

# Belsay Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 26 July 2017 in the Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School at 7.00pm**

**Present :** Councillor Storey, Chairman  
Councillors Metcalfe and Roe.

**In Attendance:** I. Humphries - Clerk  
Cllr Dodd - NCC

## **10. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting noting the meeting was being held outside as access to the Memorial Hall was not possible.

## **11. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mole

## **12. Minutes of Meeting held on 24 May 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **13. Bolam Community Fibre Partnership**

Members of the Partnership and a representative of the County Council were present to request the Parish Council to enter into a contract with BT to provide 10 properties in Bolam with Superfast Broadband. The value of the contract was £35,000, with £10,000 from Partnership members and £25,000 from the County Council. Members were advised that to quicken up the process, the Parish Council could be contacted with BT rather than the County Council. Members were also told that this was a departure from the normal process and had not yet been approved by Cabinet (NCC).

Members of the Parish Council sympathised with the Partnership regarding the poor internet connectivity in the area but felt unable to be contractually bound to the project without the funds being transferred to the Parish Council 2up front". Members were uncomfortable about the promise of a release of funds by the County Council on a staged basis and also concerned about the amount of involvement the Parish Council would have during and beyond the time of installation.

During the discussion it transpired that the time delay in commencing the project should the County Council enter into the contract with BT was only a few months. Members therefore were of the opinion that the risk to the Parish Council was too great for such a short time period and declined to enter into the scheme.

**14. Vacancy – Parish Councillor**

Members noted the interest of Mr J Sadler in joining the Parish Council. While members were minded to co-opt, they were interested in talking to Mr Sadler about his interest in the Parish Council and it was agreed that this matter be deferred until Mr Sadler was able to attend.

**15. Planning Matters**

Members noted the following grant of permission –

**17/00425/COU** Belsay Barns, Black Heddon: change of use to extend number of days of permitted shooting days to 176.

**17/01469/FUL** Construction of agricultural storage building, Saugh House, Belsay

**17/01750/LBC** Additional lead bat access slates, The Stables Belsay Hall

**17/01829/FUL** Installation of concrete plinth to place Buddha and installation of field drain, land south of Harnham Lake, Belsay

Members considered new application –

**17/01946/FUL** Removal of wooden fence and leylandii hedge and erection of concrete block wall, stone faced to match existing west garden wall, Bolam Lake House – **No objection**

**16. Highways Matters**

Members were advised that the cost of printing and postage of the survey to all residences in the Parish would be £344 plus VAT. Members accepted that cost and agreed to proceed with the survey. Members also agreed to consider the feedback from the survey before submitting proposed schemes to the County Council for their Local Transport Plan.

**17. Letters of Thanks**

Members noted the receipt of letters of thanks from the Air Ambulance and the Hospice for grants received from the Parish Council

**18. Mr E McDonnell**

Members noted that Mr McDonnell had not stood for a further term of office in May and therefore they recorded their appreciation of the unstinting commitment to the work of the Parish Council by Mr McDonnell and wished him well in the future.

**19. Wallridge**

Members noted an ongoing issue at a property in Wallridge which was being dealt with by the County Council.

As Councillor Storey had an interest in the neighbouring property, he declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion.

**20. Date and Time of next Meetings**

27 September 2017

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

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