

Minutes of the January 13th Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th January 2022
in Belmont Community School Performing Arts Block

Present:(Chair Elect) P.S. Conway Councillors J. Appleby, M.P. Bennett, V. Hawes, K. Noble, A.C. Walker and S.C. White.

Police: PCSO Rebecca Wilson, Susan Moyes.
Laura Dobson, Durham County Council, Civil Contingencies Officer
Bill Stephenson Environment Agency (EA)
R. Hornby, Gilesgate Residents Association (GRA)

Also Present: Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)

21.138 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors P.J. Conway, C. A. Fletcher J. Knight, C. A. Lattin, E.S. Mavin, L. Mavin, A. P. Watkins and M. Watson.

Due to absence of Chair, E.S. Mavin and Vice-Chair, C. A. Fletcher, the Clerk asked Councillors to propose a Chair for tonight's meeting.

Councillor MB proposed Councillor P.S. Conway
Councillor S.C. White seconded the motion.
AGREED.

21.139 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.

Councillor KN Declared an Interest regarding Planning Application DM/21/03000/FPA Grinstead Way.
RECEIVED.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders.

21.140 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

A Police report was circulated to Councillors.

PCSO Rebecca Wilson introduced herself as PCSO Andy Gilhooley's replacement and went through the PACT Report and the Keep in the Know Project.

The Chair thanked the Police for their attendance.

(b) Community Warden.

No report received.

(c) Members of The Public.

Laura Dobson, Durham County Council, Civil Contingencies Officer and Bill Stephenson, Durham County Council Environment Agency gave a presentation advising ways in which the Parish Council could put together a local Community Emergency Plan and identify the key tools that are needed.

The two representatives left the meeting the Chair thanked them for their attendance.

Councillor VH joined the meeting.

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

21.141 To Consider and make Comment on Planning Matters*.

The Chair of the Planning Committee gave a report to Councillors during the month of December 2021- see attached*

Councillors PSC, CAF, ESM and RH, Gilesgate Residents Association were thanked for their well presented arguments against the Apollo Bingo Hall Application.

The Chair recommended a fuller report regarding a Neighbourhood Plan be brought the February Parish Council meeting.

AGREED.

21.142 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont

Parish Council held on 9th December 2021 – Minutes attached*

AGREED.

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

Letter has been sent to grave owner informing him that his request for his to late wife's grave to remain un-turfed has been DECLINED.

RECEIVED.

21.144 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 January meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

RECEIVED.

21.145 To Consider Financial Matters*

(a) To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of November/ December 2021– see attached*

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

(b) To Receive Bank reconciliation during the month of December 2021 – see attached*

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

(c) To Receive October/November/December 2021 three monthly Budget sheet.

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

(d) To Consider Donation requests during the month of December 2021– see attached*
(0)

Councillor JA thanked the Parish Council for supporting University Hospital Durham, Tree Tops Nursery.

RECEIVED

21.146 To Approve Spring/Summer Planting 2022
AGREED.
UNANIMOUS

21.147 To Approve Red, White and Blue colour planting scheme to mark Queen Elizabeth 2nd Platinum Jubilee.
APPROVED AND AGREED.
UNANIMOUS

21.148 To Discuss regular yearly proactive Tree Audits Regarding trees that are the responsibility of Belmont Parish Council.
AGREED: to defer back to the Environment Committee to decide whether the proposal should take precedence over other issues at this present time.

21.149 To Approve setting up a regular proactive working party titled The Climate Emergency Working Party.
AGREED:

21.150 To Receive Committee Reports.
(a) Communications Committee
There was no meeting held this month.

(b) Environment Committee
A report was given by Councillor Bennett and the following items were agreed.

Cemetery

The Clerk to inform grave owner that his recent request to keep his late wife's grave un-turfed has been declined.

AGREED.

Planting

Costings for spring/summer planting (£2,450.00) will come out of the planting budget May/June 2022/2023, the Clerk to order plants.

AGREED.

Environment:

The Climate Change Emergency Working Party to compile Terms of Reference.
AGREED.

The quote from North East Site Maintenance for the cutting down of 5 non-living trees and cutting half of the dangerous tree on Network Rail land overhanging the Scrambles is £310. 00.

AGREED: for works to go ahead.

Sustainable Planting Beds Project – total project cost is £2,080. 00 will be funded from the Contingency Fund..

AGREED: Clerk to order plants.

(c) Finance and Assets Committee

A report was given by the Chair, Councillor M.P. Bennett - Council authorises the Parish Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, to make changes to our existing Barclays Business Current Account to include online banking, dual accountability for online payments and a debit / credit card to enable internet purchases. A cheque book facility should be retained. Furthermore, the Council's two Business Savings Accounts should be closed, and balances transferred to the Current Account."

AGREED:

(d) Planning Committee

A report was given by the Chair, Councillor P.S. Conway – see attached
AGREED.

21.151 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

Councillor Walker reported the lights were back on in Cambridgeshire Drive and Rennys Lane.

Carrville

Councillor Appleby raised a concern regarding the lack of grit bins near Carrsway and surrounding area, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council with a list of locations in need of bins.

Gilesgate Moor

A concern was raised regarding the junction coming out of Mill Lane onto Sunderland Road causing visibility problems for motorists due to nearby parked vehicles. The matter to be reported to Durham County Council Highways Department..

A concern was raised regarding drivers doing U-turns on the trumpet roundabout on Belmont Road causing Health and Safety issues to pedestrians and motorists.

Councillor Noble enquired if there had been any update from the GO NORTHERN Bus Company following correspondence from the Parish Office expressing residents concerns regarding the late bus going around Buckinghamshire Drive and the Links until 11pm. The Clerk said that there had been no response as yet.

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

There was no council business to discuss.

21.153 Date of next meeting Thursday 10th February 2021.

The meeting closed at 20:00pm.

The next Full Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, February 10th 2022 Belmont Community School, Performing Arts Block at 6:30pm.

PM and
10th february 2022