

# NEWSLETTER

## Belmont Parish Council



### VICTORY IN EUROPE 80<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATIONS



On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 we celebrated 80 years since the end of World War II in Europe. The Friends of Belmont War Memorial in conjunction with Gilesgate Residents' Association held a service to mark the occasion at the war memorial and 80 residents who were around for the original VE

Day received an afternoon tea delivered to their door. Grateful thanks to the Parish Council, Belmont Social Club, Gilesgate Residents Association and the 'Friends of Belmont War Memorial' for sponsoring this.

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### BELMONT BOWLING CLUB

Belmont Bowling Club has opened for the start of the 2025 outdoor lawn green bowling season and welcomes all new, experienced and novice players. Although considered a leisurely sport it is also a healthy activity - playing 21 ends will see you walk 1.5km, lift up to 92 kilos, bend and stretch up to 88 times, step up 81 times and use up to 247 different muscles. It is also a great way to meet people in pleasant surroundings. Those who came in 2024 found that this was just the sport and social gathering for them, joined the club, and now wear the club shirt.

The main practice days are Monday and Thursday afternoons, but we also compete in leagues every week against other clubs. So, if you are prepared to shake off the winter blues and want to try a positive outdoor exercise open to all, then come along and enjoy an afternoon of bowling in pleasant surroundings. Own equipment is not necessary, as the use of club equipment on the day is available, with friendly advice always available from members.

Even if you are only slightly interested why not come along and see what its all about - we'll even give you a cup or tea/coffee and a biscuit.

Look out for the posters giving the dates and times of opening and free practice sessions which have been displayed in the Community Centre, Belmont Library, the Parish Notice Boards, our GP surgeries and local shops.

Please contact Mrs S. Overton (details below) or Club Members Tom Dixon 0191/3862845 or Mike & Jean Duffitt 0191/3864221

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL!

### What is a Parish Council?

A Parish Council is a civil local authority and is the lowest tier of local government.

Belmont Parish Council raises money for its activities through Council tax.

Belmont Parish Council is made up of 15 Parish Councillors, 5 from each of the 3 wards of Belmont, Carrville and Gilesgate Moor. The councillor's term of office is 4 years, and the present council were elected in May 2025. All Parish councillors carry out their work and give up their time voluntarily. Please see contact details for all councillors, and who is who on the back page.

### Parish Council Meetings

Belmont Parish Council meet at 6.30pm on the second Thursday of every month (excluding January and August) at Belmont Community Centre. These meetings are open to the public and there is always time set aside for you to share your thoughts, raise any concerns, or to find out what's going on in our community. The agendas, minutes and meetings diary sections of the Parish website and Parish noticeboards provide full details of upcoming meetings.

Because they form the first tier of local government, Parish Councils are closer to the community than any other area of local government. They provide a voice for communities, helping people to feel more involved in the decisions that affect them.

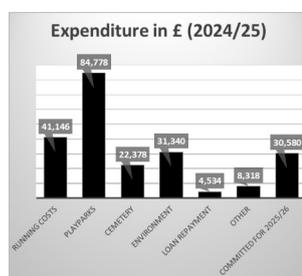
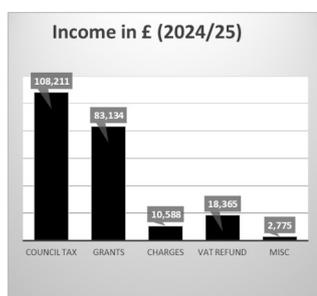
That is why we are always pleased to see our residents at our monthly meetings. We encourage residents to use the Parish Council as a means of representing their views, dealing with their concerns and improving where they live.

Next Meetings: 10<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> October, and 13<sup>th</sup> November

### Committees

Belmont Parish Council has committees which meet regularly to discuss specific areas of council business. These committees then submit reports and recommendations to the Full Council at the monthly Parish Council meeting. There are 4 main committees:

**Finance and Assets:** Monitors the Council's income and expenditure throughout the year; produces an annual budget for full Council consideration; manages Parish Council assets - playgrounds, allotments and the cemetery, including the evaluation of land, property, fittings and equipment; and considers HR issues. The charts below show our income and expenditure for the last financial year – 2024 to 2025



**Communications:** Communicates the work of the Parish to all residents via three times a year newsletter, ensures an effective, up to date and transparent website displaying all information about the work and finances of the Parish and gathers input and views from residents on a regular basis to inform future parish council activity

Council Office : Belmont Community Centre, Sunderland Road, Gilesgate Moor, DURHAM, DH1 2LL  
Open 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday to Friday. Tel 0191 386 0664 Email [belmontpc@btconnect.com](mailto:belmontpc@btconnect.com)

**Planning:** Reviews, considers and recommends a course of action for all planning applications related to Belmont Parish areas. Make representations to the County Council on the implementation of planning policies and practices where these affect the Parish. If there is a planning application that you have concerns about, please get in touch. The planning committee also works alongside Gilesgate Residents' Association to discuss and prepare a draft Neighbourhood plan which will cover both Belmont and the unparished areas of Gilesgate.

**Environment:** Enhances the health and wellbeing of our community through maintaining the environment, in particular – open spaces and woodlands, streets and footpaths. Promotes and supports climate, biodiversity and sustainability issues.

**Who Does What – The difference between Parish Councillor, County Councillor and MP**

<b>Parish Councillor</b>	<b>County Councillor</b>	<b>MP</b>
Deals with very local issue in your immediate area Helps with things like...	Covers larger areas and makes decisions on the following:	Represents your area at national level in Parliament. Makes decisions about:
Community events	Schools and education	The NHS
Parks and open spaces	Social care and children’s services	Benefits and welfare
The cemetery, the ‘scrambles’, the community centre	Roads and highways	Immigration and asylum
Local bins, benches and flower beds	Rubbish collection and recycling	National budgets and taxes
Planning applications	Planning applications	Planning applications
Supporting local groups and small grants	Council tax and budgets	Defence, foreign policy and international trade
Working with residents on local problems and being a voice for you at the very local level	Libraries, leisure centres and housing issues	National laws and government policy
<b>What Parish Councillors DON’T do</b>	<b>What County Councillors DON’T do</b>	<b>What MPs DON’T do</b>
Make decisions about schools, roads, social care or council tax	Make laws or national policy	Deal with local bin collections, potholes or community projects
Have control over national issues like immigration, benefits or the NHS	Control the NHS, police funding, immigration or national transport	Make decisions on planning applications or how your local park looks

**So, Remember!**

- \*If it’s to do with your local street or community: **Parish Councillor**
- \* If it’s about schools, roads or services, think **County Councillor**
- \*If it’s a national issue or law, that’s your **MP**

## Meet Your New Councillors!

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, saw the formation of a new parish council. As there were only 13 candidates who applied for 15 positions, there were no elections held this year for the parish council All 13 were duly elected and are as follows:

### Representing Belmont:

	<b>Eric Mavin</b>	<a href="mailto:Eric.mavin@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">Eric.mavin@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	<b>07507095616</b>
	<b>Stephen White</b>	<a href="mailto:Stephen.white@belmnotparishcouncil.gov.uk">Stephen.white@belmnotparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	<b>07914006465</b>
	<b>Jack Fletcher</b>	<a href="mailto:Jack.fletcher@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">Jack.fletcher@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	
	<b>Arthur Walker</b>	<a href="mailto:Arthur.walker@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">Arthur.walker@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	<b>01913846282</b>
	<b>Margaret Corrigan</b>	<a href="mailto:Margaret.corrigan@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">Margaret.corrigan@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	

### Representing Carrville

	<b>Lesley Mavin</b>	<a href="mailto:Lesley.mavin@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">Lesley.mavin@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	<b>07944471749</b>
	<b>George Chissell</b>	<a href="mailto:George.chissell@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">George.chissell@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	
	<b>David Hodgson</b>	<a href="mailto:David.hodgson@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">David.hodgson@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	
	<b>Paul Finley</b>	<a href="mailto:Paul.finley@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">Paul.finley@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	
	<b>Vacancy</b>		

### Representing Gilesgate Moor

	<b>Michael Watson</b>	<a href="mailto:Michael.watson@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">Michael.watson@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	<b>07514431196</b>
	<b>Carole Lattin</b>	<a href="mailto:Carole.lattin@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">Carole.lattin@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	<b>07813937725</b>
	<b>Teresa Coll</b>	<a href="mailto:Teresa.coll@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">Teresa.coll@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	
	<b>Richard Hornby</b>	<a href="mailto:Richard.hornby@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk">Richard.hornby@belmontparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	
	<b>Vacancy</b>		

**Parish Clerk Mrs S. Overton 0191 386 0664**

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