

Minutes of the Belmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
2021 at 6:30pm in Belmont Community Centre

**Present:** Chairman Councillor E.S. Mavin, Vice-Chairman Councillor C.A. Fletcher

Councillors J. Appleby, M.P. Bennett, Mrs P.J. Conway, P.S. Conway, V. Hawes, J. Knight, L. Mavin, A.P. Watkins and M. Watson.

Members of the Public. (3)

**Also Present:** Parish Clerk Mrs S. Overton,

21.119 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors C.A. Lattin, K. Noble and A.C. Walker  
RECEIVED.

21.120 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.

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

RECEIVED.

Councillor MB declared an interest regarding agenda item 21.09 as Treasurer of Belmont Community Centre.

**The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.**

21.121 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

A reported has been received from the police.

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Community Warden present.

(c) Members of The Public.

Three residents from Cambridgeshire Drive expressed various concerns regarding the Rennys Lane Underpass Project Survey. Residents were informed the survey was purely for feedback and was well intended. Separate issues raised were anti-social behaviour, drainage issues, lighting and a need for a general tidy up. Durham County Council to address the issues raised, the Police and Neighbourhood Wardens to address anti-social behaviour. It was agreed to hold a separate Public Arts Consultation at a future date for further discussion.

Councillor JA joined the meeting at 18:45pm  
Members of the Public left the meeting at 19:10pm

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

- 21.122 To Consider and make Comment on Planning Matters.see attached\*  
A list of Weekly Planning Applications for the month of November 2021 was circulated to members for information see attached\*  
A list of Countywide Delegated Decisions was circulated to Councillors.  
The Chair of the Planning Committee gave a report to Councillors..
- 21.123 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – Minutes attached\*  
AGREED with one amendment  
21.116 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors – Gilesgate Moor- PG 5  
Gilesgate and Belmont Wellbeing Project had obtained Christmas food parcels from Feeding Families for residents. If any councillors were aware of any residents who would appreciate one to let Councillor Fletcher know.
- 21.124 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerk’s Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for information.  
1. The Clerk informed Councillors that the SLA is mainly for playground inspections throughout the year, this would not cover grass cutting as it would be a separate arrangement with the grounds maintenance team  
2. The Clerk informed councillors that a letter has been sent to GO NORTHERN bus company regarding issues raised by one of our residents who resides at The Links, Belmont, DURHAM. The issues are related to the new bus route changes which have recently come into force. There has been no response to date.  
RECEIVED.
- 21.125 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 December meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.  
RECEIVED.
- 21.126 To Consider Financial Matters see attached\*  
(a) To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of November 2021– see attached\*  
(b) To Receive Bank reconciliation during the month  
November finance to be reported at the January 13<sup>th</sup> full Parish Council meeting  
(c) To Consider Donation requests during the month of November 2021 – see attached\*  
Tree-Tops Ward in University of Durham Hospital  
Harbour Support Services  
AGREED. £50.00

21.127 To Approve Draft Precept 2022 -2023 see attached\*

AGREED.

21.128 To Approve wording for Queen Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> Platinum Jubilee Plaque.

It was agreed to ask Durham County Council Legal/Media Team whether the Parish Council would be allowed to use the official logo that denotes the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee occasion? This is regarding using the logo on the plaque to be sited in front of Belmont Community Centre to mark the occasion.

AGREED.

21.129 To Approve Planting of Tree in Front of Belmont Community Centre.

The Chair and Vice Chair granted permission for a tree to be purchased and planted in front of Belmont Community Centre with regards to Queen Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> Platinum Jubilee 2022.

AGREED.

21.130 To Discuss Setting up a Climate Emergency Working Party.

A discussion took place regarding setting up a Climate Emergency Working Party after a resident enquired what the Parish Council have in place in case such an event comes about.

AGREED. to invite any residents who would like to be part of the group as well as Councillors.

21.131 To Discuss Ecological Emergency in County Durham.

A discussion took place regarding the merits and consequences of Durham County Council declaring an Ecological Emergency response plan in County Durham. Durham County Council have been recommended by Cabinet to set up a working group to examine the evidence to the decline in natural habitats in County Durham. An initial report to go to Cabinet on the findings of the working group within 6 months.

RECEIVED.

21.132 To Approve updated Code of Conduct see attached\*

AGREED.

21.133 To Receive Committee Reports.

(a) Communications Committee

There was no meeting held this month.

(b) Environment Committee see attached\*

The Chair of the Environment Committee gave a report.

XMAS Tree

Councillor MW thanked County Councillors EM and LM and Cemetery Contractor for sponsoring this years Xmas tree.

(c) Finance and Assets Committee see attached\*

The Chair of the Finance and Assets Committee gave a report.

(d) Planning Committee

The Chair of the Planning Committee gave a report.

21.134 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

It was reported that a defibrillator has been placed at the entrance of Belmont School. Councillor MW said urgent tree works on the Scrambles had now been completed. A request was made for a dropped kerb and single yellow lines at The Links, to be forwarded to Durham County Council.

Carrville

Gilesgate Moor

A concern was raised regarding the blind bend at Willowtree Shops causing visibility issues for motorists.

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

21.136 Date of next meeting Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Diary Dates

Environment Committee Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022