

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8TH September 2022
in Belmont Community Centre at 6:30 pm

Present: Chair: C.A. Fletcher,
Councillors, P.J. Conway, P.S. Conway, K. Noble, C.A. Lattin and A. C. Walker
Mrs S. Overton (Parish Clerk)
Police Kevin Hall Rebecca Wilson (2)
Members of the Public (0)

22.62 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Appleby, M.P. Bennett, V. Hawes, J. Knight, E.S. Mavin, L. Mavin, A.P. Watkins. M. Watson and S.C. White Received.

22.63 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.

There were no Declarations of Interest.
Received.

22.64 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

The Police reported there had been several burglaries in the area and were helping residents with advice on securing their properties through the 'Keep in the Know' online information page. It was suggested Belmont Parish Council work with outside bodies to look at funding towards security lighting to help prevent further crime.

The Police left the meeting at 6.55 pm, the Chair thanked the Police for their attendance.

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Warden present.

(c) Members of The Public.

There were no members of the public present.

22.65 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 14th July 2022 – Minutes attached*
Agreed (with one amendment)

22.58 Committee Reports Page 3 Neighbourhood Plan Update line 6 from covert to cover -----

Councillor Conway drew attention to the agreed proposal on page 5 of the July 14th Minutes, to incorporate in the new groundsman Contract a rolling on period of 6 months of the year to clear weeds from roads and gutters.

Agreed: to look at proposed Gardner's Contract and build in clearance of weeds from roads and guttering on a six monthly roll.

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

1. VAT Claim FORM has been sent to HMRC for the sum of £1280.16
 2. Thank you letter from Belmont Allotments regarding our recent donation of £250.00.
 3. Public Rights of Way Claim form has been sent to DCC for £1,100.00
- Received.

22.67 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 September meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

Received.

22.68 To Receive Committee Reports:

(a) Finance – to consider financial matters

To Receive Receipts and Payments during the months of July and August 2022– see attached*

Received and Agreed.

To Receive bank reconciliation during the months of July and August 2022 – see attached*

Received and Agreed.

To Consider Donation requests.

The Mayor of Durhams chosen charitable fund - £100.00 Durham Samaritans.

Agreed.

Conclusion of External Auditor

The Clerk reported the Audit had been concluded and that the Statement of Accounts of Accounts has been published on the Parish Website.

(b) Planning – to consider and make comment on planning mattershed.

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

Received and Agreed.

Councillor P.S. Conway (Chair of Planning Committee) was thanked for his excellent work regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, Richard Hornby, Gilesgate Residents Association was thanked by Councillor Conway regarding his invaluable contribution.

(c) Communications

Councillor L. Mavin (Chair of the Communications Committee) was thanked for her excellent work on the Parish Newsletter. The next date of the Communications Committee to be arranged.

(d) Environment –

Play Areas

Councillor Watson, Chair of the Environment Committee, reported that costings for accessible play equipment was proving expensive and was looking at outside sources of funding.

Works on Cheveley Park Play area are now completed.

Flower Bed Planning

Planting is planned until January 2023 whereafter the new groundsman will take over.

Agreed: to discuss with new Gardner sustainable planting schemes rather than bedding plants.

11 a side football pitch proposals

Quotes are being obtained.

Consideration of opening up of communal areas during winter

A discussion took place regarding the implications of the energy crisis on those residents who would need extra help over the colder months. Suggestions made included providing hot soup and a bun, filling hot water bottles and suitable venues to get warm that residents can be directed to.

Agreed: to look at ways how to utilise this.

New gardening Contract.

A meeting is to take place on Thursday 15th September at 5:30pm – 6:30pm to discuss details of new gardening Contract

External tap for football and cricket pitches to be installed in the pavilion.

Community Safety Day.

The Community Safety Day Event held in August was considered successful and discussions are taking place to organise another event and combine it with

Sustainable Belmont. Councillor Noble is away October half term so agreed to consider another date.

Cemetery

It was reported the current Cemetery Rules and Regulations have no definite guidelines regarding measurements for ashes plaques.

Agreed: to go to the Environment Committee for further discussion.

The Clerk reported that the current Cemetery Rules and Regulations states all graves were to be turfed following a period of one year after interment.

Agreed: to send out letters to grave owners who this applies to.

22.69 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

Councillor Walker raised an issue regarding the increasing amount of litter strewn across the lay-by at McIntyre Way allegedly from nearby food outlets, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council..

Councillor Noble reported Durham County Council had removed grass and debris from the footpath on Lancashire Drive and Nottinghamshire Drive however removal of debris was left behind in nearby hedge, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council. It was reported that following works on Rennys Lane by Durham County Council debris and grass had been removed and chucked into nearby hedges.

Councillor Conway raised a concern from a resident of Coniston Close regarding a nearby large tree which potentially could fall on her garage.

Carrville

An issue was raised regarding the 'cut' behind Church View along Broomside Lane to Magdalene Avenue, overgrown with weeds and rubbish, also a nearby fence in need of attention, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council.

An ongoing concern regarding the amount of rubbish from a back garden in Bainbridge Street causing distress to resident in Grinstead Way, has still not been resolved. The matter to be chased up with Durham County Council.

An issue was raised regarding the state of the potholes on the road as you approach the entrance to Rennys Lane underpass, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council.

Gilesgate Moor.

Councillor Lattin raised a concern from a resident of Millhouse Court concerned about nearby trees in need of lopping, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council.

Councillor Lattin raised a concern regarding a change of policy by one particular

Housing Association allowing young people with additional needs to live alongside the older residents of Mill house Court, residents reportedly apprehensive about issues arising from this decision.

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

The deadline for the Local Heroes nominations is Friday 30th September.

Agreed: to look at suitable venues to hold the event, look at including the CWP Group and provide information on how to nominate people, via social media platforms.

22.71 Date of next meeting

Thursday 13th October 2022.