

# Belsay Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 28 September 2016 in the Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School at 7.00pm**

**Present :** Councillor Storey, Chairman  
Councillors Batchelor, Mole and Roe.

**In Attendance:** I. Humphries - Clerk  
Cllr Dodds - Northumberland county Council

**18. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**19. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Metcalfe and McDonnell

**20. Minutes of Meeting held on 27 July 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to In attendance being altered – Mr De Weslow being present rather than Mr Coombe.

**21. Belsay Estate Woodhouse Project**

The architect for the project was present to advise members that progress was being made, confirming that it was on programme to be completed by Easter 2017.

Members noted that the outer wall was to be taken back to stone. With regard to boundary planting it was noted that hardy shrubs would be provided.

**22. Planning Matters**

**(a) 15/03810/FUL** - Members considered the revised application in respect of a residential development of 9 houses on land south of the Old School House, Belsay.

Cllr Roe declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion/decision.

Members agreed that the revised application was confusing in that

it was unclear whether the school car park was still part of the application and the new detail was not adding anything to the process.

Members agreed to make no further comment/objection, referring back to the objection to the original application and the view of the Parish Council on this matter.

**(b) Dissington Garden Village Proposal** – members noted the potential for over 2,000 houses to be built as part of the proposal for a garden village development at Dissington. If successful it could lead to increased traffic through Belsay.

**(c) Applications Granted by Northumberland County Council** –

- 16/01735/FUL: The Bungalow, Milbourne
- 16/01979/FUL: The Stables, Belsay Hall
- 16/00781/FUL: St Andrew's Church, Bolam

### **23. Financial Matters**

Members were advised by the Clerk that the external Audit had been successful and there had been no issues of concern to be considered.

### **24. Highway Matters**

Cllr Dodd confirmed that the priorities for highway work in the area had been identified. Members also noted the ongoing issue of car/coach parking outside the Highlander Public House and that it was hoped could be resolved sensibly.

Further to the issues raised by Cllr Roe at the previous meeting, it was agreed Cllr Roe produce a list of highway and traffic issues that could be developed and added to by the Parish Council in consultation with residents of the Parish. Funding opportunities were to be included in the list should it be that items may be actioned separately from the County Council.

### **25. Correspondence**

Members received notice of the County Council Public Spaces Protection Order for the Control of dogs.

**26. Ponteland Partnership 2 Tier System**

There was concern that the Community Hall may be lost to the community if used for school classrooms etc. Members were relieved to learn that the plans for the expansion of the school involved adding a new building attached to the Hall rather than using the Hall itself. It was also noted that Belsay Estate wanted to see the Hall become a true Community Hall.

**27. Litter Bin**

Members acknowledged the need for a new litter bin located adjacent to the Village Shop and agreed that a specification be requested from the County Council before a new bin was sourced.

**28. Notice Board**

Cllr Roe confirmed she now had a key and would therefore maintain the Notice Board.

**29. Parish Council Agendas**

Members discussed the existing arrangements for participation by the public and organisations in Parish Council meetings, noting the need for transparency and the balance between maintaining control of consideration of agenda items within the meetings and the desire to enable participation and engagement.

It was suggested that the existing policy regarding public participation, while successful in maintaining order of both agenda and meetings, could be amended to facilitate more spontaneous engagement regarding agenda items already set for a particular meeting. The following was agreed –

- The existing deadline for new items of the Wednesday prior to the week of the meeting be maintained.
- Anyone may request to address the Parish Council on an existing agenda item by contacting the Clerk by the Monday of the week of the meeting.

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

Chairman ..... Date .....