

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th May 2022  
in Belmont Community Centre at 6:30 pm

Present: Chair Councillor E.S. Mavin, Councillors, J. Appleby, M.P. Bennett, P.J. Conway, P.S. Conway, C.A. Fletcher, V. Hawes, J. Knight, K. Noble, C.A. Lattin, A.P. Watkins, M. Watson and. S.C. White.

Also Present: Parish Clerk, Mrs S. Overton.  
Members of the public (1)  
R. Hornby (Gilesgate Residents Association).

22.01 Notice of Annual Parish Meeting

The notices have been displayed for public inspection within the three parish ward notice boards.

RECEIVED.

22.02 Welcome by the Chairman, Councillor Eric S. Mavin.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

RECEIVED.

22.03 To Receive the Chairmans Report for 2021 – 2022

The Chairman's report was circulated to Councillors.

RECEIVED.

22.04 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Mavin and A.C.Walker.

RECEIVED.

22.05 Election of Chairman for 2022/2023

Councillor P.S. Conway proposed Councillor Christine Fletcher for Chairman

Councillor E.S. Mavin Seconded Councillor Christine Fletcher for Chairman

AGREED.

Councillor Fletcher took the Chair.

22.06 Election of Vice-Chairman for 2022/2023

Councillor M. Watson proposed Councillor Lesley Mavin for Vice-Chair

Councillor J. Appleby Seconded Councillor Lesley Mavin for Vice-Chair

AGREED.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Mavin on her new role as Deputy Mayor of Durham City.

22.07 To Receive Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

**The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.**

22.08 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

a) Police

A police report was circulated to all Councillors, concerns were raised regarding the lack of follow up from Police when crimes are reported. A recent spate of thefts in the area suggests properties are being targeted and not just random incidents. A concern was also

raised regarding the lack of qualified police patrolling the streets. The Chair to contact the Police Crime Commissioner to highlight concerns raised. A request for a quarterly report from the Police was put forward.

b) Warden

The Neighbourhood Warden, Neil Morton introduced himself to Councillors saying apart from issues with dog fouling and untidy gardens, there were no major concerns at present. The Chair requested a written report to be emailed to the Parish Office for information.

c) Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

**The Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.**

22.09 To Consider and make comment on Planning Matters. \*

The Chair of the Planning Committee gave a report regarding Weekly Planning applications during the month of April.

22.10 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 14th April 2022. \*

Agreed with one amendment.

21.190 - PG 2 line 2 from Neighbourhood ~~to~~ Neighbourhood Plan  
RECEIVED AND AGREED.

22.11 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for Information.

(a) The Clerk informed Councillors 106 monies regarding CE/13/00849/FPA Memorial Benches will be credited to the parish councils bank account within the next few days as the final four benches have now been installed.

b) The The Clerk confirmed the date for the Exercise of Public Rights will be Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 ending on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

RECEIVED.

22.12 To Consider Risk Management in Relations to Items on the Agenda.

Members please note: - this is a standard item. Risk Management has been considered when compiling these notes for May meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

AGREED

22.13 To Consider Financial Matters\*

(a) To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of April 2022– see attached\* RECEIVED AND AGREED.

(b) To Receive Bank reconciliation during the month of April 2022 – see attached\* RECEIVED AND AGREED.

22.14 To Approve Appointment of Internal Auditor 2022/2023

Gordon Fletcher (C.M.I.I.A)

APPROVED AND AGREED.

22.15 To Approve Internal Audit Report 2021/2022  
APPROVED AND AGREED.

22.16 To Approve Internal Audit Plan for 2022/2023  
APPROVED AND AGREED.

22.17 To Approve Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 (National Auditor)  
APPROVED AND AGREED.

22.18 To Approve Accounting Statement 2021/2022 (National Auditor)  
APPROVED AND AGREED.

22.19 To Discuss Financial Plan 2022-2025.

The Chair of the Finance and Assets Committee gave a report to Councillors regarding the Councils Financial Plan 2022-25 and to be mindful of expenditure regarding what the Council is committing to over the coming months.

A request was made for the Cemetery Contractor to purchase a lawnmower up to £1,000.  
AGREED:

A proposal was made that yearly maintenance checks on equipment should be in place to check for wear and tear.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Bennett for his excellent report.

22.20 To Receive ZURICH Insurance Renewal 2022/2023.

The annual renewal of £3,711.95 has been paid and confirmation from Zurich Municipal has been received, this is a long term agreement active until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024.  
RECEIVED.

22.21 To Receive Calendar of Meetings for 2022/2023. \*

All Councillors to inform Clerk by the end of the week of any amendments to contact details and which committee they would like to be on.  
RECEIVED.

22.22 To Appoint Committee Chair/Vice Chairs 2022/2023

AGREED: to appoint Chair/Vice Chair at the next relevant Committee meetings.  
The Chairman suspended Standing Orders

22.23 To Receive update on Neighbourhood Plan meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2022.

Councillor Conway gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May and the recommendations therein were agreed. Councillors who wished to be considered for membership of the working group should contact Patrick Conway by 23 May - see attached\*

Councillor P.S. Conway was thanked for his excellent report.

Councillor Conway thanked Richard Hornby Gilesgate Residents Association (GRA) and John Ashby (former City of Durham Parish Councillor) for their input and support.

### **Standing Orders were re-imposed.**

Councillor J. Appleby left the meeting.

- 22.24 To Discuss improvements needed in the Parish (Wheelchair friendly play equipment in each play area, Skate Bowl and BMX Track).

A discussion took place regarding suitable equipment and various avenues for funding opportunities.

AGREED: to discuss further at the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

- 22.25 To Consider funding to produce an information leaflet for residents with regards to living sustainably, for inclusion in the next Parish newsletter

AGREED: to discuss further at the next meeting of the Communications Committee.

- 22.26 To Consider request from the Sustainable Living Belmont Parish Working Party for permission to set up a Facebook page to provide sustainable living information (with comments disabled).

AGREED: to discuss further at the next meeting of the Communications Committee.

- 22.27 To Receive Committee Reports

Communications Committee

There was no meeting held this month.

#### Environment Committee

The Chair of the Environment Committee gave a report to Councillors which included the following request:-

A request was received from Belmont Community Centre asking whether the Parish Council would consider purchasing four hanging baskets to be placed outside the Community Centre. The baskets to be maintained and watered by Belmont Community Centre staff.

AGREED.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Watson for his excellent report.

#### Finance and Assets meeting

There was no meeting held this month, under an earlier agenda item the Financial Plan for 2022-2025 was reported to Councillors by the Chair of the Finance and Assets Committee.

#### Planning Committee

There was no Planning meeting held, the Chairman gave a report under an earlier agenda item on Weekly Planning Applications.

- 22.28 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

#### Carrville

A concern was raised regarding speeding cars along Swinside Drive, an email to be forwarded to Durham County Council from the Parish Office to address the issue.

#### Gilesgate Moor

A concern was raised regarding the state of the roads in relation to weeds on pavements on Sunderland Road now infected with dog fouling.

An ongoing concern regarding the need for a crossing at the top of the Community Centre was raised, the matter to be looked into by Councillor E.Mavin.

Councillor Bennett proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Eric Mavin for his hard work as Chair over the past year and all applauded.

Councillor Mavin gave an update regarding Rennys Lane both sides to be cleared down Rennys Lane to deter anti-social behaviour and also replace fencing.

Councillor E.S. Mavin left the meeting.

22.29 Council business (any item which has been brought to the attention of the Chairman for discussion during the meeting for approval or otherwise)

The Chairman, Councillor Fletcher, advised that a Cost of Living Roadshow was taking place at Gilesgate Primary School on Friday 13 May 2:00pm – 4:00pm with many organisations present to help local residents.

22.30 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm