

# Belsay Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10 July 2013 in the Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School at 7.00pm**

**Present :** Councillor R. Batchelor (Chairman)  
Councillors; D. Holmes, E. McDonnell, K. Metcalfe,  
and K. Storey (Vice-Chairman),

**In Attendance:** I. Humphries – Clerk

**12. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that as was the case at the Annual meeting in May, no members of the public were in attendance.

**13. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Neilson

**14. Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish and the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, both held on 8 May 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

**15. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Members commented on the zig zag lines outside the school and agreed that while it gave better sight lines for motorists exiting the school, it had moved the problem of parked cars further into the village. It was accepted that until the school were sufficiently motivated to provide on-site parking, there was little the Parish Council could do to improve the situation.

**16. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on the following items –

- **Membership of Northumberland Association of Parish Councils.** – Members were advised that the Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended a training course provided by the Association and had suggested the Parish Council give consideration to joining. The Clerk advised that membership had been allowed to lapse a few years ago. A discussion ensued regarding the merits of membership, the cost being £86.80 per year, and it was

**Resolved:** That the Parish Council take out membership of the Northumberland Association of Local Councils

- **Proposed Bus Shelter, Wallridge** – The Clerk advised that confirmation had finally been received that planning consent would not be required. However permission would need to be sought from the County Council’s Streetworks team who would likely require a method statement from the contractor.

The Clerk further advised that the Parish Council’s preferred contractor had been approached and agreed to provide a revised quotation and would be able to carry out the work during the summer months. It was agreed that Councillor Metcalfe attend any required site meeting with the County Council Streetworks team and the contractor.

**17. Financial Matters**

The Clerk advised Members that the Audit of accounts was underway, a Notice of Audit having been placed on the Notice Board.

Members were also advised that the Bank Account Signatories had now been updated and the Clerk was receiving Statements.

The Following payments were authorised –

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount
000351	CI Accountancy Ltd	£108.00
000352	Community Action Northumberland	£10.00
000353	Mr R Gray	£50.00
000354	NALC	£86.80

**18. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was received –

- Letter of introduction from Guy Opperman MP
- Letter of thanks from Mr Feeney, former Clerk
- Crime figures for June 2013 from Northumbria Police
- Community Action Newsletter

**19. Planning Matters**

Members received an update on issues relating to Bolam House following a visit by the County Council Planning Enforcement Officer. In summary, the caravan was permitted for personal use only; the containers would require planning consent and the Enforcement Officer was planning further discussions.

Members were not impressed by the planning process and the apparent reluctance of Officers to provide feedback to the Parish Council. Reference was also made to the previous enlarging of the entrance to the property by taking in agricultural land and the lack of interest and knowledge shown by the previous Planning Enforcement Officer.

It was noted that the Parish Council was still not being consulted on new Planning Applications. Despite the County Council stating that consultation would be carried out via the Parish Council's email address, nothing had been received, while an inspection of the County Council's website revealed a new Application - 13/01964/ful Relating to a proposed rear extension at West Lodge Belsay.

**20. Road Resurfacing – B6524**

It was noted that notification had been given to local residents regarding the proposed resurfacing of the B6542 advising them not to park on the road on the day the work was to be carried out. To the residents frustration, a vehicle not belonging to them had been parked, and as a result the works had not been completed. It was unknown when completion would be undertaken.

**21. Cycle Races**

Concern was expressed over the inconvenience to residents and resulting litter and debris associated with the cycle races passing through Belsay. It was agreed that this be discussed in more detail at the next meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm

Chairman .....

Date .....