

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, 11th December, 2012

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

In attendance: Mr G L Chater; Mrs C Chater; Mr P Hyam; Mrs M Hyam; Ms M Roe

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and recorded her thanks to Mr Keith Murray-Hetherington who had recently stepped down as Parish Clerk.

2. Apologies for Absence: Councillors E. McDonnell; D. Holmes and County Councillor R. Dodd.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 9th October 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising: The Chairman reported that notification from Planning Officer Caroline Jones had been received indicating that planning permission may not be required for the proposed bus shelter at Wallridge. There had been no progress made in making contact with British Telecom regarding their plans for the existing telephone box at Wallridge. Contact still needed to be made with the contractors who had tendered to build a bus shelter regarding clarification about any guarantee, VAT and how long they would hold the quotes. **RESOLVED:** To continue to explore British Telecom and their plans for the existing telephone box and to contact the Contractors.

5. Public Participation: Mr.G. L. Chater reported that he had met with Sir Alan Beith MP and 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. However the reply that he had received had failed to address many of his concerns. Mr Chater said that the path between the garage and the corner (entrance to Belsay Hall needed to be restored to its original width by clearing away the grass etc that had grown over the path). He also wanted to know why the grass verges through the village were not cut, the machine cutting the verges raised its cutter bar when it entered the village and then put it down again when it was leaving the village.

The problem remains with parking outside the school. The Chairman reported that there were proposals to put "School Keep Clear" markings on the road outside the school. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council would contact the School to ask if there had been any concerns raised by parents of pupils at the school about the parking on the road side. Also to enquire if there are any plans for a car parking area within the school grounds or near to the school.

6. Clerk's Report: Not available.

7. Financial Matters: Members were asked to consider a) the most recent financial accounts: balance of bank accounts £4873.66 b) invoices for payment: R Batchelor (adverts for Parish Clerk vacancy in Hexham Courant and Morpeth Herald) £113.52. c) applications for grants were received from Bolam PCC and also Great North Air Ambulance. **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 March 2013 ordinary meeting as previously agreed.

8. Correspondence: None

9. Reports: There were no reports.

10. Planning: At the meeting on the 9th October 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. The Chairman reported that despite a detailed email being sent to Mr Robbie giving details of matters that were to be raised there had been no further contact from Mr Robbie. **RESOLVED:** to invite Mr Robbie to attend a future meeting.

No planning applications had been received via post however 2 applications had been noted on the NCC Planning internet site. There was considerable discussion regarding Ref: 12/03163/TREECA - Proposal Tree Notice: Felling of 27 Leylandii and 2 Sycamore trees. The Chairman said that any member of the public could register on the NCC Planning web site and pass comments on planning applications if they wished to do so.

11. Any other business: The possibility of moving future meetings to a Wednesday evening was discussed and this would be investigated.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Either Tuesday, 8th January 2013 or Wednesday 9th January at 7.30pm in the Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School. However this may be changed when a new Parish Clerk is appointed.

13. The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....