

**Minutes of the Belstone Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 30th November 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

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

56. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Elisabeth Emerson

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

P. Cooper declared a prejudicial interest in Planning item 0538/10

M. Ash declared a prejudicial interest in Planning item 0571/10.

58. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING of 2nd November having been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

59. MATTERS ARISING (unless dealt with elsewhere):

Brenamoor Pond: The proposed re-opening of the second pond would not be undertaken, due to concerns about the effect on drainage in the area.

60. CORRESPONDENCE:

DNPA: **Meeting** between DNPA and all Parish/Town councils in the Park. 16th November. The Chairman reported that the National Park Authority had already lost some staff, but was waiting for further information about the size of the expected reduction in its budget.

A copy of the consultation document on Governance Arrangements for National Parks to be circulated for discussion at the next meeting.

DNPA Forum: 26th November. S. Hudson reported that a talk on the technical projects completed over the past twenty years had featured the moving of Belstone's granite cross into the church, and the research into its history.

DCC: None

WDBC: None

DALC: (See Highways)

OTHER: None

61. FINANCE:

i. Current state of finances and petty cash:

Payments made: Payments had been made, totalling £90. These were to Okehampton District Community Transport Group, North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team, Victim Support in Devon, West Devon CAB and Young Devon. These had been agreed at the last meeting, and were within precept estimates. (Letters of thanks received from West Devon CAB and Okehampton District Community Transport Group).

Current account: £329.44 **Reserve account:** £2589.88.

Payments to be made: Travel to Bovey Tracey, S. Hudson. 51 miles at the agreed rate of 41 pence per mile; £20.91.

It was agreed unanimously to make this payment.

Proposed A. Norman seconded S. Norrish.

ii. Council diary: Checked and signed.

62. PLANNING:

0538/10: Conversion of redundant structure, formerly stables and store, to accommodation for holiday use, Belstone stables and yard.

(Mr Cooper left the room and took no part in the discussion).

Mr P. Wood and Mr. M. Reddaway explained that the application was on behalf of the whole family, to preserve the structure built by their Great Great Grandfather. After due discussion, the Council could see no objections to this application.

0571/10: Conversion of barn into holiday cottage at Moorlands Cottage, Belstone.

(Mr Ash left the room and took no part in the discussion. Mr Terry chaired this part of the meeting).

After discussion of this application, particularly regarding access, the Council had no objections to the proposal.

63. HIGHWAYS:

- i. Matters reported/to be reported to DCC highways maintenance department:**
During the current icy conditions, both Watchet Hill and East Lake Hill had been impassable to lorries. The lengthsman to be reminded of the importance of keeping road-side gullies clear.
- ii. Salt and grit supplies.** Highways had provided salt bags and topped up the bins before the recent snow fall. However, access to Skaigh Lane had been difficult because salt bags had already disappeared. The Clerk to write to the Chairman of West Devon BC requesting more grit bins, because salt bags are more likely to be stolen or broken open by the ponies. It was decided that the Council should not buy in additional salt.
- iii. Action by householders to clear snow and ice:** The Devon Association of Local Councils had forwarded advice from the Government:
'There is no law preventing you from clearing snow and ice on a pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces'.
(www.direct.gov.uk/preparingforemergencies). This was in response to concerns expressed during the snowfalls of early 2010 that people might potentially be sued for taking such action.

64. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Seats: Mr Peter Wood had offered to sponsor the seat at the end of the green (Ball seat). This had been agreed with Mrs Kastner. This offer was gratefully accepted by the Council.

65. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 11th January 2011.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.