

Minutes of Belmont Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th March 2014

at 6:00pm in Belmont Community Centre

Present: Chair Councillor D. J. Southwell, Vice – Chair G. Robinson Lundy, Councillors T. Charlton, P. Conway K. Corrigan, B. Howarth, S. Inglis, J. Knight, E. Mavin, L. Mavin, R. Murphy, B. Muylaert, D. Waggot, A C Walker

Late apologies were received from Councillors P. Conway, L. Mavin and PC C Johnson (Sherburn Police)

Also Present: Mr N. Cooper (Cooper Stott Solicitors)
PC 1234 Johnson
(Wardens) B. Weavill, R. Cornwell
S. Clifford, A. Stevens (Belmont Community School)
Mrs C. Atkinson (Clerk)
Mrs S. Overton (Clerical Assistant)
(Public) 2)

13.187 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor J. Corrigan,

13.188 **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.

Declarations of Interest were received from Councillor D Waggott regarding (Land Registry) she had taken advice, gave no opinion.

Declarations of Interest were received from Councillor B Howarth regarding Belmont School.

Councillor P Conway declared an interest in any planning matters.

The Chairman imposed standing orders

13.189 **Presentation of Solicitor (Brookside Land)**

Nigel Cooper from Cooper Stott Solicitors reported that Mr Nelson would

- Withdraw his objection on the basis that there is a transfer to him of a portion of land sufficient to park a car (preferred width of 10 feet)
- The transfer would be subject to a covenant:
not to develop the land
- Mr Nelson is prepared to pay the sum of £2000.00 as consideration to the Council
- Mr Nelson would bear the legal costs of conveyancing the land

- Mr Nelson would fence off the agreed measurements strip of land at his cost

Solicitor advised that the offer should be **accepted** as Mr Nelson is confident that there is sufficient evidence to show that Parish Council has not had exclusive possession for the requisite period.

Councillor J. Knight raised concerns, why information wasn't handed out prior to the Parish Council Meeting.

Chairman D.J. Southwell explained that the information was too sensitive.

The Chair Suspended Standing orders

A member of the Public raised the concern that Belmont Parish Council had consistently maintained the land from 1994 to the present time and anything prior to that was irrelevant.

Councillor Conway raised concerns of ownership exclusivity and solicitors judgement. Nigel Cooper explained that the Parish Council would have had to take exclusive ownership of the land with fencing complete, he said in his opinion that the party that loses would pay the cost which would not be financially viable to the Parish Council.

Councillor B. Howarth queried the suggestion of imposing a covenant before the Parish Council receives the land granting title possession to the land.

The Parish Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer advised the council that it would be a substantial cost to Belmont Parish Council as Mr Nelson was **not** going to change his mind and advised that members should consider carefully whether or not to accept the offer based on the advice given by the solicitor Mr N. Cooper.

Proposed: by Vice-Chair G. Robinson-Lundy the council to take solicitors advice and not risk losing the case.

Seconded: by Councillor A.C. Walker

10 votes for

3 against

1 abstention

The Chairman D.J. Southwell Suspended Standing Orders

A member of the public raised concerns that there was probably other areas of land in Belmont with a similar problem.

The Chairman D.J. Southwell Re-imposed Standing Orders

13.190

Belmont School Presentation

Anita Steven and Stacy Clifford from Belmont Community School gave a short presentation on why they would like funding for a pair of rugby practice posts as only one post left. Councillor D.J. Southwell proposed a donation of £620.00 which was

seconded by Councillor D Waggott.

13.191 **Miscellaneous Reports**

PC Johnson attended the meeting at 6.15 p.m.

(a) Police

(1) Thefts- An arrest was made in January, the person in question has been remanded in custody awaiting trial subsequently there has been no reports of vehicles been broken into in the parish area.

(2) Burglary – There was one reported burglary in Beechdale Road no suspects at this time.

(3) Criminal Damage – There was one report of criminal damage to door in Cheveley Park Shops. There were no suspects at this time

(4) Anti-Social Behaviour – There were twelve reports of anti-social behaviour in Belmont/Carrville, two in - Gilesgate Moor – youths causing a nuisance.

The date of the next PACT meeting to be confirmed.

Councillor S Inglis raised a concern over house disturbance by students in the early hours in Gilesgate Moor.

Councillor S Inglis raised the concern of a resident at a recent PACT meeting in Carrville and the resident resides in Gilesgate Moor.

The Chair thanked the police.

(b) Community Warden

Concerns were raised over youths and anti-social behaviour in the evening hours, PCSO presence would be enforced to help combat this issue.

Dog fouling – Concerns were raised over dog fouling in the area, Wardens were aware of this issue and were targeting suspect areas i.e. early morning and early evening (popular dog walking times). Signs on lampposts with the fixed penalty warning are currently in operation. Councillor Knight enquired how does the process move from the owners not picking it up. Wardens to approach offenders and give them a fixed penalty which has to be paid in fourteen days or offenders will be taken to court. Wardens have investigated twenty one reports of dog fouling and issued one fixed penalty notice for dog fouling, also removed ten stray dogs.

Councillor Howarth raised the concern if you have no witness statement is their manpower for monitoring. Wardens can monitor but not over a long period of time as they cover such a large area. Councillor Mavin was pleased fixed penalties were being given out but were there any given within the parish?. The Warden replied he couldn't comment how many but would speak to his line division on the matter.

Littering – There have been three reports of littering and twenty one fixed penalty notices for littering this month.

Fly-tipping – There have been one hundred and thirty two incidents of fly-tipping this month, fifty nine investigations into these incidents in order to find any evidence to link the the fly tipping to those who dumped it.

Untidy yards and gardens – There were no advisory letters or litter clearing notices this month.

Councillor Mavin raised the concern of graffitti on Lamorna Bridge the Warden said here were currently four Wardens involved with fly tipping investigations Mobile phone number 07795497796.

(c) Members of the Public

Concerns were raised from a member of the public in relation to students causing a disturbance in the early hours of the morning.

At a recent PACT meeting a resident had raised concerns of abuse from local school children in the area and in the local supermarket

The Chair thanked the Wardens for attending.

The Chairman re- imposed standing orders

13.192 Planning matters

Obtained from Durham County Council Planning Department for February 2014.

1. Letter from Durham County Council (Plot 18 Land at Ramside Hall) received application 20/2/2014 comments by 13/3/2014
2. Letter from Durham County Council (Willowtree Avenue)views will be taken into account.

13.193 To Confirm and Sign as a Correct Record Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Thursday 6th February 2014 at 6:30pm
Minutes attached.*

13.194 Clerks Report

(a) Letters were forwarded/Received from:

- (1) Freeman Solicitor (Deeds for Belmont Scrambles received)
- (2) L Harlendson (North Durham Community Engagement Project) Thank You.
- (3) Cooper Stott Solicitors
- (4) Mr K Neat (Friends of Belmont Scrambles)
- (5) Durham Diocesan Registry (Cemetery Consecration)
- (6) Great North Air Ambulance (Thank you for Donation)
- (7) Haswell and District Mencap (Thank you).

(b) E-mails received from:

- (1)Councillor J Knight registered for nomination to Area Action Partnership
- (2)(Mr S Ragg)

(c) Correspondence Table Items:

(0)

(d) Tenders (Cheveley Park Play Area)

Agreed: to refer to Finance Working Party then to be ratified by the Parish Council

(e) 21 Cheveley Walk (Trees)

(f) **55 and 21** Moor Crescent (trees)

Action: items e/f were forwarded to Streetscene at Durham County Council

13.195 **Matters Arising**

13.196 **Risk Management**

Members please note:- this is a standard item. Risk Management has been considered when compiling these notes for November 2013 meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to Members.

None

13.197 **Finance Matters**

Finance documents outlining Receipts and Payment of Accounts.

(a) To receive receipts and payments of Accounts from January 29th – February 26th 2014

(b) To Consider Donation Requests

(1) Minute No:13.4 Belmont School

(c) Membership and Subscriptions

(0)

13.198 **Cemetery Reports**

(a) To receive the report of Burials during the month of February 2014

(1) Mr K Henderson KK 8 Stuart Wright

(2) J Green PP 9 Co-op

(b) To receive the report of Grave & Ashes Purchases during the month of February 2014

(0)

(c) To Consider Memorial Erection and Additional Inscription Applications

(0)

(d) Ashes interred in Burial Plots February 2014

(0)

(e) **Received:** Borthwick Memorial Infidelity Insurance and BRAMMS Specifications

13.199 **Dogs not kept on leads/Dog fouling**
Councillor Howarth looked at signage, meeting of Playground Development Committee to be arranged.

13.200 **Dog Bins**
Councillor Mavin requested a dog bin at the entrance to Cheveley Park School
County Councillors present agreed to look at this request.

13.201 **Leamside Lane and Network Rail**
Councillor B Howarth, K Neat and K Telford did a complete walkabout at Leamside Lane
Three tenders were required.
Elaine Crowe agreed that a PP 3 grant may be available with the other costs being incurred by the Parish Council.

Agreed: to seek three quotes for indication of costs..

Agreed: to thank Mr Telford on behalf of Parish Council

13.202 **Committee / Working Party Reports**

(a) **Playground Development Committee information**
To be arranged

(b) **Planting Scheme Working Party Information**
A report was given on tubs from Gilesgate Moor.
Councillor Knight attended a recent Area Action Partnership meeting in which wild flowers were discussed and appropriate locations in which to plant them.

(c) **Cemetery Working Party Information**
A meeting was requested and a report was received regarding repairs to cemetery wall.

Agreed: to test two materials and to report back with results.

(d) **Friends of Belmont Scrambles Group Information**
Councillor Howarth raised concern regarding a fallen tree.

Agreed: for Mr E Malarkey to remove tree from the woodland.

(e) **Parish Plan Steering Group Information**
No meeting held.

- (f) Planning Committee
No meeting held.
- (g) Finance Working Party
No meeting held.
- (h) Personnel & Training Advisory Panel
No meeting held.
- (I) Asset Task Group
No meeting held.
- (j) Quality Parish Status
No meeting held.
- (k) Jubilee Working Party
Councillor Mavin reported that Debbie Maude was working on plans.

13.203

Ward Councillors Report

(a) Belmont Ward

Councillor Mavin reported he was going to contact SMP Playgrounds regarding repairs to a basket used by young children.

(b) Gilesgate Moor Ward

It was reported that Moor Crescent resurfacing is due to finish in two to three weeks. High Grange residents complained of bollards at entrance and concerns were raised how long would they be staying there. Councillor Conway reported that this was only a temporary measure

(c) Carrville Ward

Councillor Knight reported incidence of motorbike nuisance racing up and down roads in the area.

A local resident raised a concern with Councillor B Howarth regarding state of three trees on grass verge outside of her house which is in close proximity to local club. They are in a poor condition and do not provide adequate screening from people coming and going from the club.

13.204

Any Other Business

Next Meeting – Thursday 3rd April 2014 at 6.30 p.m. To be held at Belmont Community Centre.

Date: _____

Chairman: _____