

Belsay Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 23 March 2016 in the Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School at 7.00pm

Present : Councillors Batchelor, Chairman
Councillors McDonnell, Metcalfe, Mole and Storey.

In Attendance: I. Humphries - Clerk
Mr P Coombe - Belsay Estate

51. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

52. Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dodd, NCC

53. Minutes of Meeting held on 27 January 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54. Matters arising

Minute 50 – Grit Box

Members noted that the County Council would charge £200 for purchase and 2 fills. Members noted that the need had not been acute and therefore agreed to defer consideration of the purchase of a grit bin.

Minute 45 – Grants

Members noted a letter of thanks from St Andrews Church

55. Vacancy

Members noted the expression of interest from Ms M Row and it was

Resolved: that Ms. M Row be co-opted as a Parish Councillor for the remainder of the current term of office.

56. Public Participation – Woodhouse Project

Mr Coombe was present on behalf of Belsay Estate to give an update on the project to bring back into use buildings on the south side of the Woodhouse site by providing 2 cottages and a 4 bed house. Mr Coombe explained that work to the proposed scheme had been undertaken to

meet the considerable conditions placed upon the planning consent which had taken up most of 2015. An access road had been provided to the south and the development work would likely go out to tender after Easter with a start on site expected in June. The scheme would be completed by Spring 2017.

Mr Coombe confirmed the resultant properties would be rental with the Estate deriving income from the lettings. In answer to a question, Mr Coombe indicated that any upgrade of the existing dwelling would be something for the future.

Mr Coombe undertook to provide contact details of the site manager for the Parish Council and school once work was due to commence.

Members were advised that the old hedge between the buildings and the road has causing a problem with tree roots damaging the building foundations and that it was therefore felt necessary to remove the Holly and Yew trees to safeguard the structural integrity of the building. An application had been submitted to the County Council and the Parish Council would likely be consulted in due course. Replacement tree planting would be considered later within the context of the scheme as a whole.

Members expressed concern at possible subsidence of the adjacent highway following removal of the trees and asked Mr Coombe to consider that scenario.

The Chairman thanked Mr Coombe for the update and welcomed his attendance at future meetings with further updates on schemes within the Estate.

57. Proposed changes from three tier to two tier school system

Councillor Mole advised the Parish Council of recent developments within the education system and the County Council's proposal to move from the current three tier structure to a two tier structure. He confirmed that this would have implications for Belsay First School along with a number of other First and Middle schools in the area. Members noted the concern amongst some parents and School Governors that the proposed changes were being developed and consulted upon at a pace.

While noting the concern of those affected, Members questioned the role of the Parish Council as a consultee in the process and asked the Clerk to discover how the Parish Council may be involved.

58. Planning Matters

Members received the following Planning Applications

15/01386/PREAPP: New scullery/larder, new glazed structures at entrance to Meditation hall; new glazed covered walkway between new buildings and existing hall and byre / cottages. Relocation of office to existing conservatory and new entrance in north elevation of meditation hall. Retrospective planning application for woodsheds – Buddhist Manastery, 2 Harnham Hall Cottages, Belsay. – **No Objection**

16/00364/LBC: Retrospective application for insertion of a Velux roof light – 13 The Arcade, Belsay – **No Objection**

16/00395/LBC: Listed building consent for proposed stone gate piers and new iron gates to match at entrance to Bolam Hall – east Wing Bolam Hall, Bolam – **No Objection**

16/00493/FUL: Proposed double garage adjacent to existing dwelling – Nunhill West Barn, Belsay – **No Objection**

16/00781/FUL: Proposed construction of war memorial – St Andrews Church, Bolam – **No Objection**

16/00822/FUL: Proposed general purpose agricultural building – land at Foulmartlaw Farm, Gallowhill – **No Objection**

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

Chairman Date