

**Minutes of the Belmont Parish Council held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019**  
**at 6:30pm in Belmont Community Centre.**

Present: Vice- Chair Councillor R. Murphy (Chairman for this meeting), Councillors J. Appleby, E.B. Finlay, C.A. Fletcher, B. Howarth, S. Inglis and S. Lowes.

Members of the Public (4)  
Neighbourhood Wardens (2)

19.51 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Chairman, Councillor D.J. Southwell, P.T. Finley, C.A. Lattin, T.A. Lemmon, M. Watson, E.S. Mavin, L. Mavin and J.J. Wildheart.

**Received.**

19.52 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 Chairman suspended Standing Orders**

19.53 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

A report has been circulated to Councillors for information.

A concern was raised regarding gangs of youths congregating in Moorfield celebrating end of term from school.

It was reported that Cheveley Park shops had issues with anti-social behaviour and drugs, the Police advised people to ring 101 with regards anything untoward.

(b) Community Warden.

A report was given regarding various issues in the parish in relation to dog fouling, abandoned vehicles, untidy yards, anti-social behaviour etc.

A concern raised regarding properties in Wynyard Grove not having their grass cut by Durham County Council, this has been looked into by Councillor EM who reported it was the owners responsibility to cut the grass as each property is privately owned.

(c) Members of the Public.

A member of the public made comment that in retrospect it would have been simpler to widen the existing carriageway at the junction at Tesco Traffic lights carriageway so that drivers had a dedicated turning either left, right or in the middle to alleviate current issues with gridlock.

A concern was raised by a resident saying she had contacted the police regarding youths jumping into her garden allegedly under the influence of alcohol. It was suggested that a detached youth worker could be deployed to engage with the youths.

A concern was raised by a resident regarding a road sign in Gloucestershire Road which

had been taken down whilst building work was being done on a nearby property. An update was given to the resident saying that a replacement sign is in progress and would soon be resolved.

A concern was raised regarding Rennys Lane needing attention with litter, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council.

The Chairman thanked the Wardens for their report

The Wardens left the meeting at 6.45 pm

The member of the public left at 19.05

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

Two members of the public left at 19.10 pm,

#### 19.54 To Consider and Make Comment on Planning Matters\*.

Weekly Planning List for June 2019 – tabled at the meeting

The Chairman of the planning committee drew attention to the following applications:

DM/19/01880/FPA: Evans Halshaw, Gilesgate Moor Durham DH1 2HN – Two display areas with 5 no. spotlights.

DM/19/01881/AD: Evans Halshaw, Gilesgate Moor, Durham DH1 2HN – Advert consent including several illuminated fascias and displays.

Having reviewed the application it was agreed that we should express concern at the potential level of luminosity and possible spread of illumination which could be detrimental to the amenity of nearby residents in providence Place and Belle View Terrace. The delegated officer to be made aware of our concerns, particularly with regard to the 5 spot lights.

Other applications on the list were reviewed briefly and thought not to require any Parish Council action.

DM/19/01234/FPA: Land East of Unit A, Damson Way, Dragonville, Durham DH1 2YD – Demolition of former garage and construction of link road (between Renny's Lane and Damson Way). Construction of new retail unit (Use Class A1 (shops) with ancillary A3 (food and drink)) and construction of signalised junction (A181 Sherburn Road and Damson Way).

Notice had been received that the above application was to go to DCC Planning Committee on Tuesday 9th July 2019.

It was agreed that the Chairman of the P C Planning Committee should speak against the proposals for the reasons agreed at the Special Planning Committee held on 8th May 2019 and in our subsequent letter of objection of 10th May 2019 (can be viewed at the Parish Office).

**BELMONT PARK AND RIDE ACCESS ROAD – PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT BUSES AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES ORDER 2013 (AMENDMENT NO1) ORDER 2019**

This amended to prohibit electric vehicles and become buses only primarily for safety reasons.

The Chairman thanked Councillor BH for her report.

19.55 To Confirm and Sign as a Correct Record of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Minutes attached \*.  
**Agreed.**

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

19.37 Member of the Public Pg 1 – For information Belmont Community Association have now submitted a formal Neighbourhood Budget application regarding a proposal for a defibrillator outside the Community Centre. Further information will be available at a future date.

19.41 – Any other Business PG 2 – It was reported that a recent meeting had taken place between Ramside Estates, the Chairman of Belmont Parish Council and Councillor CF relating to a former 106 Agreement offering free golf lessons to local schools in the Parish. It was decided to finalise arrangements with those schools involved in September after school exams and SATS were finished.

**Received.**

Member of the Public left the meeting at 19:20pm

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

1. Thank you letters have been sent to Belmont Library and The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham County Councillor Katie Corrigan BA (Hons) regarding the recent Childrens Art Competition Awards Ceremony held on Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> in Belmont Library. An e-mail to be sent to the Northern Echo thanking the photographer for her attendance also.

2. Several residents are complaining about parking issues in Belmont Community Centre car park, this item to be discussed under agenda item 19.11.

3. A concern was raised from a resident regarding a skip on Broomside Lane land and the state of the fence near the pit tub. The skip has since been removed and the fence will be done in the near future the resident was happy with the prompt response.

4. Please note that financial papers for July and August will be available at the next Full Parish Council meeting to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**Received.**

19.58 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 July 2019 meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

**Agreed.**

19.59 To Consider and Make Comment on Cemetery Reports.

(a) To Receive the report of Burials during the month of June 2019.

(2)

(b) To Receive the report of Grave & Ashes Purchases during the month of June 2019.

(2)

(c) To Consider Memorial Erection and Additional Inscription Applications during the month of June 2019.

(3)

(d) Ashes interred in Burial Plots during the month of June 2019.

(0)

**Received.**

19.60 To Approve Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

see attached \*

The suggested amendments for the Cemetery Rules and Regulations were handed to Councillors for approval.

**Received and Agreed.**

The Chair of the Cemetery Working Party gave a report which included issues with certain plots overgrown with shrubs and rose bushes. A suggestion to place a sign near the water butt in the cemetery clarifying Cemetery Rules and Regulations, what is not permitted.

**Agreed:** to look at costings for signage and report back to the 5th September Full Parish meeting.

19.61 To Discuss Parking Issues in Belmont Community Centre Car Park.

A report was forwarded by County Councillor EM who said he had written to the Agents of Durham City Retail Park and B & Q asking them to request their employees not to park in the centre car park. This problem has arisen as people who work in the retail park can only park their cars there for four hours. He has also contacted Durham County Council to see if they can do anything. A Belmont Community Association meeting is to take place next week where further discussion will take place.

**Agreed:** to await further comments from Councillor EM.

19.62 To Receive Working Party Reports.

(a) Appeals Committee

No meeting was held this month

(b) Asset Task Group

No meeting was held this month.

(c) Cemetery Working Party

A Cemetery Working Party was held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 9:30am in Belmont Community Centre to review the current Cemetery Rules and Regulations. see attached notes\*

This item was discussed previously under agenda item 19.10

(d) Christmas Tree Working Party.

No meeting was held this month.

(e) Complaints Procedure Committee

No meeting was held this month.

- (f) Finance Working Party  
No meeting was held this month.
- (g) Friends of Belmont Scrambles  
There was no report this month.
- (h) Parish Newsletter Working Party  
It was brought to the attention of Councillors that volunteers for delivering the current edition of the parish newsletter were particularly thin on the ground due to various reasons. A discussion took place amongst members who kindly offered to deliver extra to alleviate the problem.
- (I) Personnel and Training Advisory Panel  
No meeting was held this month.
- (j) Planning Committee  
No meeting was held this month.
- (k) Planting Scheme Working Party  
A Planting Scheme Working Party meeting was held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 9:30am in Belmont Community Centre - see attached notes\*  
A summary of the meeting was given to Councillors which included preparations for Northumbria in Bloom summer judging on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July and Nomination for Community Champion Award.
- (l) Playground Development Committee  
No meeting was held this month.
- (m) Public Arts Group  
A Public Arts Group meeting was held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 at 5:00pm in Belmont Community Centre - see attached \*
- (n) Area Action Partnership (AAP)  
A report has been circulation to Councillors.
- (o) National Association of Local Councils (NALC)  
There was nothing to report.

#### 19.63 To Receive Reports from Ward Councillors.

##### Belmont

An ongoing concern regarding parents parking their vehicles on both sides of the road in Buckinghamshire Road outside Belmont Community School .

A concern was raised regarding drug issues at Cheveley Park shops.

A concern was raised regarding trees causing Health and Safety issues behind Belmont Club near the path leading onto slip road.

Councillor MW sent a report regarding issues with cars speeding along Broomside Lane and Pittington Lane. After liaising with Pittington Parish Council to seek a joint approach, a meeting is to be arranged mid August between County Councillors, Belmont Parish Council, Pittington Parish Council and Durham Council Council Highways Officers to discuss the issue.

Carrville

There was nothing to report.

Gilesgate Moor.

A concern was raised regarding cars speeding along Willowtree Avenue.

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

Councillor BH reported that Belmont Parish Council would be entering Belmont Scrambles in the Natural Environment Category of the Environment Awards.

**Agreed:** to nominate the Chair of Belmont Scrambles for Volunteer of the Year Award.

19.65 Date of Next Meeting Thursday 5th September 2019

The meeting closed at 8:40pm