

**Minutes of the Belstone Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 1st March 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

Present: Peter Cooper, Elisabeth Emerson, Stella Hudson, Ann Norman, Susan Norrish and Andrew Terry with Michael Ash in the Chair.
Also two members of the public.

77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: E. Emerson declared a personal interest in the Windy Ridge appeal result. (She reported on the hearing in her capacity as Parish Council representative).

79. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING of 11th January having been previously circulated, were signed. (P. Cooper objected to item 73; 0538/10 and 'P. Cooper' was corrected to 'P. Wood').

80. MATTERS ARISING (unless dealt with elsewhere): None

81. URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIRMAN: None

82. CORRESPONDENCE:

DNPA: Management Plan for Dartmoor: Progress report 2011.

DCC: Eastern Link Committee: 3rd March (Agenda received).

Training scheme for 'Snow wardens': This was noted.

WDBC: Meeting with town/parish councils, 1st February: The Chairman reported that there would be budget cuts of 28% over the next four years. However, the successful programme of sharing staff and services with South Hams District Council had generated savings to date of £1.6 million, and as a result, there would be no reduction in front line services at present. This programme would continue to develop, although a full merger was ruled out because it would be costly to centralise new accommodation and the council tax base would need to be equalised (South Hams for historic reasons having a lower council tax than West Devon).

Chagford and some other parishes would be interested in the possibility of devolving some services under the new Localism Bill.

DALC: Local elections, Thursday 5th May: Close of nominations Monday 4th April.

Queen Elizabeth II Fields: Community open spaces can be nominated for this initiative, which will mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This will give access to improvement funds. This information to be passed to Belstone Cricket Club.

OTHER: British Legion Poppy Party weekend: This was noted. Information to be passed to the Village Hall Committee.

83. FINANCE:

i. Current state of finances and petty cash:

Received: None

Payments made: Clerk's salary (£525); petty cash to clerk (£35)

M. Ash expenses (£18.04); Belstone Village Hall (£40) as agreed at the last meeting.

A transfer of £500 from the reserve account had been made on 11.01.11.

Current account: £115.49 **Reserve account:** £2090.21.

Payments to be made: None

- ii. **Annual budget:** Spending during the year of £1,192 had exceeded the planned amount by £27. This would, however, help to reduce the reserves, as recommended by the external auditor.

The budget was accepted unanimously:

Proposed A. Terry seconded A. Norman

- iii. **Clerk's salary:** The clerk had sent a letter of thanks for the salary of £525 for the current financial year (a total of 222 hours worked). A letter to the clerk's tax office had been sent saying that this had been paid gross.

- iv. **New guidelines from HMRC** state that a parish clerk is an office holder, and can never be considered self employed for tax or NIC purposes, must not be paid 'gross' and must be taxed under PAYE. Checks will be made during the tax year beginning 06.04.11 to ascertain whether councils are operating PAYE on clerks and Responsible Financial Officers.

- v. **Update of Standing Orders:** In line with the suggestions made by Ms Delyth Jenkins Evans, Head of Corporate Services, WDBC, (minuted on 02.11.10, item 50) it was unanimously decided to modify Standing Order 16 (Urgent Business) as follows:

"A motion to vary the order of business on the ground of urgency:

a) May be proposed by the Chairman or by any Member and, if proposed by the Chairman, may be put to the vote without being seconded, or

b) Shall be put to the vote without discussion, or

c) *An item 'Urgent items raised by the Chairman' shall be included on the agenda following Apologies and Declarations of Interest. If any such items are raised at the meeting, either discussion is deferred, or in some cases, necessary action can be taken. The reason why it is urgent should be minuted".*

(New/amended sections are in italics)

- vi. **Council diary:** Checked and signed.

84. **PLANNING:**

Windy Ridge Farm, Skaigh Lane, Belstone. Appeal Conclusions:

The inspector allowed the appeal, granting permission for a change of use to a maltings B2. The dwelling on the site would be tied to the maltings rather than to the previous use as a poultry hatchery. Although a maltings does not constitute an essential rural business and could be located in a town, the DNPA had no objection to its establishment. DNPA Policy Statement PPS4 states that *'while economic development in the open countryside should be strictly controlled, support should be given to the conversion and re-use of appropriately sited and suitably constructed buildings'*. This category would include the sheds on this site.

Although objections had been raised to any increased traffic on this narrow lane, the inspector considered that this would be mostly by vans rather than lorries. The highway authority had not objected to the application.

The appeal site may only be used as a maltings and not as other B2 uses. There shall be no extension or alteration of the buildings on the site, and details of effective

measures to control noise, fumes and odour must be submitted before any change of use commences.

Comments by members of the public:

Mr Emerson said he intended to complain about this decision on environmental and health and safety grounds.

Mrs Hooley said that she was very concerned that increased traffic in Skaigh Lane would affect business from her riding stable.

0431/05: Two-storey extensions at Resugga Lodge: Amendment to external finish, for information.

85. HIGHWAYS:

- i. **Matters reported/to be reported to DCC highways maintenance department:**
A map of developing potholes had been sent.
- ii. **Surface water in road; Ottersmoor:** Mr Cooper commented that this seemed to be the result of blockage of the old drainage system

86. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- i. **Seats:** An agreement had been sent by Mr P. Wood to care for the Ball seat on the green (Green number 8).
New seat request: A request for a seat had been received from Mr Barrie Gillam of Denmark Hill, London. His mother was evacuated to Belstone from London during the Second World War, and had spent six happy years with the Kelly family and had remained in touch with them. The seat would commemorate Rosie Connel and Mr and Mrs Kelly. It was agreed to propose to Mr Gillam that the seat should also commemorate their son, Mr Ray Kelly, for many years a member of both Parish and District Councils, who died in 2010.
- ii. **Ivy Tor bridge:** Dartmoor Ranger Ian Brooker had reported that this bridge would be replaced by DCC at a cost of £3,800.

87. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS: Tuesday 19th April.

Annual Parish Meeting: 3rd May; Annual Parish Council meeting: 31st May

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

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