

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th February 2023 at 6:30pm
in Belmont Community Centre.

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

Also present: Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)
Member of the Public (1)

22.117 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors K. Noble and J. Appleby.
Received.

22.118 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.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders.

22.119 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

Councillor E.S.Mavin gave feedback on a recent meeting he had attended with Sergeant K.Hall, Durham Police, PCSO A.Gilhooley, Durham Police, and Councillor J.Knight. Several issues were raised which included illegal parking, unsafe exit junctions, speeding, theft, staff shortages and anti-social behaviour, predominately drug related – see attached sheet.

A further meeting to be arranged to discuss increase in vandalism.

The Chair thanked Councillor E.S.Mavin for his excellent report

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Community Warden present.

(c) Members of The Public.

A concern was raised regarding the crossroads at Tesco being hazardous for pedestrians to cross and also the crossing at Bannatynes being challenging to cross. A meeting to be arranged with Durham County Council Highways Department to discuss options available.

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

22.120 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 12th January 2023 – Minutes attached*

Agreed with amendments.

Page 3 – Padlock arrangements for barrier at Rennys Lane – to amend the wording to read ‘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.

A suggestion was made to look into the possibility of replacing with a digital lock.

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

1. The Clerk reported Mazars have been successful with their contract bid and will be continuing to be our external auditors for the next five years.

2. The entry fee for Northumbria in Bloom 2023 has been paid.

Received.

22.122 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 February and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

Agreed.

Risk Assessments.

Risk Assessments to be undertaken for Sports Pavilion, Play areas, Cemetery, Belmont Allotments, Parish Office and Belmont Scrambles.

Agreed.

22.123 To Receive Committee Reports:

(a) Finance

To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of January 2023 – see attached*

Received and Agreed.

To Receive bank reconciliation during the month of -January 2023 – see attached*

Received and Agreed.

The Chair thanked Councillor M. Bennett for his excellent report.

(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 January 2023 which included HMOs, a discussion took place regarding this issue.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders

The member of the public expressed concerns regarding the increasing amount of HMO s in the parish.

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

The Chair reported County Councillors attended a meeting on the 16th November 2022 with Miller Homes and said the meeting had been very positive. Topics included landscaping, solar panels, aids for seniors and a number of bungalows. Richard Hornby (Gilesgate Residents Association) was thanked for his input.

Neighbourhood Plan update.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are looking to pilot their next meeting in the Baptist Church on the 24th February, future meetings to be held in Belmont Working Mens Club.

Agreed.

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

Councillor P.S. Conway thanked Richard Hornby for his invaluable work and contribution with the Neighbourhood Plan.

(c) Communications

A meeting was held on January 10th – see attached*

Councillor L. Mavin reported the newsletter was now at the printers.

Councillor S. White to provide insert regarding update on recent tree works at the Scrambles, nearby residents affected by the work will receive this additional information with their newsletter.

Agreed.

Councillor L. Mavin was thanked for her excellent work on the Parish Newsletter.

The next Communications meeting to be held on Tuesday 28th March at 5.30 pm in Belmont Community Center.

(d) Environment

There was no meeting held last month.

Councillor M. Watson will be attending a presentation evening at Hardwick Hall accompanied by two representatives from Friends of Keping Woods in recognition of their voluntary work at Keping Woods.

Councillor S. White from Friends of Belmont Scrambles will also be attending the event in recognition of his voluntary work with the Scrambles.

Councillor White reported the Tree Officer from Durham County Council would be happy to assist with training people on how to identify diseased trees.

Agreed: to advertise for helpers via Belmont Parish Council Facebook

Belmont Parish football pitch project

Councillor M. Watson sought approval for the above project and funding

Groundworks costs and installation of the goal posts - £1,178.48

Goal Posts - £954.38

Total Costs - £2,132.86

Agreed. Councillor C.A.Fletcher to fund project out of her Neighbourhood Budget.

Disability accessible play equipment Moorfield Park

A meeting to be arranged to discuss disability accessible play equipment

Agreed.

Cemetery Wall Update

Councillor M Watson reported he and the Cemetery Contractor will continue to monitor the cracks in the Cemetery Wall and report any concerns to the Council.

Councillor Knight inquired as the Scrambles was not accessible to everyone it would be beneficial to acquire drone footage of the Scrambles and place an access link in the parish notice boards/social media and website for information.

Agreed. Councillor M.Watson to look into getting a QR code for the Scrambles notice boards so that people with disabilities who couldn't access the Scrambles could look at drone video footage,

Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

A discussion took place regarding suitable commemorative items to present to school children in the parish. Councillor E.S.Mavin proposed commemorative mugs with Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III displayed on the front and Belmont Parish Council engraved on the back. Councillor S. White to research options available and report back to Councillors.

Proposed: Councillor E.S.Mavin

Seconded: Councillor M.Watson.

Agreed.

A suggestion was made by Councillor A.Watkins for Belmont Parish Council to provide a scrapbook for each of the local primary schools in the parish with pupils thoughts and comments on the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The scrapbooks to go on display in Belmont Library for visitors to read.

Agreed: Councillor A. Watkins to research suitable scrapbooks.

22.124 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

The Chair requested Councillors to forward any ward concerns to the Parish Office due to limited time remaining at the meeting.

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

22.126 Date of next meeting Thursday 9th March 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

