

Belsay Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 9th October, 2012

Present: Councillors R. Batchelor (Chairman); K Storey (Vice-Chairman); F. Neilson; K. Metcalfe; D. Holmes.

In attendance: Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); Mrs. Laura de Wesselow; Mr. & Mrs. L. Chater; Gayle Brown; Kate Thick.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks: The Chairman stated that future meetings will take place at 7.30pm to permit the Brownies time to vacate the Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall.

2. Apologies for Absence: Councillor E. McDonnell; County Councillor R. Dodd.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 1st August 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising: None.

5. Public Participation: Mrs. Laura de Wesselow stated that she understood the reasons for the Parish Council's original objection to application for change of use of part of the existing Belsay Estate Office into a shop (12/01781/COU). She explained the rationale behind her application which compliments existing retail facilities in the area including the Village Shop/Post Office and therefore would make a positive contribution towards a sustainable and viable local economy - school; shop; café - and another shop can only be good for the village. She had given an undertaking that she would not stock greetings cards. "Inside Out Home and Garden" would open in November. She intends to employ 2 people (3 days per week) and 1 other person part-time. It was felt that the situation could have been avoided with better advice on the part of the applicant. On the motion of Councillor Storey, seconded by Councillor Metcalfe, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To withdraw the Parish Council's objection to the application. Mrs. de Wesselow indicated that she would like to talk to the Parish Council about her other plans for the Estate.

Mr. L. Chater raised several issues relating to the work and services of Northumberland County Council (NCC), including cutting of grass verges; path cleaning; cars parking at the school; school bus dropping off children at the arcade; clearing of gullies on road to Whalton. **RESOLVED:** To authorise Mr. Chater to raise the issues with Sir Alan Beith, M.P. at his forthcoming surgery in Belsay on behalf of the Council.

6. Clerk's Report: The Clerk provided a summary of the results and comments received from residents of Wallridge following the Parish Questionnaire sent to all 51 village households and completed by 25 (49.01%). The report was based on household sizes: Adults; Children: 9. The participants' top priorities for the village: Better bus service/public transport (a bus or link to Ponteland); Speed of traffic (20mph-30mph signs requested); Village to stay residential only/covenants to be observed; Grass cutting/village green. The Questionnaire will help parish councillors get a better feeling for parishioners' views and priorities. **RESOLVED:** To circulate a report on the findings to all village households in Wallridge. Councillor Storey agreed to deliver the reports.

7. Financial Matters: Members were asked to consider a) the most recent financial accounts: balance at Current Account £4,559.49; Business Instant Access Account £813.77. b) invoices for payment: BDO Auditors £60.00; Broker Network Ltd. Insurance £284.00. c) no applications for grants were received. **RESOLVED:** a) To receive the most recent financial accounts and note those payments shown which have been made under the financial regulations b) To approve payment of those invoices presented at the meeting c) To consider any future grant applications under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 at the next ordinary meeting. **RESOLVED:** That in accordance with the Constitution and Rules that the people currently named by Lloyds Bank plc are to be removed as signatories from the account held with Lloyds TSB Bank, and Rachel Batchelor and Edward McDonnell are added as signatories.

8. Correspondence: A full report of correspondence received and sent during the previous months was presented.

9. Wildlife and Countryside Act: Members considered details of the Planning Inspectorate's hearing into the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 53 Northumberland County Council (Public Rights of Way) Modification Order (No 9) 2009 to be held at 10.00am on Tuesday, 20th November, 2012 at County Hall, Morpeth. The Clerk confirmed that the effect of the Order, if confirmed, would be to modify the definitive map and statement for the area. **RESOLVED:** To note the date of the hearing and to take no further action.

10. Bus Shelter: Members considered details of quotes for a new bus shelter at a cost £1,000. County Councillor Dodd offered 50% of the cost from his Member's Small Grant Scheme for capital projects. It was felt that any proposed shelter should be placed as close as possible to the existing telephone box at Wallridge. It was agreed that the Clerk shall write seeking clarification whether consent to the erection of a bus shelter is needed, and to write to British Telecom asking what their plans are for the existing telephone box at Wallridge. **RESOLVED:** To defer the installation and to contact the contractors who had tendered to build a bus shelter to obtain clarification about any guarantee; VAT; and for how long they will hold the quotes.

11. Reports: There were no reports.

12. Planning: The Chairman and members had requested the attendance of a planning official from Northumberland County Council (NCC) to attend the meeting to explain the rationale behind several recent planning decisions relating to Belsay Parish. The Clerk reported that Caroline Jones, Planning Officer, had indicated that it was not normal practice for officers to attend parish council meetings out of hours. The Clerk had escalated the request and Caroline Jones' line manager may attend the next meeting of the Parish Council in December to discuss matters face-to-face.

13. Any other business: The Chairman raised highways matters relating to the cattlegrid (Harnham-Sandyford-Bolam Lake - Toft Hill) which had collapsed on one side. It was agreed that the Chairman shall contact the relevant officer directly on behalf of the Parish Council.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 11th December 2012 at 7.30pm in the Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School.

15. The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Chairman..... *R Batchelor*.....

Date.....10.Dec 2012.....

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING