

Belsay Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 September 2013 in the Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School at 7.00pm

Present : Councillor R. Batchelor (Chairman)
Councillors; F. Neilson and K. Metcalfe,

In Attendance: I. Humphries – Clerk
L. de Wesselow } Belsay Estate
P Combe }

Action

22. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that it was an opportunity to have a positive discussion about issues within Belsay

23. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holmes, McDonnell and Storey and County Councillor Dodd

24. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Members noted that the zig-zag lines outside the school entrance were proving to be effective. There were now better sight lines for motorists.

26. Signs in the Village adjacent to the Highway

Members expressed the concerns of local residents, that the signs located around the entrance to the Estate were a distraction to motorists and given the variety of designs and sizes, were not aesthetically adding to the attractiveness of the village. Reference was also made to the continued presence elsewhere of the sign advertising Belsay Fete after the event had occurred.

Ms de Wesselow indicated that she accepted the concerns and had some sympathy with these views. However she also had to acknowledge the views of the business owners within the Estate who saw the signs as essential to attracting passing trade. As a way forward she suggested a branding of the area as "Belsay Corner" with a larger single sign incorporating all businesses and attractions within the Estate. This would address the concerns of

style and format and could be located in an acceptable location. Parish Councillors agreed that would be a suitable resolution to the issues, suggesting that the new sign be located in the Estate Drive and therefore away from the road side.

It was also agreed by both parties that the County Council could be approached to provide Brown Tourist Signs on the north and south approaches to the village.

27. Belsay Estate

Ms. de Wesselow and Mr Combe were present to give a brief outline of future plans for the estate including investment in and renovation of a number of buildings on the estate currently in a poor condition. They explained the plans to bring into residential use various buildings including the Barn, stables and old Coach House. Members were appreciative of the early consultation and indicated they looked forward to receiving the formal planning consent application, noting that the dwellings would be available to rent rather than purchase.

Members were also advised of ecological development plans for parts of the Estate which if progressed, would result in the creation of a new woodland.

It was noted that the Horse Trials had proved to be successful and was something to be developed in future years.

The Chairman thanked them both for a very informative and enlightening presentation.

28. Cycle Races passing through the Village

Members referred to the inconvenience and disruption to traffic caused by the routes of local Cycle Races. In particular, concern was expressed regarding the siting of gazebos at road junctions for the benefit of judges and Marshalls, but which obstructed motorist sight lines at those junctions. It was agreed that this item be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting.

29. Bus Shelter update

Members were pleased to see the bus shelter completed and available for the school children to use.

30. Result of Audit

The Clerk advised Members that the External Auditor had completed the audit of the Parish Council' accounts and had no measures to report. As a consequence, there was no fee to pay.

Members were pleased to hear that there was no fee to be paid.

31. Financial Matters

The following payments were authorised –

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount
000355	Hall Hire NCC	£ 150.00
000356	Bus Shelter G Hodgson	£1068.00
000357	Came & Co. Insurance	£ 278.29

32. Correspondence

The Clerk reported receiving a copy of the Northumberland County Council Member’s Handbook.

33. Planning Matters

The Parish Council received the following planning application for consultation –

13/02729/FUL Bolam Hall Garden Cottage Bolam
Morpeth NE61 3UA - Orangery to rear

Members considered the application and associated plans and had no objections to the application.

34. Footpath opposite Belsay First School

It was noted that the footpath opposite the school was becoming overgrown. As Members suggested that Belsay Estate had cut it back in previous years, the Clerk undertook to request a cut this year.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Chairman

Date