

Belsay Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th July 2014 in the Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School at 7.00pm

Present : Councillors R. Batchelor, Chairman
Councillors E. Mc Donnell, K. Metcalfe and F Neilson.

In Attendance: I. Humphries – Clerk
Councillor Dodd - NCC (part of the meeting)

7 Members of the Public were also present.

12. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

13. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Storey.

14. Minutes of Meeting held on 9 May 2014

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 May 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. Northumberland County Council Issues

Councillor Dodd was present to address the meeting on issues pertaining to the Parish Council and the County Council.

He made reference to the public consultation undertaken by Belsay Estate in respect of land adjacent to the school. He advised that he would be declaring an interest in this matter should it come to the Planning Committee of which he was a member and would therefore take no part in the decision reached by that committee. However he indicated that he could advise on process should anyone seek such information. He confirmed that the re-planning consultation that had been undertaken by Belsay Estate was not now un-common.

He also commented on the important issue of post 16 education transport which was currently a significant issue within the County Council

16. Public Participation

In accordance with the notification prior to the meeting, Ms Roe addressed the Parish Council on the Belsay Development proposals, and the consultation evening arranged by Belsay Estate. She advised that a 13 point letter of objection had been presented to Belsay Estate representatives at the consultation event and briefly summarised those objections which were noted by the Parish Council.

Ms Roe also asked for and was given clarification on potential conflicts of interest regarding Parish Councillors and the effect that might have on the Parish Council's ability to consider any application. The Clerk confirmed that should any Parish Councillor have a pecuniary or a significant non-pecuniary interest, that Councillor would be required to declare such interest and take no part in the deliberations of the Parish Council regarding that matter. For this reason, Parish Councillors had not given personal opinion so as not to pre-judge any application which may be put before them in the future.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would provide a statement of its current position relating to this matter which had not yet been the subject of a formal application.

17. Clerk's Report

The Clerk referred to the Parish Council website and some ongoing problems being experienced in providing information via the current site.

It was agreed that the situation be monitored and that should the problems remain un-resolved, future consideration be given to alternative website provision.

18. Financial Matters

The Clerk presented the invoice relating to NALC annual subscription fees amounting to £91.14

Resolved that: approval be given to the payment of NALC membership for 2014/15 at a cost of £91.14

19. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received-

- Notice of change of voting registration
- Parish Councillor/Clerk training opportunities
- Recycle for Northumberland – composting opportunities
- LOVE Northumberland Awards 2014
- Invite to Service of Commemoration to mark outbreak of WW1
- Hexham Bus Station Consultation event
- Local Transport Plan consultation

With regard to the last item, members suggested the need for a speed reduction sign at the approach to the village and additional traffic calming measures. Reference was also made to poor sight lines and the ongoing problems in respect of a van being parked adjacent to West House.

20. Planning Matters

Notification of the following planning issues were received and after due

consideration the Parish Council agreed the following responses –

- 14/01912/FUL** – construction of garage and gate,
Bradford House – No objection
- 14/00635/FUL** – retrospective: construction of
garden wall at Bolam Hall - No objection

The Parish Council also received the following notice of determinations

Construction of detached garage to rear of property
at land north east of 5 The Arcade, Belsay - Granted

Retrospective: construction of an agricultural
building for the rearing of young calves, lambing
shed and agricultural storage at land
north east of Bolam Lake House, Belsay - Granted

There being no further Business, the Chairman closed the meeting at
7.56 pm

Chairman

Date