

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th October 2022
in Belmont Community Centre at 6:30 pm

Present: Chair: C.A. Fletcher,

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

Member of the Public (1)

22.72 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joe Knight, Eric Mavin,
Lesley Mavin, Arthur Walker and Ann Watkins.
Received.

22.73 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 Chair suspended Standing Orders.

22.74 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

A PACT report was received from the Police which gave advice on dealing with anti
social behaviour has been circulated to councillors - see attached*

There were no police present, Councillor Watson said he was working closely with
Sergeant Kevin Hall, Durham Police regarding anti-social behaviour at Belmont
Scrambles and Kepier Woods.

A Community Safety Day Event will be held on Saturday 5th November between 11.00
-14.00 in Belmont Community Centre.

A Sustainable Community Event to be arranged during the Easter holidays 2023.
Agreed.

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Neighbourhood Warden present however Neil Morton (Neighbourhood
Warden) has said he will attend future litter picks.

(c) Members of The Public.

The member of the public commented on a property in Rowantree Avenue currently in the process of being refurbished for usage as an HMO. He raised concerns regarding the amount of HMO properties in the area along with additional issues regarding inadequate maintenance of the properties by absent landlords, noise and parking issues. The Chair said the Parish Council are aware of the surge in HMO's in the area, Councillor Conway said the issue would be included in any future Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

22.75 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 8th September 2022 – Minutes attached*

Agreed.

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

1. A thank you letter has been received from the Right Worshipful Mayor of Durham regarding our recent donation of £100.00 towards his chosen Charity the Durham Samaritans.
2. Local Heroes Award Ceremony will take place on Saturday 19th November at 14.00 until 15.30 in Belmont Community Centre.

Received.

22.77 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 October and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

Agreed.

22.78 To Receive Committee Reports:

(a) Finance – to consider financial matters

The Chair of the Finance Committee, Councillor Mick Bennett gave a report to councillors.

(1) To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of September 2022– see Received and Agreed - see attached*

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

(3) To Receive three monthly budget for July/August/September 2022 – see attached* Received and Agreed.

(4) To Receive Donation requests for October 2022

There were no donation requests received.

Councillor Bennett was thanked for his report by the Chair and was welcomed back after a short period of absence.

The Clerk informed councillors the Internal Auditor will be coming to undertake the six-monthly interim review of the finances.

A discussion took place regarding budget planning, outside funding for projects and priorities for 2023 -2024.

A Special Full Council meeting to be arranged to discuss Council requirements in further detail.

Agreed:

The Clerk informed Councillors the Financial Regulations had been updated to include the use of a credit card.

Received.

(b) Planning – To consider and make comment on planning matters - see attached*

The Chair of the Planning Committee Patrick Conway gave a report to councillors on Weekly Planning Lists during the month of September.

Neighbourhood Plan Report

A report detailing the results of the public consultation and public meeting was considered. The report contained a number of recommendations. Following discussion it was agreed:-

a) A full NP should not be embarked upon at the present time.

b) The working group should continue and initiate preparatory work, inviting the interested individuals to further discussions commencing in November.

c) The working group, together with interested individuals, begin work on a couple of

d) Following distribution of a further newsletter in the Spring, three or four further public meetings are arranged at locations throughout the proposed NP area

e) A report is presented to BPC and GRA in April or May 2023 when an absolutely final decision should be made.

f) No external funding applications should be made at the present time and that BPC in its budget planning consider contingency provision for 2023/24.

The Chair thanked Councillor Conway for his invaluable work regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

(c) Communications - see attached*

A meeting was held on Monday 3rd October - see attached*

Councillor Watson gave a report to councillors in the absence of Councillor Lesley Mavin, Chair of the Communications Committee.

Newsletters are ready for proof reading and will be sent to printers early next week.

Local Heroes event Saturday 19th November 14.00 pm until 15.30 pm in Belmont Community Centre. A meeting to be arranged for Tuesday 17.30pm until 18.30 pm to discuss shortlist, Councillors CF, KN, CL and MW to attend.

Agreed.

Social Media – Facebook page for Belmont Parish Council

Following a six week trial run by Councillor L. Mavin the following was put to councillors whether to proceed with a Facebook page.

Agreed: for a Facebook page for Belmont Parish Council to go ahead with Councillor L. Mavin to have sole administration, any negative comments will be disabled.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders.

The Member of the Public queried why only one administrator is to be in charge of the page.

Councillor Watson was thanked for the report.

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

(d) Environment- see attached*

A meeting was held on Wednesday October 19th – see attached*

The Chair of the Environment Committee Councillor Mick Watson gave a report to Councillors which included:-

Play Park site visit had gone well.

BMX Track has now been repaired.

Cemetery

A discussion took place whether grave owners should be given the choice whether to have their graves turfed after a year following interment.

Agreed: to defer decision until after resident consultation on 30th November and make final decision at the December Full Parish Council meeting.

Ashes tablet/plaque height measurements.

Memorials on ashes plots are to be no more than 300 mm (1 ft)) high, 457 mm (1 ft 6 inches) wide and 457 mm (1 ft 6 inches) deep for the ashes internment area regarding restrictions for headstones/tablets.

Agreed. Clerk to amend current Cemetery Rules an Regulations to show the above amendments.

Signage for Cemetery.

Following a recent incident with a mobility scooter user visiting the cemetery the following was agreed.

Agreed: to look at two signs on spikes and a large sign warning of unstable ground.

Scrambles Report

Councillor White reported the following items to councillors:-
Local Scouts have planted bulbs.

Councillor White reported the Woodland Tree Protection Officer is arranging a date to do an assessment of the area.

Councillor White was thanked for his work on the Woodland Tree Protection Order.

The Sustainable Working Party has now ceased, Councillor L. Mavin has made an information leaflet to insert in the Parish Newsletter for residents regarding sustainable living.

Rennys Lane Update

LED Lighting has now been installed in the underpass improving lighting issues, metal fencing and six diseased die back trees to be removed, monies to come out of Councillors Eric and Lesley Mavins Neighbourhood Budget.

Councillor Watson was thanked for his informative report.

22.79 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

An issue was raised by Councillor Walker regarding the poor state of the road leading down to the underpass in need of repair. Patching repairs to the road have been undertaken historically however the road just breaks away in another place. The issue is a health and safety issue for cyclists, prams, buggies, walkers and even pedestrians that are a bit unsure when walking.

Councillor Walker reported two new lights had been installed in the underpass and was now well lit however it was attracting an increase in ‘graffiti artists’.

Carrville

Councillor Watson said residents were requesting a meeting with Highways Department regarding speeding issues on Pitlington Lane to Broomside Lane. A meeting to be arranged with Officers from Durham County Council and County Councillors from Pitlington Parish Council to discuss issues. Councillor Fletcher said she would speak with Highways Officer, Michelle McIntosh.

Gilesgate Moor

Councillor Conway said he had been approached by two residents who were concerned whether the Post Office in Willowtree shops Gilesgate Moor had a future presence. A letter to be sent to the Postmaster requesting clarification on the matter.

Councillor Mavin and Councillor Watson meeting to discuss proposed dog exercise area in Moorfield, consultation with nearby residents to be undertaken.

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

This years Senior Citizens Christmas Party will take place in Belmont Community School on Wednesday 14th December.

Councillors Chris Fletcher, Kim Noble and Mick Watson to assist with transport for those who require lifts and a taxi available for those who are wheelchair bound.

Councillor Noble to purchase raffle prizes.

Agreed:£50.00

Laying of wreath for Remembrance Sunday

Councillor Conway proposed Chair, Councillor Fletcher

Councillor Watson seconded

Agreed.

Invitation to The Cheesy Waffle Project Presentation Evening on Wednesday 18th January 2023 at the Ramside Hall Hotel, Councillor Noble and Councillor White to attend.

Agreed.

22.81 Date of next meeting Thursday 10th November 2022.

The meeting closed at 20.30 pm

