

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 6:30pm  
in Belmont Community Centre.

Present: Chair - Councillor C. A. Fletcher, Vice-Chair - L. Mavin.  
Councillors, J. Appleby, M.P. Bennett, P.J. Conway, P.S. Conway, V. Hawes,  
J. Knight, E.S. Mavin, and S.C. White.

Also present: Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)  
Members of the Public (0)

22.103 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors K. Noble, C.A. Lattin, A.P. Watkins,  
A.C. Walker and M. Watson.

**Received.**

22.104 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.

22.105 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

No report received, Councillor Mavin reported he is in the process of arranging a meeting  
between Councillors and Kevin Hall, Sergeant Durham Police in Belmont Working Mens  
Club, date and time to be confirmed.

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Community Warden present.

(c) Members of The Public.

There were no members of the public present.

**Received.**

22.106 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont  
Parish Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Minutes attached\*

**Agreed.**

22.107 To Discuss Local Government Boundary Review – see attached\*

Councillor P.S. Conway recommended the present Belmont Electoral Division remains  
with three County Councillors and suggested Belmont Parish Council makes a submission  
through the consultation process by the end of the 31<sup>st</sup> January deadline. He also suggested  
it would be helpful if councillors submitted a personal submission.

**Agreed:** the Chair, Vice-Chair and Councillor P.S. Conway work together to prepare a  
submission to propose Belmont Parish Council remains the same.

22.108 To Discuss Devolution Deal for the North East - see attached\*

Councillor P.S. Conway proposed the following regarding the Devolution Deal for the North East:-

1. Belmont Parish Council should consider and express its views through the consultation process.
2. That Durham County Council holds a discussion with the public.
3. The Area Action Partnership (AAP) to hold a single-issue discussion with people.
4. That County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) holds a conference to make people aware.

**Agreed.**

22.109 To Discuss Nominations for Royal Garden Party 2023

A discussion took place regarding nominees for the Royal Garden Party 2023.

Councillor L. Mavin proposed Chair, Councillor C.A. Fletcher

Seconded: Councillor P.S. Conway.

**Agreed.**

22.110 To Discuss Preparations for King Charles III Coronation.

Councillors discussed various ideas to commemorate King Charles III Coronation and agreed commemorative mugs for the local school children would be a suitable choice.

**Agreed:** to explore a range of suitable mugs and obtain quotes for 1000 mugs, also to consider recycled plastic mugs as an alternate choice.

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

1. The Clerk reported there had been an issue involving a hearse unable to turn into Belmont Cemetery due to a parked car obstructing the entrance on the opposite side of the road. The matter was reported to the police who were looking into it.

2. Thank you letters from the Great North Air Ambulance(GNAA) and St Cuthberts Hospice have been received regarding recent donations. Councillor J. Appleby was thanked by the Chair for his volunteering work with TreeTops Childrens Ward, University Hospital, North Durham.

**Received.**

22.113 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 and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

**Agreed.**

Councillor M.P. Bennett proposed that a Playground and Cemetery Risk Assessment be carried out as well as an Office Risk Assessment.

**Agreed.**

22.114 To Receive Committee Reports:

(a) Finance – to consider financial matters - see attached\*

(1) To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of December 2022 - see attached\*

**Received and Agreed.**

(2) To Receive bank reconciliation during the month of December 2022 -- see attached\*  
**Received and Agreed.**

Councillor E. Mavin passed on verbal thanks from Spar Belmont regarding food hampers for the vulnerable in the parish.

(3) To Receive three monthly quarterly budget statement for October/November and December 2022  
**Received and Agreed.**

Councillor M. Bennett was thanked for his work as Chair of the Finance and Assets Committee, Mrs S. Overton (Clerk) and A. Thurlwell (Admin/IT Support) were also included. A Finance & Assets meeting has been arranged for Wednesday February 1st at 5:30pm.

(b) Planning – to consider and make comment on planning matters - see attached\*  
Councillor P.S. Conway gave a report on the weekly planning applications during December 2022.

Councillor P.S. Conway was thanked by the Chair for his excellent Planning report.

(c) Communications

A meeting took place on Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss items for the Spring Newsletter.  
**Agreed:** a further meeting to be arranged for the end of February to finalise items for inclusion.

(d) Environment

The recommendations for Full Parish Council approval were:-

1. Change in cemetery rules regarding turfing,

To allow grave owners the choice whether they want their graves turfed following a year after interment with the proviso graves are kept to an acceptable standard in adherence with the current Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

8 for

2 abstained.

**Agreed.**

Councillor K. Noble and S. White to look at appropriate wording for inclusion in the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

2. Padlock arrangements for barrier at Renny's Lane

It was agreed for one of the councillors to act as key holder alongside Durham County Council, Northumbrian Water Ltd and the Parish Office to facilitate access to the barrier of Renny's Lane.

3. Northumbria in Bloom

**Agreed:** to enter Northumbria in Bloom 2023 (to include unparished area) Councillors J. Appleby and S.C. White to oversee arrangements.

4. Councillor S.C. White gave an update regarding his progress with the Scrambles Woodland Management Plan which included the following points:-

(a) To examine how many trees need their ivy cutting around the base, himself and

K. Neat from The Friends of Belmont Scrambles to undertake this task. To enquire if Durham County Council could assist with the cutting if not approach Mr E. Malarkey for a quote.

(b) To speak with appropriate Durham County Council Officer to discuss if anything more is needed to be done to have a Woodland Management Plan in place.

c) To inform residents by letter in Birkdale Gardens and Cheveley Walk explaining what work is being undertaken to address tree issues.

The Chair thanked Councillor S.C. White for his excellent report.

#### To Receive reports from Ward Councillors

##### Belmont

There was nothing to report.

##### Carrville

Councillor J. Knight raised the following concerns.

The increase in traffic caused by motorists using Carrville High Street as a short-cut to access the motorway, a site meeting to be arranged with Durham County Council, Highways Department.

A concern regarding visibility issues from nearby obstacles impeding motorists' vision on exiting the junction near the Travellers Rest, a site meeting to be arranged with Durham County Council, Highways Department.

Councillor J. Knight raised a query regarding the possible replanting of trees where Broome Road meets Ramside View, to replace the one that was legally removed. It was agreed to contact Durham County Council as well as nearby residents to seek their approval.

A concern was raised regarding speeding issues on Carrville High Street making it difficult for motorists exiting the junction from Ramside View onto the High Street, a site meeting to be arranged with Durham County Council, Highways Department.

##### Gilesgate Moor

There was nothing to report.

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

There was nothing to report.

22.116 Date of next meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023