

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th November 2022
in Belmont Community Centre at 6:30 pm

Present: Chair, Councillor C.A. Fletcher,

Councillors, J. Appleby, M.P. Bennett, P.J. Conway, P.S. Conway, V. Hawes, J. Knight, E.S. Mavin, L. Mavin, K. Noble, C.A. Lattin, M. Watson, A.C. Walker and S.C. White.

Also present: Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)

Members of the Public (2)

22.82 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor A.P. Watkins.

Received.

22.83 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 Chair suspended Standing Orders.

22.84 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

There were no police present.

The recent Community Safety Day had been well attended, Councillors E. Mavin and L. Mavin were thanked for organising the event.

A concern was raised regarding an increase in car theft in the area, targeting high-end vehicles.

Councillor Fletcher had attended a Partnership meeting with the Chief Inspector, on behalf of Belmont Parish Council. A demonstration was given regarding their drone technology.

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Neighbourhood Warden present.

(c) Members of The Public.

The member of the public queried the recent proposal by the council, to turf all graves following interment after a year and expressed his individual concerns.

A concern was raised by a resident regarding road safety issues on Broomside Lane as you approach the junction in front of the Belmont Public House, the resident would like a STOP sign there and the GIVE WAY markings re-painted. A site meeting to be arranged with Durham County Council Highways Department to discuss traffic calming measures.

The Chair thanked the member of Public for his comments.

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

22.85 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 13th October 2022 – Minutes attached*
Agreed.

22.86 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for information.
The Clerk reported the Internal Auditor has completed his six month interim report.
Received.

22.87 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.
Received.

22.88 To Receive Committee Reports:

(a) Finance

(1) To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of October 2022– see attached*

Received and Agreed.

(2) To Receive bank reconciliation during the month of October 2022 – see attached*
Received and Agreed.

(3) To Consider Donation requests during the month of October 2022

Great North Air Ambulance - £50.00

St Cuthberts Hospice £100.00

Received and Agreed.

(4) Salaries

Councillor M.P. Bennett (Chair of Finance and Assets Committee) reported new salary scales had been confirmed by Durham County Council and would be backdated from the 1st April 2022.

Agreed.

Unanimous.

(5) 2023/2024 Budget

A Special Parish Council meeting to be held on Thursday 17th November to discuss 2023/24 budget requirements regarding what is essential and what is desirable, form to be circulated to all councillors inviting comments.

(6) Project Funding

Councillor M.P. Bennett thanked Councillor M. Watson for securing external funding for 2 certain projects.

(b) Planning

Councillor P.S. Conway made comment on the list of Weekly Planning Applications during the month of October – see attached*

Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor P.S. Conway to give an update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan at the December Full Parish Council meeting.

Councillor P.S. Conway was thanked for his report and work on the Neighbourhood Plan.

(c) Communications

Update on Senior Citizens Party 2022

The Chair thanked councillors who had assisted with the delivery of the Parish Newsletters and suggested all volunteers share the strain of delivering them.

Councillor L. Mavin was thanked for pulling together delivery of newsletters under a tight time scale.

(d) Environment

The Chair thanked A. Thurlwell IT/Admin Support regarding his research on the signage for the cemetery.

Councillor M. Watson informed councillors he had applied for funding for five trees from the Queens Jubilee and Memorial Community Tree Planting Project.

Councillor M. Watson informed councillors he was still awaiting quotes from three firms for the painting of an elephant, a horse and see-saw in Poplar Park Play Area.

Xmas Tree Event

Councillors E.S. Mavin, L. Mavin, K. Noble and M. Watson were thanked for their hard work organising this year's annual ceremony.

Northumbria in Bloom

A discussion ensued regarding the Environment Committees decision **not** to enter next year's Northumbria in Bloom Competition highlighting cost, hard work and change of gardener as one of the main reasons. A vote took place whether to take a second look at the Northumbria and Bloom Competition.

| | |
|-----|---------|
| For | Against |
| 8 | 4 |

Agreed: to defer to December Full Parish Council for a final decision.

Football pitches

Awaiting report from Durham County Council.

Dog Exercise Area.

Ongoing.

Gardener's Contract

A Working Party meeting to be arranged to discuss the potential applicant's suitability for gardener position

Speeding issues Broomside Lane

A discussion took place regarding ways in which residents could be alerted to speeding issues which included delivering leaflets through residents' doors.

Agreed: to do an insert in the Parish Newsletter highlighting the problem.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders.

The member of the Public commented enforcement is required as people ignore speed limits on a daily basis.

The Chair thanked everyone on the Environment Committee for their input

22.89 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

Councillor A.C. Walker reported a pin and two locks were missing from the barrier at Rennys Lane. It was agreed to purchase two keys, one to be kept in the parish office, the other to use Councillor Walker as a second key holder.

A concern was reported to Durham County Council and Bus Company with regards to speeding buses on the Links causing Health and Safety issues for residents.

Councillor White asked for an update regarding the proposal for a Smiley Activated Message (SAM) thanking motorists for reducing their speed, and was informed there hadn't been a response as yet.

A concern was raised regarding the poor state of the road surface at the Links, Buckinghamshire Road.

Carrville

Councillor J. Knight raised concerns regarding speeding cars on Swinside Drive.

Councillor K. Noble raised concerns regarding issues with traffic backed up at the bottom of the High Street, Carrville.

A concern was raised regarding issues with traffic lights at the bottom of the High Street as you pull out onto the A690 not allowing motorists enough time to go. The matter to be reported to Durham Council.

Gilesgate Moor.

Councillor C.A. Fletcher said she had approached Willowtree Shops to enquire if the Post Office would remain following new ownership and was informed it would remain open.

A concern was raised regarding a large pothole in Belmont Community Centre carpark the matter to be reported to Durham County Council.

Councillor C.A. Lattin reported several trees in the area were threatening to fall following Storm Arwen and said Durham County Council had a two year backlog regarding tree work.

Councillor M. Watson raised concerns of a large pot hole & smaller ones with a cracked road surface on the bottom of the driveway in Belmont Community Centre car park.

Council E.S Mavin reported the missing post box on Pilgrims Way has now been replaced.

Councillor M. Watson asked for clarification on where to place two signs for Willow tree shops passage way to School View warning cyclists to dismount to avoid collisions with pedestrians. Permission would be needed from nearby shop owners before fixing.

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

Update on Local Heroes Award.

The Chair said volunteers were needed on the day to assist with setting up the room for guests.

Agreed: Councillor L. Mavin to oversee tea and refreshments.

Funding request from Belmont Community School regarding schools visit to the Shetland Islands with 50 pupils.

Agreed: to invite Headteacher and pupils along to the December Full Council meeting to give a brief presentation regarding the project.

Councillor C.A. Fletcher and Councillor P.S. Conway declared an interest.

Community Safety Day

The Chair reported that the event had been well attended and said ordered Community Safety items from the event were going to be left in the Parish Office for residents to collect due to late delivery.

22.91 Date of next meeting Thursday 8th December 2022.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm