

Minutes for the Belmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th November 2021
at 6.30 pm in Belmont Community Community Centre.

Present: Chairman Councillor E.S. Mavin, Vice-Chairman Councillors C.A. Fletcher
Councillors: J. Appleby, P.J. Conway, Mrs P.S. Conway, V. Hawes, J. Knight,
C.A. Lattin, L. Mavin. K. Noble, A.P. Watkins, M. Watson and S.C. White.

Also Present: Parish Clerk S. Overton

Member of the Public (1)

21.101 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors M.P. Bennett and A.C. Walker.
RECEIVED.

21.102 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.

Councillor K. Noble declared an interest with regards to Planning Matters.
RECEIVED.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.

21.103 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

There were no police present.

(b) Community Warden.

There were no Wardens present.

(c) Members of The Public.

A concern was raised by a resident in the Links regarding the new bus routes that have recently come into force causing issues for elderly residents who cant walk far, also difficulties for the disabled and families with small children. County Councillor CF to discuss the issue with local MP.

AGREED: to write to the bus company expressing residents concerns.

The Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.

The member of the public left at 6.55 pm

- 21.104 To Consider and make Comment on Planning Matters*.
A list of Weekly Planning Applications for the month of October 2021 was e-mailed to members for information – see attached*
The Chair of the Planning Committee gave a report to councillors – see attached*
RECEIVED..
- 21.105 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 14th October 2021– Minutes attached*
AGREED.
- 21.106 To Receive Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda.
It was agreed to remove this item from future agendas.
AGREED.
- 21.107 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerk’s Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for information.
1. The Northumbria in Bloom application form for Northumbria in Bloom 2022 has been completed and emailed to the competition organisers. A cheque for £200.00 will be posted out separately.
2. The parish office received a phone call from an elderly resident who lives in Coronation Avenue, Carrville. The resident said that on a weekend there is regularly someone loitering in her garden in the early hours of the morning. The concern has been forwarded onto the PCSO for further action.
3. The Clerk informed Councillors that repair work to the wet pour at Cheveley Park Play area will commence on Wednesday 17th November
RECEIVED.
- 21.108 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 November meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.
AGREED.
- 21.109 To Consider Financial Matters*
(a) To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of October 2021- see attached*
AGREED.
(b) To Receive Bank reconciliation during the month of October 2021 –
see attached*
AGREED.
(c) To Consider Donation requests during the month of October 2021 – see attached*
There were no donation requests for the month of October.
- 21.110 To Approve Financial Regulations amendments – see attached*

Councillors examined the proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations.

AGREED: to discuss proposed wording at the next Finance and Assets Committee meeting, as further clarity was needed

21.111 To Approve Cemetery Fees and Charges amendments - see attached*

Councillors examined the proposed amendments to the Cemetery Fees and Charges

AGREED: to discuss proposed wording at the next Finance and Assets Committee meeting, as further clarity was needed.

21.112 To Approve Amendments to Rewards and Gifts Policy - see attached*

Agreed to re-submit with the addition of the following wording “nominations from the public will be sought, through the Parish Council newsletter, and an award ceremony will be held to celebrate achievement. An annual sum £100 will be budgeted to cover the cost.

21.113 To Discuss request from Belmont Community Centre for a notice board to be placed on Moorfield.

AGREED: to look into further.

21.114 To Discuss improvements to lighting in the Community Centre Car Park.

The Chairman has e-mailed Durham County Council requesting an update regarding improvements to lighting in Community Centre car park.

RECEIVED.

21.115 To Receive Committee Reports.

(a) Communications Committee

There was no meeting held last month, members suggested that in future the Parish Newsletter is to be displayed in the parish noticeboards for information.

AGREED.

(b) Environment Committee

Cemetery

The Clerk informed councillors there had been two ashes interments, one ashes interred in a burial plot and two ashes purchases.

On a recent site visit a number of graves were identified as not adhering to the Rules and Regulations.

AGREED: The Clerk to send out letters to those concerned along with current Rules and Regulations highlighting issues raised.

A recent request from a resident to purchase a bench for the cemetery has been AGREED the cemetery contractor has said he will install the bench free of charge.

Play Grounds

The Service Level Agreement for Annual Inspection of play Areas between Belmont Parish Council and Durham County Council Environment Division has been approved by councillors at a cost of £2083.20 which will be charged at the end of the year.
AGREED.

Heritage Project -pilot scheme for County Durham.

The Heritage Project pilot scheme covers heritage buildings that are not Grade 1 or 2 Listed Buildings & also green areas in the Parish, the deadline for submissions is 22nd November.

AGREED: for Councillors EM (Chairman) CAL and MW (Chair, Environment Committee) to meet on Thursday 18th November at 2.00 pm in Belmont Community Centre to work on compiling a list for submission. All Councillors welcome to attend.

Public Arts

Councillor APW gave a brief report to Councillors saying she had received positive feedback from residents regarding the Rennys Lane Underpass graffiti art project however residents from Cambridgeshire Drive were unhappy with the project. Issues regarding poor drainage, lighting, anti -social behaviour and litter from nearby food outlets were raised. A site survey has been arranged for Sunday 21st November between 10.00am and 12.00 noon to gather information and report back to Full Parish Council.
AGREED: issues raised to be reported to Durham County Council also go ahead with survey and make a decision after results of the outcome, whether to proceed with the project or not.

Communications Committee

No meeting was held.

Councillor LM thanked everyone who was involved with the delivery of the Parish Newsletters. Councillor JK praised Councillor LM for an excellent newsletter.

(c) Finance and Assets Committee

A meeting took place on Thursday 14th October.

A report was given by the Vice-Chair Councillor SCW.

(d) Planning Committee

No meeting was held.

A report was given by the Chair of the Planning Committee Councillor PSC.

21.116 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

An attempt was made to steal a memorial bench at the junction of Thorndale and Brackendale Roads. The bench was damaged and has been taken away to be stored in the

Robing Room. A new bench is to be installed on Monday 15th November the Police have been informed of the incident.

AGREED: subject to cost of repair quote, approval to be given for repairs to bench to go ahead.

Carrville

A concern was raised by a resident regarding the level of poor lighting in the area, as you enter Magdalene Avenue, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council. An ongoing concern was raised regarding speeding issues on Carrville High Street.

Gilesgate Moor

Councillor CAF has ordered one hundred food parcels for anyone who is struggling this Xmas in the parish, contents of the hamper to be funded from her councillor budget.

A concern was raised regarding the recent theft of ninety plants from the parish flower bed at the entrance to High Grange Estate. The police were asked if the Parish Council could install a camera over the flowerbed, the police advised placing a sign telling the public a camera had been placed there. Councillors AGREED for a camera and a sign to be placed on the flowerbed.

Belmont United have asked if they can install lockable doors on the shower block in the sports pavilion for use as a storage room at no extra cost to the Parish Council, AGREED.

It was reported that the daffodil planting had been a huge success and the remaining bulbs would be planted on Sunday 28th November at Eden Terrace, Moor Crescent and entrance to High Grange Estate.

For information The Keep in the Know Event will be held in the Daisy Rose Cafe at Cheveley Park Shops to promote the website on the 23rd November between 10:00am and 4:00pm. Councillor MW and police will be promoting the event.

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

21.118 Date of next meeting Thursday 9th December 2021.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm

Diary Dates

Finance and Assets Committee meeting – Thursday 18 November at 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Environment Committee meeting – Wednesday 1st December 5:30pm – 7:30pm