Westholme Road, CH7, I noted that after a Balfor Beatty cut it is not as low as when I or any volunteer does it. They still only do the flat areas and the strimming that they undertake again is only on the flat areas. I am assuming that health and safety restricts them from any gradient however small.

The area that runs along our side of the brook by Field Farm Mews is now more suitable for walking and cycling and I have been lopping some overhanging branches which have in turn been flailed. I have also made an attempt to reclaim some of the grassed areas that have been restricted by the growth of weeds, brambles and the like that have been allowed to creep over the grassed areas.

I have also, much to my disgust, had to litter pick in the overgrown areas that have been used as a dumping ground for lazy and inconsiderate people.

On Westholme Road on the left I have managed to reinstate an additional parking area that was completely lost due to overgrown and creeping vegetation. There is another one on the same site which I will attend in July without disturbing any wildlife. For the record whilst some residents moan about disturbance of wildlife the opposite applies. As soon as work has taken place there is an abundance of birds, mice, slow worms, and all sorts of wildlife taking advantage of the freshly managed environment.

FOOTBRIDGES.

I have made contact with a firm that does sandblasting but whilst they replied they have yet to make themselves present to me. The bridges, to my knowledge, have never been maintained since they were installed and they are certainly in need of attention. I estimate a cost implication in excess of £1000.00p per bridge. I understand that they have been in situ for twenty five years and had they been maintained every five years with quality material then the cost may have been around £100.00p per bridge equating to £1500.00p over that period and they would also have retained their "new look". Whatever happens to them now it will be difficult to regain that new look. As a decorator, with over forty years experience, I can undertake this as a project but not on a fixed price basis.

I may have some figures for the high hedge cutting ready for the July meeting but nothing at the time of submitting this report.

On a final note inconsiderate dog owners still allow their dogs to deposit their mess on freshly mown areas.

Gavin Bridges