

**Minutes of Belmont Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at  
6:30pm In Belmont Community Centre.**

**Present:** Chairman Councillor D. J. Southwell, Vice-Chair Councillor R. Murphy, Councillors T. Charlton, P. Conway, K. Corrigan, J. Knight, B. Howarth, S. Inglis, E. Mavin, B. Muylaert,

**Also Present:** Shirley Overton (Clerical Assistant) Members of the Public (2)

**15.80 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors J. Corrigan, L. Mavin, G. Robinson-Lundy, D. Waggott and A.C. Walker.

Apologies were also received from Police, Wardens and Parish Clerk

**15.81 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 Councillors K. Corrigan and P. Conway regarding planning matters.

**15.82 Miscellaneous Reports**

**(a) Police**

There were no police present.

**(b) Community Warden**

There was no warden present, a report was e-mailed to all Councillors.

**(c) Members of the Public**

There were two members of the public present.

**The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.**

A member of the public enquired why there was no police presence at the meeting. The Chairman asked Councillor P. Conway to approach the police regarding this matter.

**Agreed:**

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the Bett Homes development regarding Public Rights of Way and the removal of trees at the end of High Grange Estate. Councillor P. Conway responded empathising with the residents' concerns over levels of development, contamination issues and Rights of Way. A3 copies of maps were now with Councillor B. Howarth, Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal Department and Stephen Reed. Councillor P. Conway is seeking a meeting with Bett Homes saying residents may be able to resolve some of the issues with the Managing Director of Bett Homes. Councillor B. Howarth asked that the Parish Council should request that full attention be given to maps lodged at the Legal Department County Hall. This was agreed.

The maps handed to Councillor B. Howarth were passed to the Chairman for Parish Council reference.

**The Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.**

**15.83 Wantage Road, Feedback**

Councillor P. Conway said there is going to be a further meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> at County Hall at 7:00pm Letters are going out to all residents in the area inviting them to attend. Councillor B. Howarth requested that the information should be put on the parish website, noticeboards and reported in the parish newsletter, though this would not be delivered in time to give notice of the meeting

**15.84 Broomside Lane**

This item will be part of presentation regarding Wantage Road and the surrounding area on 12<sup>th</sup> October at 7:00pm In County Hall.

**15.85 Planning Matters\***

Obtained from Durham County Council Planning Department for September 2015  
Councillor B. Howarth gave a planning report to members (see attached)\*

**Received and Agreed:**

**15.86 To Confirm and Sign as a Correct Record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015**

Minutes attached. \*

Amendments

15.76 from Parish Hall to Belmont St.Mary Magdalene Parish Church Council.

15.79 from 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

**Received and Agreed:.**

**15.87 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda**

**15.88 Matters of Information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – For Information \***

**(a) Letters/E-mails sent, received**

(1) Letters/E-mails sent, received

(2) The Planning Inspectorate

(3) Powers of Competence

(4) 69<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting CDALC

(5) Northumbria in Bloom correspondence

(6) E-mail Councillor Conway Scrambles/ Playground equipment.

(7) Works information letter to Funeral Services

(8) Planning letter to Alan Fenwick Durham County Council (Angerstein Court)

(9) Letter to C. Atkinson Acceptance/Rejection form by hand – regarding Employment Contract 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015

(10) Letter to C. Atkinson by hand regarding meeting with Chairman and Durham County Council Officer from HR regarding Contract from the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015.

**(b) Correspondence Tabled Items:**

(1) Grass Roots (Community News)

(2) Clerks Magazine

**Agreed:**

**15.89 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 2014 meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

**Agreed:**

**15.90 Financial Matters\***

Finance documents outlining Receipts and Payment of Accounts September 2015.

**(a) Receipts and payments of Accounts from April – end of September 2015  
Bank Reconciliation Account, End of September, 2015**

**(b) Donation Requests**

(0)

**(c) Membership and Subscriptions**

(0)

**Received and Agreed**

**15.91 Cemetery Reports\***

**(a) To Receive the report of Burials during the month of September 2015**

Edith May Shotton      HH 4      Stuart Wright Funeral Services  
New double

Arthur Graham Webb      2a      Stuart Wright Funeral Services  
New ashes

**(b) Grave & Ashes Purchases during the month of September 2015**

(5)

**(c) Memorial Erection and Additional Inscription Applications during the month of September 2015**

(3)

**(d) Ashes interred in Burial plots September 2015**

(0)

**Received and Agreed:**

**15.92 Responsible Dog Owner Campaign**

Report by Chairman

**15.93 Northumbria in Bloom Feedback**

Councillor Muylaert gave a report saying the Northumbria in Bloom Awards had done very well in the judging. The Chairman thanked the Planting Scheme Working Party and Mr E. Malarkey for their hard work throughout the year.

**Agreed:** to send Mr. E. Malarkey a thank you card for his hard work

**15.94 Pension Regulator**

Full explanation by Chairman Councillor D.J. Southwell.

**15.95 General Power of Competence**

Full explanation by Chairman Councillor D.J. Southwell.

**15.96 Senior Citizens Christmas Party (catering arrangements)**

Councillors R. Murphy, J. Knight and B. Howarth met with the Deputy Head to discuss catering arrangements for the Senior Citizens Christmas Party to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The school has kindly offered to provide the food and drink free of charge. Councillor J.Knight suggested that a donation be made to the Friends of Belmont School as a thank you for their generosity. Members agreed that a raffle should be included in the party and for Vice-Chair Councillor R. Murphy to be involved with this.

**Agreed:**

(a) Donate £200.00 to Friends of Belmont School.

(b) Purchase raffle prizes, total value £150.00 plus donations from members of council.

- (c) Councillor Murphy to write a letter of gratitude to Head Teacher at Belmont Community School for their support for the Christmas Party.
- (d) There will be a plated selection of food available and it was agreed that when bookings are made residents should be asked if they have any special dietary requirements, and told that the school cannot guarantee 'nut-free'.
- (e) Councillor E. Mavin confirmed transport arrangements and residents need to be asked if they require transport. Name, address and telephone contact number needs to be taken in each case.

**15.97 Committee / Working Party Reports**

**(a) Asset Task Group**

There was nothing to report.

**(b) Cemetery Working Party Information**

Notes of Cemetery Working Party site visit on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 submitted.

**(c) Finance Working Party**

There was nothing to report.

**(d) Friends of Belmont Scrambles Group Information**

Councillor Howarth reported on behalf of K. Neat, the meadow has now been cut.

Councillor B. Howarth reported damage to one of the woodland chicanes and suggested that the Friends of Belmont Scrambles would probably be willing to repair it but she asked if the Parish Council would be willing to pay for the wood. This was agreed.

Councillor B. Howarth suggested that Mr. E. Malarkey should be thanked for giving the farmer's details to the Parish Council and for his continued input to all environmental projects.

**(e) Newsletter Group**

The draft newsletter, being prepared by Councillor L. Mavin, to to sent to Whites Printers.

**(f) Planning Committee**

Councillor B. Howarth gave a detailed report which is attached.

**(g) Planting Scheme Working Party Information**

Councillor B. Muylaert reported that this year's calendars were in progress.

The Beautiful Durham Awards were coming up shortly.

Councillor B. Muylaert suggested planting wild flowers on the roundabout at Carrville Interchange would make an attractive feature.

A full report was given on our success in Northumbria in Bloom.

Belmont Parish Council obtaining Silver Gilt and Overall Category Winner

Special Award for Belmont Allotments, Gold

Belmont Scrambles, Silver

Ramside Hall was crowned Overall Category Winner with a Gold Standard.

**(h) Playground Development Committee information**

Extra monies will be required to finance the additional works in our playground areas and Councillor D.J. Southwell asked County Councillor P. Conway if any 106 monies could be made available? Councillor P. Conway asked if Councillor E. Mavin would give him the costings of the additional works for the three County Councillors to give consideration for any finance to be made available. Councillor E. Mavin gave a report on the playgrounds (see attached)

Councillor D.J. Southwell reported that Mr. E. Malarkey has completed the paintwork in the playground areas.

**Agreed:**

**(i) Personnel & Training Advisory Panal**

A meeting was held with the Internal Auditor which went very well. The Parish Clerks new Contract was discussed with members.

**Agreed:**

**15.98 Ward Councillors**

**Belmont**

Councillor B. Muylaert reported water on road constantly running in corner of grass verge at Belmont Library.

**Agreed:** Councillor K. Corrigan to look into the problem as this is regarded as a Durham County Council matter.

**Carrville**

Councillor Howarth raised concerns of levels of noise from the Ramside Hotel. Councillor P. Conway agreed to follow-up regarding the matter.

**Gilesgate Moor**

Councillor Inglis raised concerns regarding unkempt land opposite Marshall Terrace  
Concerns were raised over overgrown bushes on the paths from Moor Crescent through to Bradford Crescent which was causing pedestrians to walk onto the road to avoid them, causing a Health and Safety issue. Councillor Conway to speak to Joe Peat to cut back bushes.

A contractor had been advertising his business on trees at Deans Walk, the fliers have since been taken down.

A report of garden equipment being stolen in the early hours of the morning from Cypress Grove. An intruder entered a resident's garage.

**15.99 Any Other Items of Interest to Note or for Inclusion on the next Agenda.**

**Date and time of next Meeting –Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 6.30pm to be held at Belmont Community Centre**

**Belmont Community Centre**

- (1) Wantage Road Area feedback.
- (2) Responsible Dog Owner Campaign.
- (3) Annual Return Audit 2014/2015.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_