

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th June 2022
in Belmont Community Centre at 6:30 pm

Present: Chair: C.A. Fletcher,

Councillors, M.P. Bennett, P.J. Conway, P.S. Conway, V. Hawes, J. Knight, K. Noble,
C.A. Lattin, A. C. Walker A.P. Watkins, M. Watson and. S.C. White.

Members of the Public (2) Representatives from Belmont Utd and Cheesy Waffles FC.

22.31 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors J. Appleby, E.S. Mavin,
L. Mavin.

Received.

22.32 To Receive Declarations of Interest.

Members Please Note: - this is a standard item. If Members are aware of a personal or prejudicial interest in relation to any item on the Agenda this should be disclosed at this stage or when the interest becomes apparent during the consideration of an item in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members. This item is linked to your Declaration of Members Interest forms please consult these forms when reading these Notes on agenda items to ensure compliance with this item.

Received.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.

22.33 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

There were no Police present,

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Neighbourhood Warden present.

(c) Members of the Public.

There were no members of the public present.

22.34 To Consider request from representatives from Cheesy Waffles FC and Belmont United to use 11 a side pitch (Moorfield) as a base.

Representatives from Cheesy Waffles FC and Belmont United attended the meeting to ask for approval from the Parish Council to use Belmont Parish Council owned pitch on Moorfield on a regular basis with no cost to the Parish Council. A discussion took place which included the following concerns, hire charges(currently hiring through Durham

County Council), accessibility, Health and Safety, inclusivity, would it be open to the public and possible future financial implications.

Councillor Watson said he has requested a quote from Durham County Council for two goal posts, four locating holes for the goal posts and pitch repairs.

Agreed: to discuss further and report back with findings for the July 14th Full Parish Council meeting.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation.

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

22.35 To Consider and make Comment on Planning Matters*

A weekly list of Planning Applications for the months of May has been forwarded to all Councillors.

A report was given by Councillor P.S. Conway regarding the recent Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, held on 7th June, a proposal was made for a Belmont Parish Council and Gilesgate Residents Association newsletter to be delivered to all households by first week in September.

Agreed: Councillor Conway to supply costings for a single A4 information sheet and report back to July meeting.

22.36 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 12th May 2022 – Minutes attached*

Agreed with amendments:

22.27 Environment Committee PG 5 line 5 ‘be maintained’ repeated.

22.28 Carrville Ward report PG 5 line 2 add ‘----an email to be forwarded to Durham County Council from the Parish Office to address the issue.

Agreed.

22.37 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerks Report, correspondence tabled items – for 1. The external auditor has confirmed they have received the Annual Return 2021/2022. **Received.**

22.38 To Consider Risk Management in relation in relation to items on the Agenda.

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

Received.

22.39 To Consider Financial Matters*

(a) To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of May 2022– see attached*

Received and Agreed.

(b) To Receive bank reconciliation during the month of June 2022 – see attached*
Received and Agreed.

c) To Consider Donation requests during the month of June 2022
No requests received.

22.40 To Consider and make Comment on Cemetery Reports.

The Clerk reported a resident who had asked for permission to erect an alternative design for a headstone had been informed her request had been declined as it was not in accordance with the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

Received.

22.41 To Receive update on Scrambles site visit – see attached*

Councillor White and Councillor Watson, recommended the need for a Woodland Management Report to be implemented following a recent Scrambles site visit with DCC Tree Officer, Simon Chivers, Chair of FOBS Mr. K. Neat and three residents regarding Health and Safety concerns for TPO Ash Trees that have the Ash Die Back disease to be chopped down. Advice was given by the Tree Officer with regards to setting up a Woodland Management Plan, stating research from approved tree specialists would be required, along with costings and Health and Safety aspects explored. A suggestion was made that this item could be included in the list of potential projects for budget 2023/24. Councillor White to give an update on arborist's report.

Received.

22.42 To Receive update on Wildflower Project.

An update was given regarding quotes received from three local companies concerning the proposed Wildflower Project on Moorfield Park.

Agreed: The Finance Committee to examine quotes.

22.43 To Discuss Grounds Maintenance Contract.

A discussion took place regarding the current Grounds Maintenance Contract.

Agreed: to collate information regarding job description of the current Grounds Maintenance Contract and tendering process.

Agreed:

22.44 Notification of Exercise of Public Rights.

The Exercise of Public Rights commenced on Wednesday 1st June 2022 and will end on Thursday 14th July 2022.

Received.

22.45 To Discuss recognition for cemetery volunteers.

A discussion took place regarding ways in which residents could nominate people they deem worthy of a recognition reward following a proposal that the two volunteers who open and close the Cemetery gates all year round should be thanked for their assistance.

Agreed: to place an article in the Parish Newsletter inviting residents to nominate those worthy before the end of September, an Awards Ceremony to be held in October for the nominees.

22.46 To Receive Committee Reports.

Communications Committee – see attached*

The Chair gave a report to Councillors which included the following:-

1. Updating of the parish notice boards.
2. Trialling a Facebook page for Belmont Parish Council for a period of six weeks, with comments disabled, Councillor L. Mavin to manage the account and report back with outcome.

Environment Committee – see attached*

The Minutes have been circulated to councillors, the Chair gave a report to Councillors which included .

Northumbria in Bloom judging day will take place on Friday 15th July.

Litter pick will take place Sunday July 3rd 2pm – 4pm.

Dog walking exercise area to be an agenda item for the 14th July Full Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Watson (Chair) was thanked for his report.

Finance & Assets Committee

There was no meeting held this month.

Planning Committee

A Planning report have been circulated to councillors, Councillor P.S. Conway was thanked for his report.

20.47 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

Councillor Walker reported that a large tree in Cambridgeshire Drive is blocking out light and is also a potential safety hazard during stormy weather, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council.

Councillor Walker reported the lock on Rennys Lane Assess Gate was still missing, he was informed that Durham County Council were aware of the issue.

Councillor Noble reported that several residents had been upset following leaflets on anti-abortion had been circulated in the area. The Chair said that she had complained to Durham County Council about the issue.

Carrville

Councillor Knight reported issues with speeding cars when exiting from the entrance of the Blue House Shops. Councillor Fletcher to e-mail Durham County Council requesting a sign saying ‘Thank you for not speeding’

Gilesgate Moor

Following a recent concern regarding the increasing number of weeds on roads and pavements, Councillor Conway to bring to the July meeting a report on what Belmont Parish Council can do to help alleviate the problem. A suggestion was made for a small item to be incorporated in the Parish Newsletter asking whether residents would be willing to weed their own front pavement.

20.48 Council business (any item which has been brought to the attention of the Chairman for discussion during the meeting for approval or otherwise)
No items have been received.

20.49 Date of next meeting 14th July 2022.
The meeting closed at 8:52 pm

Chair signature -----

Date -----