

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th April 2023
in Belmont Community Centre.

Present: Chair, Councillor C.A. Fletcher, Vice-Chair L. Mavin, Councillors, M.P. Bennett, C.A. Lattin, E.S. Mavin, M. Watson and A.C. Walker.

Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)

Members of the Public (0)

22.137 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors J. Appleby, P.J. Conway, P.S. Conway, V. Hawes, J. Knight, K. Noble, A.P. Watkins and S.C. White,
Received.

22.138 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.

22.139 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

EM gave feedback on a PACT meeting held on 22nd March which included issues with young people allegedly smoking cannabis behind Cheveley Park shops, police have issued offenders with warning notices.

The police are aware of young people verbally abusing a member of the public on the Links and are also aware of a similar concern on Carrville High Street.

A concern was raised regarding boy racers congregating on Belmont Industrial Estate and leaving a lot of litter when they leave, police are monitoring the situation.

EM informed the police about the current situation at The Belmont regarding squatters and the future of the pub and also the recent break in at the Baptist Church on Sunderland Road. The police to visit the church to look at preventive measures following the incident.

A concern was raised relating to drug issues from youths in the vicinity of Heatherdale Crescent the police are aware of the issue.

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Community Warden present.

(c) Members of the Public.

There were no members of the public present.

22.140 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 9th March 2023 – Minutes attached*

Agreed.

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

1. The Cemetery Contractor will commence turfing of graves following consent from grave owners to proceed.

2. VAT Claim, monies have now been credited from HMRC.

Received.

22.142 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 April and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

Received.

22.143 To Approve Code of Conduct

Approved and Agreed.

22.144 To Approve Standing Orders

Approved and Agreed.

It was agreed to ratify the Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Cemetery Rules and Regulations and Standing Orders at the Full Council May meeting in May due to this evenings low attendance figures (meeting was quorate).

22.145 To Discuss Land belonging to Ramside Estates, Kirkstone Drive.

A discussion took place regarding land owned by Ramside Estates at Kirkstone Drive which could be leased to Belmont Parish Council for a peppercorn rent of one pound a year. A proposal to create a community garden was discussed along with a bench to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III, planting schemes and possible funding. It was suggested the Parish Newsletter includes an article on the proposal and also be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Agreed: EM to look into idea further and report back to full council.

22.146 To Approve Risk Assessments for the Environment Committee, Communications Committee and Finance and Assets Committee.

Parish Office and continuity of service (Cloud, locked safe) - completed

Belmont Allotments - completed.
Cemetery Risk assessment – completed.
Scrambles – nearing completion
Play areas and Sports Pavilion - nearing completion.

22.147 To Receive Committee Reports:

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

Councillor MB gave a report to councillors on financial matters and put to full council for the clerk to be awarded ten additional hours plus an additional ten hours if needed due to the extra workload undertaken regarding the Annual Return 2022/2023.

Agreed:

1. To Consider Receipts and Payments during the month of March 2023.

Received and Agreed.

2. To Consider Bank balance during the month of March 2023.

Received and Agreed.

3. To Consider three monthly budget statement for January/February/March 2023.

Received and Agreed.

4. To Consider Donation requests.

Beaver Scouts 4th Durham (Gilesgate)

Proposed – EM

Seconded – MB

Agreed: £50.00

(b) Planning – to consider and make comment on Planning matters – see attached*

The Weekly Planning Applications during the month of March were circulated to Councillors and also a Planning Committee Report from PC – see attached *

(c) Communications – to consider communication matters

Councillor LM thanked everyone who had assisted with the delivery of the spring newsletters and said the draft summer newsletter would be forwarded to councillors for approval before going to the printers.

Agreed.

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

Councillor MW gave a report which included the following items:-

Service Level Agreement

The Service Level Agreement Contract for Grounds Maintenance and /or Street Cleansing Services has been completed and signed.

Find and Fix Team

A site visit has been arranged with LM, KN and MW to meet with team leader's from the Find and Fix team on 21st April at 1.00 pm at Magdalene Avenue to discuss areas identified in need of attention.

MW gave an update on the Moorfield Park Disabled Accessible Play Equipment Project and said funding for £3,572 has been awarded towards the project following completion of the application. The project was **Approved** at the 9th March Full Parish Council meeting and procurement costs of £2,990 from Belmont Parish Council were also **Approved**.

New footpath

LM proposed adding a new footpath in front of Belmont Community Centre rose beds and lawned area in the car park, funding to come from LM, Neighbourhood Budget.

Agreed: LM to look at costings and report back to full council.

Rainbow coloured bench.

MW looked for approval from councillors to approve quote from a reputable supplier, for a rainbow coloured, disabled accessible inclusive picnic bench at a cost £629.28 incs VAT, (colour approved by Belmont Parish Council).

Agreed: MB to look at criteria for potential funding through Believe Housing.

Emergency measures

In the event of extreme weather conditions it was agreed that any decision to close the cemetery would be at the discretion of the Chair and Vice-Chair (if unavailable the decision to be passed onto the Chair/Vice Chair of the Environment Committee. The Funeral Services, Cemetery Contractor and those involved with opening and closing the cemetery gates to be made aware and signage in place for visitors to the cemetery,

Agreed and Approved.

UTC Moorfield Park Project.

Councillors MW, EM and LM reported they had attended an excellent presentation evening given by UTC students regarding the UTC Moorfield Park Project.

Agreed: to proceed with the project and invite a representative from the college to the next Environment Committee meeting on Wednesday 19th April, to give an update and look at potential play equipment. The outcome to be presented to Full Council meeting in May for consideration.

22.148 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

EM raised concerns regarding reports of squatters in an empty public house and would be monitoring the situation, the police have been informed and are aware of the situation.

Durham County Council are putting plans in place to resolve issues with drainage, fencing and also the walls of the underpass getting painted to be painted with anti-graffitti paint.

Gilesgate Moor

Councillor MW raised concerns regarding anti social behaviour and litter issues from youths congregating at Belgravia House, High Grange Estate, the local PCSO has been made aware of the issue.

Councillor CL raised fly-tipping issues at Rennys Lane.

Councillor CL raised concerns regarding antisocial behaviour from youths knocking on residents doors at Bellsville, a resident would like the CCTV camera, situated at the end of Bellsville where it joins the Sunderland Road, to be directed along her terrace as currently it is directed onto the Sunderland Road. EM has notified Belinda Snow, Durham County Council's Neighbourhood Warden Manager, of the situation.

CL reported residents were very concerned about the increase in HMO's in the area.

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

LM reported only two schools had responded to the Scrap Books Project for the King Charles III Coronation and suggested including portraits from the Children's Art Competition in the remaining scrap books.

Agreed.

22.150 Date of next meeting Thursday 11th May 2023.