

Minutes of the Belmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th July 2022
in Belmont Community Centre at 6:30 pm

Present: Chair: Councillor L. Mavin (in absence of C.A. Fletcher)
Councillors, P.J. Conway, P.S. Conway, V. Hawes, J. Knight, K. Noble,
C.A. Lattin, E.S. Mavin, A. C. Walker, A.P. Watkins, and. S.C. White.

Members of the Public (4)

Police (2)

22.50 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors J. Appleby, C.A. Fletcher, M.P. Bennett, and M. Watson.

RECEIVED.

22.51 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.

22.52 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

The Police shared a report with councillors.

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Neighbourhood Warden present.

(c) Members of The Public.

A member of the public reported the footpath on Belmont Road was overgrown with weeds and very uneven to walk on, the matter to be reported to Durham Council.

The flower bed at the entrance to High Grange Estate has had plants stolen and is looking very unsightly.

Concerns were raised regarding the amount of paraphernalia being left at the front of properties from tenants/students vacating premises. The Neighbourhood Warden to be made aware of the problem.

A concern was raised regarding the increase in scrap metal theft in the area.

It was reported that fines were incorrectly issued to visitors to Cheveley Park Shops due to technical errors, subsequently shoppers are parking elsewhere to avoid possible penalties.

A member of the public questioned progress of dog exercise area.

The Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.

22.53 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 9th June – Minutes attached*
AGREED.

22.54 To Receive Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda.

22.55 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for information.
The Period of Exercise of Public Rights will cease today.
The Northumbria in Bloom Summer judging will take place Friday the 15th of July 2022.
RECEIVED.

22.56 To Consider Risk Management 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 July meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.
AGREED

22.57 To Consider Support for a Summer Holiday Scheme
A request was received from Belmont Community Association for funding towards a summer Rainbow Hub which will provide a safe place for children and young people over the summer.
AGREED: £100.00

22.58 To Receive Committee Reports
Finance
Receipts and payments sheet for June 2022.
RECEIVED AND AGREED.

Bank balance statement for June 2022.
RECEIVED AND AGREED.

Three monthly budget sheet for April/May/June 2022.

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

To Consider financial support for Belmont Allotments, Gilesgate Primary School Project.
AGREED: £250.00.

Planning

Councillor Conway gave an update on Weekly Planning Applications during the month of June, and it was agreed no action should be taken.

Neighbourhood Plan update

A newsletter to be distributed the first two weeks in September from Belmont Parish Council/Gilesgate Residents Association to all residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area asking for people's views on adopting a Neighbourhood Plan. – see attached notes*
AGREED: printing costs would come from Planning budget 2022/23

AGREED: that without prejudice, an application for a defined Neighbourhood Plan area to covert the Parish Council and unparished area covered by Gilesgate Residents Area should be submitted to Durham County Council.

Communications

The newsletters are now ready for delivery.

Environment

Wildflower project

Wildflower quotes have now been received from three local firms, a quote for £750.00 for 33 sq metres was deemed the favourable option.

AGREED: to discuss further at the July Environment Committee meeting whether to go ahead with the project or to postpone project.

Dog exercise area

A proposal for a dog exercise area next to the tennis courts near Belmont Community Centre was discussed. Items raised were appropriate signage, design of a fence, accessible gates for grasscutters. Durham County Council are happy for proposal to go ahead and supplied a quote for £10,203.47 inc VAT.

AGREED. to support the project.

Accessible play equipment

A site visit has been arranged for 8th August to discuss accessible play equipment for Moorfield.

RECEIVED.

Request for 11 a side football pitch.

The costs of the installation and annual maintenance were discussed. The council agreed to support the initial installation but not a perimeter fence in the future. Further discussion ensued regarding the annual maintenance costs and how this could be funded, to be discussed further.

AGREED.

A request has been received from the Contractor for permission to go ahead with extra watering of the flower beds/tubs during the current heatwave.

AGREED.

Councillor White informed councillors he had been in contact with a resident from Cheveley Walk who was concerned about the condition of several Ash trees which are suffering from Die Back on land owned by the Parish Council near his property. Councillor White to investigate this issue further and report back to council.

22.59 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

To get an update regarding a recent matter with a large tree on Cambridgeshire Drive and report back to Council.

A concern was raised regarding several residents cutting the hedgerows down Rennys Lane. It was suggested dropping an information leaflet through residents letterboxes from Belmont Parish Council to discourage this activity.

Durham County Council to be contacted for an update on missing lock for Rennys Lane.

A suggestion was raised whether to bring forward the grass cutting on the Scrambles a month earlier, the farmer to be contacted who undertakes the work.

Carrville

A suggestion was made whether progressive signage could be applied to discourage drivers from speeding with a thank you message displayed for adhering to speed limit, the matter to be discussed with Durham County Council.

A concern was raised regarding flooding issues at Oakham Drive, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council.

It was proposed there is a need for speed bumps to be placed at the back of Carrville High Street to discourage motorists from speeding.

Gilesgate Moor

A concern was raised regarding ill-fitting drain cover at the entrance of Belmont Community Centre on the main road. the matter to be reported to Durham County Council.

Councillor Conway gave a report on the state of the roads and gutters becoming overrun with weeds causing roads to crack in the parish area – see attached notes* He suggested whether it would be beneficial if the Parish Council could employ someone for six months of the year to keep on top of the problem. Councillor Mavin suggested whether this could be incorporated into the new groundsman contract.

Councillor Conway - Proposed
Councillor E.S. Mavin - Seconded.
AGREED.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.

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

An update was given on recent issues regarding the arrival of a group of travellers on Moorfield causing anti-social behaviour and environmental concerns. Preventative measures were discussed to deter reoccurrence along with ways in which the Parish Council could converse with them whilst respecting their rights and customs.

The Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.

22.61 Date of next meeting Thursday 8th September 2022.

The meeting closed at 8:35 pm