

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2023  
in Belmont Community Centre.

Present: Chair, Councillor C.A. Fletcher, Councillors K. Noble, E.S. Mavin, C.A. Lattin, P.J. Conway, P.S. Conway, J. Knight, J. Appleby, M.P. Bennett, S.C. White, V. Hawes and M. Watson.

Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)

Members of the Public (4)

22.127 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors L. Mavin, A.C. Walker and A.P. Watkins.

**Received.**

22.128 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.**

22.129 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

No report received this month.

(b) Community Warden.

The Community Warden gave his apologies and reported the only current issue was Coniston Drive, Belmont regarding youths drinking and drug use which the wardens are currently monitoring and clearing litter PCSO/Police are also aware.

(c) Members of the Public.

A member of the public asked for an update on security measures for gypsy travellers and was informed a recent meeting had taken place with Chair, Councillor C.A.F., Councillor M.W. and a Durham County Council Officer to discuss security measures for gates, large boulders at narrow entrances and combination locks. The Find and Fix Team are looking to repair the perimeter fence on Moorfield.

A concern was raised regarding cars parking on the pavement where the school crossing patrol person stands, the matter to be forwarded onto Durham County Council.

A member of the public reported that an attempt had recently been made to steal the metal seat near the gazebo on Moorfield, the matter is to be looked into.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding planning restrictions and suggested Planning Officers were not adhering to rules and regulations. It was recommended by

Councillor P.S.C. that a substantive meeting be arranged with the Parish Council and Head of Planning (Durham County Council) to discuss issues raised, the member of the public to be invited along also.

A member of the public highlighted the need for signage at Pittington Lane onto Broomside Lane to deter speeding motorists.

A member of the public reported the newly erected fence has been damaged in Rennys Lane and suggested placing the gate at the top of the lane as people were regularly fly-tipping making it a dumping area. Councillor E.S.M. responded saying a metal fence was needed and that a gate at the top wouldn't deter anti-social behaviour.

A member of the public thanked Councillor M.W. for his bulb planting in the parish.

**Standing Orders were reimposed.**

**The Member of the Public left the meeting.**

A minutes silence was observed for the recent passing of an ex Parish Councillor and the Chair of Durham County Council.

22.130 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Minutes attached\*  
**Agreed.**

22.131 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for information.  
1. VAT Return to be completed this month.

2. Preparations for The Annual Governance and Audit Return for 2022 – 2023 will commence shortly.

**Received.**

22.132 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 March and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

**Received.**

22.133 To Receive Committee Reports:

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

The Chair of the Finance and Assets Committee (Councillor M.P.B.) gave a report to Councillors which included the following items:-

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

**Received and Agreed.**

To Receive bank reconciliation during the month of February 2023 – see attached\*

**Received and Agreed.**

Grant for £500.00 for Friends of Kepier Woods has been paid.

**Agreed.**

Grant for £500.00 for Friends of Belmont Scrambles has been paid.

**Agreed.**

To Approve amendments to Financial Regulations.

**Agreed.**

Councillor Bennett was thanked for his report.

(b) Planning –

Councillor P.S.C. gave a report on Weekly Planning Applications during February 2023 – see attached.

Neighbourhood Plan Update.

An update was given by Councillor P.S.C. which included the need for low cost housing and homes suitable for the elderly, future meetings to be planned.

(c) Communications Committee – to consider communication matters

Update on Parish Newsletters.

Councillor L.M. reported the newsletters are in the process of being delivered.

To Approve Scrapbooks

Following Councillor Watkins proposal for local school children to compile a scrapbook centred around the forthcoming Coronation, six scrapbooks have been purchased, one for each of the local primary schools, for school children to add their thoughts and comments on the King Charles III Coronation 2023. An award to be presented to the school judged to be the best.

**Approved.**

To Approve quote for King Charles III Coronation mugs.

Councillors S.C.W to confirm final numbers with local primary schools to the suppliers

(d) Environment – to consider environment matters – see attached\*

An update was given by Councillor Watson regarding the following items:-

Councillor M.W. reported he had registered the seven trees planted in Belmont Parish to commemorate the Queens Jubilee and her passing on the Queens Green Canopy Project virtual map.

To Approve wording for the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

Councillor K.N. presented the revised cemetery wording to Councillors and looked for approval to be added to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

**Approved and Agreed:** the Cemetery Rules and Regulations to be amended to allow loved ones the option whether they would like their grave turving following interment after a year.

UTC Moorfield Park Project – see attached\*

Councillors M.W., L.M. and E.S.M. attended an excellent slide presentation presented by UTC students regarding proposed improvements to Moorfield Park and looked for approval from Councillors to proceed with the project with no cost to Belmont Parish Council.

**Approved and Agreed in principal.**

**Unanimous.**

The Find and Fix Team to repair the damaged wooden perimeter fence all around Moorfield.

Belmont Football Pitch Project is progressing.

The Play equipment is getting painted this month in Poplar Play Park.

#### Empty Medicine Blister Pack Recycle Box Project 2023

A recent proposal by the Environment Committee for an Empty Medicine Blister Pack Recycle Box Project 2023, Boots Chemist (Dragonville) will take blister packs if Belmont Parish Council wish to proceed.

A recent presentation evening was held at Hardwick Hall whereby Councillor C.A.L. was awarded volunteer of the year and Friends of Kepier Woods were highly commended.

Councillors C.A.F. , E.S.M. and L.M. are contributing £300.00 each from their Councillors Budget towards the King Charles III Coronation Commemorate Mugs Project.

**Agreed:** Parish Office to confirm final head count with the local schools.

**Agreed:** DF to research into logo for Belmont Parish Council.

#### 22.134 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

##### Belmont

No issues raised.

##### Carrville

Councillor Watson reported the following road issues near Grange Road, Wantage Road and Moor End Terrace,

##### Gilesgate Moor

Councillor Watson reported a concern from a resident with regards to a tree located on School View Lane behind Willowtree Avenue which has recently been pruned by the owner. The trees branches were overhanging the residents garden, however the owner has no legal right to remove branches on the Public Rights of Way side. The resident was concerned the tree is irreparably damaged and that this may set a precedent whereby other home owners will follow suit, the matter to be reported to Durham County Council.

A concern was raised regarding a damaged street light in Belmont Community Centre car park, the matter to be looked into.

A suggestion was made for a tarmacked footpath to be added between front of Community Centre rose beds and car park grassed area as grass was becoming worn by people walking on it.

Councillor M.W. reported an issue with a manhole cover near Eden Terrace.

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

22.136 Date of next meeting Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023.