

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on Thursday 6th April 2017
at 6:30pm in Belmont Community Centre.**

Present: Chairman Councillor D.J. Southwell, Vice-Chair Councillor R. Murphy,
Councillors: T. Charlton, P. Conway, B. Howarth, S. Inglis, J. Knight, E. Mavin, L. Mavin,
B. Muylaert and A.C. Walker.

Also present: Mrs S. Overton (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public (3)

National Trust Representative

A minute's silence was observed by all councillors regarding the closure of the Durham Light Infantry Museum and respect for the fallen.

16.195 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from K. Corrigan and G. Lundy.

Received and Agreed.

16.196 To Receive Declarations of Interest.

Declarations of Interest were received from County Councillor P. Conway for Planning and Belmont Community Association) and Councillor B. Howarth for Belmont Community Association.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.

16.197 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports

(a) Police.

Apologies were received from the Police; a report was forwarded to the parish office which was circulated to all members at the meeting.

(b) Community Warden.

There was no warden present.

(c) Members of the Public.

A concern was raised regarding the unprofessional manner of the Judge at the recent Stopping Up Order hearing in Durham Family Court at which the Chairman, Councillor D.J. Southwell, Parish Clerk Mrs S. Overton and a number of residents were present.

This matter to be discussed under a separate agenda item.

A member of the public queried if a road traffic accident involving a motorbike had been registered by the Police in the Gilesgate Moor area, County Councillor P. Conway to inquire

A member of the public raised a concern about speeding on Willowtree Avenue. It was discussed at length and explanations were made to the member of public.

16.198 Outcome of Stopping up Order.

The Chairman Councillor D.J. Southwell agreed with members of the public who had been present at the Stopping Up Order hearing that the Judge had not given members of the public or himself sufficient time to put forward their concerns. The Chairman D.J. Southwell said that the Parish Council had to accept the outcome of the hearing, however there was a route to go down where the Judge can be called to account without any cost or legal implications for the Parish Council.

County Councillor Patrick Conway advised that any complaints should have been raised at the time of the hearing.

Chairman Councillor D.J. Southwell looked for support to move forward on the conduct of the Judge at no extra cost to the Parish Council.

Agreed.

The Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.

16.199 National Trust Representative

A representative from the National Trust spoke about a project they are currently doing in which they would like to ask permission to take young people to the Scrambles so that they could get involved with the work of the National Trust. The Chairman said that he had no objection but if students are doing physical work it could be classed as high risk. County Councillor P. Conway said the initiative should be applauded

Access would be given for young people if supervised and public liability is the responsibility of the school and the National Trust. The National Trust to send a letter to the Parish Clerk with what progress is being made and feedback would be given at the full council meeting in May.

The Chairman thanked the representative for attending the meeting.

Agreed:

16.200 To Consider and Make Comment on Planning Matters*.

Councillor Howarth gave a report on Planning Applications for the month of March 2017. Councillor J. Knight Councillor Howarth for her thorough work with regards to Planning Members were informed that a planning application regarding the Gabion Wall would be coming in and this would be going to Durham County Council Planning Committee.

Received and Agreed.

16.201 To Confirm and Sign as a Correct Record Minutes of the Meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 2nd March 2017, Minutes attached *.

Agreed.

16.202 To Receive Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda.

16.190 – Councillor J. Knight queried that as the flower budget has been cut by £2,000.00 for 2017/2017, does that mean that the Parish Council doesn't want to help with the wild flower sites. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council would help if possible but would have to live within budget.

16.191 – County Councillor P. Conway has raised the issue with Public Health regarding poor air quality from the nearby A1 Motorway reporting that at this current time there are no plans to take an air quality test, public exposure has to involve exposure over an hour. Councillor J. Knight thought a letter should be sent to the relevant department (Environmental Health Department) from the Parish Council.

16.192 - (b) Asset Task Group – Councillor J. Knight commented that the Asset task list bears no reality to value of actual assets (the Chair explained to Councillor Knight he knew the reasons regarding the value of actual assets as understood by the National Audit)

16.193 – Carrville – Vice-Chair Councillor R. Murphy reported that the slats on the seat outside Belmont Library have still not been addressed which she had previously reported on the new doitonline service for Durham County Council, also a concern regarding an overflowing dog bin had been reported.

16.203 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – For Information*.

1. Confirmation of receipt of completed PP3 Application form from Public Rights of Way Department Durham County Council.
2. Email from Stuart Clasper (Open Space Development and Projects Officer, Clean and Green) Durham County Council, saying the Beautiful Durham Competition is now open to enter.
3. A concern was raised by a resident regarding youths on motorbikes riding around on the Scrambles small meadow, she called the Police who duly arrived but all they did was to tell them to be careful.
4. Order of confirmation from Gresswell for Display Tower Showcase with storage.
5. Email from a resident has been received regarding the fencing issue at the railway embankment, it was agreed to arrange a meeting with the resident to discuss the matter.
6. Beautiful Durham entry form has now been posted.
7. Letter of congratulations to Chief Constable Mike Barton Durham Police and members of Durham Constabulary for being identified as the top performing police force in the country again this year.
8. E-Mail received from Treasurer of Belmont Community Association regarding the recently condemned boiler in Belmont Community Centre during its Annual Service. He enquired if the Parish Council was in a position to make a contribution towards the cost of a new boiler.
9. A letter of thanks from the Great North Air Ambulance regarding the recent donation of £63.00 from the proceeds of the Children's Art Calendars.
10. The display cabinet for Belmont Library has now been ordered, after a recent meeting in Belmont Library with Durham County Council representative Louise Smith, Library Operations Officer, Durham County Council, Chairman D.J. Southwell, Councillor J. Knight and Mrs S. Overton (Parish Clerk) it was agreed that a tower display cabinet with storage would be the most suitable option.

The representative from the National Trust left the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

Received and Agreed.

16.204 To Consider Risk Management in relation to Items on the Agenda.
Received and Agreed.

16.205 To Consider Financial Matters*.

- (a) Finance documents outlining Receipts and payments of Accounts during the month of March.
- (b) Bank Reconciliation Statement for March 2017.

(c) Donation request from Beautiful Durham Competition 2017 - **Agreed: £50.00**

Children's Foundation - **Agreed: £50.00**

A Grant was agreed to the Belmont Community Centre Association of £1000.00 towards the cost of a boiler.

Agreed.

County Councillor P. Conway and Councillors B. Howarth and J. Knight Declared an Interest.

16.205 (1) Annual Governance Statement 2016/2017 - Approved

16.205 (2) Accounting Statement 2016/2017 – Approved.

Councillor B.Howarth thanked the Chairman and the Parish Clerk for their work with regards to the finance.

Received and Agreed.

16.206 To Consider and Make Comment on Cemetery Reports*.

(a) To Receive the report of Burials during the month of March 2017

Margaret Oliver	Pre-purchased New Double B 622 Section G	Stuart Wright Funeral Services
Robert Sloanes	D 664 Section G Re-open	Stuart Wright Funeral Services
Neil Fingleton	Pre purchased new double HH 15 Section B	Stuart Wright Funeral Services

(3)

(b) To Receive the report of Grave & Ashes Purchases of March 2017

John Edwin Dickenson new ashes 12 a

(1)

(c) To Consider Memorial Erection and Additional Inscription Applications during the month of March 2017

Mary Robinson	Headstone NN 8 Section B	Cleveland Monumental
Patricia Rose Leckenby	Inscription Y 6 ashes	Scott Memorials
Charles Bede Burnside	Headstone Q1 Section C	Scott Memorials
Basil Pearson Mellon	Inscription I 115 Section R	Scott Memorials

Jeffrey Grafton Allison Replacement Headstone Ian Wood Memorials
CS 11 Section C

John Hamilton NN 10 Section B Scott Memorials

(6)

d) Ashes interred in Burial Plots during the month of March 2017

Basil Pearson Mellon 115 Section R Stuart Wright Funeral Services
Burial of ashes in a burial
plot (re-open)

(1)

Received and Agreed.

16.207 Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

An e-mail has been received from Ian Hoult regarding fenced off play areas to be added to the list of parks which will be subject to a Public Space Protection Order(PSPO). This would help reduce dog fouling and other related issues. The Clerk to e-mail Ian Hoult with a list of our fenced off play areas to be added to the list.

16.208 Natural England Claim Form.

The Clerk to complete and post the form as soon as possible.

16.209 Beautiful Durham Competition 2017 Donation.

Agreed: £50.00

16.210 Children's Foundation Donation Request.

Agreed:£50.00

16.211 Asset List

The Asset List was received and agreed.

16.212 To Receive Working Party Reports.

(a) Asset Task Group

No meeting held this month.

The Asset Register was given as a hand-out to all members.

(b) Cemetery Working Party

A site visit was held on Monday 20th March 2017 at 9:30 am – see attached notes *

There has been several comments from residents regarding the pristine condition of Belmont Cemetery at this present time, Mr E. Malarkey, (North East Site Maintenance) our cemetery contractor works extremely hard to maintain high standards in the cemetery which is appreciated by all who visit.

The Chairman D.J. Southwell met with a resident to discuss the situation of a grave and a future surround and reported that the resident went away satisfied.

Councillor B. Howarth reminded the Parish Clerk that a concern regarding two graves still need addressing and needed to be addressed with the next new council.

(c) Finance Working Party

No meeting held this month.

(d) Friends of Belmont Scrambles Group Information

A report from Mr. Ken Neat (Friends of Belmont Scrambles) has been forwarded to the parish office.

(e) Parish Newsletter

No meeting held this month.

(f) Personnel & Training Advisory Panel

A meeting was held on Thursday 23rd March 2017 – see attached notes*

(g) Planning Committee

No meeting held this month.

(h) Planting Scheme Working Party

The Chairman of the Planting Scheme Working Party reported that the judges had been very impressed with this year's entries for Northumbria in Bloom.

The Chairman D.J. Southwell praised the Planting Scheme Working Party for all their hard work during the past year.

(i) Playground Development Committee information

No meeting held this month.

For information purposes – In Poplar Road play area the tarmac has now been completed, the dog grill removed and a gate installed.

Councillor J. Knight reported that there was some rubbish left on the grass in front of the play area left by the Contractors, Councillor E. Mavin to look into the matter.

Councillor J. Knight queried why the work in the play areas was taking so long to complete. Councillor Mavin responded saying that's just the way it happens.

(j) Area Action Partnership (AAP)

A report was forwarded to the Parish Office for information purposes from Councillor J. Knight.

(k) National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

No report was given.

Received and Agreed.

16.213 To Receive Reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

A concern was raised over a continued problem of a missing dog bin in Rennys Lane near the Warwickshire Drive exit, previously reported in January. Councillor P.Conway to look into the matter.

Vice-Chair Councillor R. Murphy reported that tree work recently done in Rennys Lane had been carried out by Savilles on behalf of the Church Commissioners if residents have a problem with future trees they can contact Savilles to discuss their concerns. Councillor Murphy said the work on the trees had been sensitively done.

Carrville

A concern over a dog bin between Carrville High Street and Broome Road was raised, Councillor P. Conway to look into it.

The Chairman has asked the local authority refuse collectors to look at emptying bins in the church yard at Mary Magdalene Church, Belmont as the lady from the Church now doesn't empty them.

A concern was raised regarding a delivery van parking on the pedestrian crossing outside the Chemist at the Blue House shopping Centre.

Councillor Knight raised a concern that he had recently received a fake five pound note and was making members aware of the situation.

Gilesgate Moor

Councillor J.Corrigan raised a concern of a student bar in operation in the Gilesgate Moor area, which she thinks permission hasn't been applied for.

A concern was raised regarding paths in Deans Row about to lift due to water from a burst pipe.

A concern was raised regarding delivery vans parking and mounting on footpath outside the paper shop, County Councillor P. Conway to visit the shop owners.

16.214 Any Other Business, Date of Next Meeting Thursday 11th May 2017 at 6:00pm in Belmont Community Centre

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Councillor D. Waggott thanked the Chairman and all councillors during her time as a Parish Councillor.

Councillor B. Howarth thanked the Chairman D.J. Southwell for all his hard work throughout the past year.

Vice-Chair R. Murphy also thanked the Chairman for all his hard work and passion with the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk thanked the Chairman for his valued support throughout the year.