

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th July at 6:30 pm
in Belmont Community Centre

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

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

23.38 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors E.S. Mavin, A.P. Watkins and M. Watson.
RECEIVED.

23.39 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.
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LM Declared an Interest regarding donation request for the Mayors Appeal Fund 2023 (Mayors chosen charity St Cuthbert's Hospice).

The Chair suspended Standing Orders.

23.40 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

There were no Police present, a report from Councillor EM was circulated to councillors.

AGREED: Councillor EM to let everyone know date, time and venue of future next PACT meetings.

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Community Warden present.

(c) Members of the Public.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding a property in Rowantree Avenue – a student let which has fallen into a bad state of disrepair – weeds are now encroaching through the wall and onto the footpath, he has not provided the main storage area which was a condition of planning

permission being granted for a student let. It was agreed the Parish Office to write to Durham County Council – Stephen Reed and CC John Hewitt (Chief Executive of Durham County Council), with these concerns, particularly enforcement as a condition of the planning permission. The Parish Office to invite a representative from Appletree to come and speak at a future parish council meeting.

A resident highlighted the slow deterioration of the High Grange Estate He also speculated how 100 more houses than those at High Grange could be accommodated in the new development at Benthouse Lane

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

23.41 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont

Parish Council held on 8th June 2023 – Minutes attached*

AGREED.

23.42 To Receive matters of information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for information.

1. Awaiting monies from Durham County Council following confirmation of grant application for Disability Accessible Playground Equipment Project.
2. Request from a resident to place a memorial plaque on a bench in Belmont Cemetery.
3. The date of the Northumbria in Bloom summer judging is confirmed for Monday 17th July 2023

RECEIVED.

23.43 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 July and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

RECEIVED.

23.44 To Receive update on UTC Project.

There has been no response to date from UTC.

UTC project – the representative from UTC did not show to give an update and has not responded to either the Chair of Belmont Parish Council or the Chair of the Environment Committee's emails.

AGREED: The Chair of Belmont Parish Council and Vice Chair of the Environment Committee to chase up a response from representative of UTC regarding way forward with their project.

23.45 To Consider defibrillator proposal.

A discussion took place with regards to placing a 24 hour access defibrillator outside Belmont Library, installation costs and defibrillator to come from LM Neighbourhood Budget. The annual maintenance costs will be covered by Belmont Parish Council.

AGREED: Chair to coordinate the siting of this, funding the defibrillator from her Neighbourhood Budget.

23.46 To Consider donation request for the Mayors Appeal Fund 2023 (Mayors chosen charity St Cuthbert's Hospice).

To be discussed under Finance Committee agenda item 23.13

23.47 Belmont Community Association – ways forward with governance.

A discussion took place regarding ways forward with governance regarding Belmont Community Association. Members discussed and considered the feasibility of the parish council being appointed as trustees for the Community Association. Councillor MPB had done a little background research and it was acceptable for a parish council body to be appointed as a collective trustee. Councillor CF suggested that should the parish become trustees, we could insist that a representative from each user group attend the AGM, this could be added as a requirement in the user agreement. All members agreed that this was a feasible option and worthy of consideration in greater detail.

It was agreed to set up a working party consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the council and the chairs of each committee. It was envisaged that this working party would meet August /September time with a view to feeding back at the October meeting.

AGREED: Chair to email members of the working party sub committee to organise a date to meet.

23.48 Neighbourhood Watch Community Safety Charter.

It was agreed to sign up to this, posters to be displayed on website, Facebook page and in parish noticeboards.

AGREED: Clerk to sign up to this on behalf of Belmont Parish Council.

23.49 Cheveley Parks shops – possible parking improvements.

The Chair and another members highlighted the ongoing parking difficulties at Cheveley Park shops. The Chair explained that she would like to lobby the agents to extend the car park at the rear next to the play park, and make it single flow with a separate entrance and exit. Councillor SW raised concerns that they are not agents at Cheveley Park shops, they are owners and they would pass the cost of these improvements on to the shop leasers, leading to an increase in their rents.

Councillor JK raised concerns that some of the shops were standing empty, and Councillor CF suggested approaching the council with a view to seeing if they would be prepared to adopt the road.

AGREED: Chair to liaise with shop leasers, and the owners regarding the proposals and contact the owners to find out why these properties were vacant.

23.50 To Receive Committee Reports:

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

To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of June 2023 - see attached*

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

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

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

To Receive three monthly report for April/May/June 2023 - see attached*

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

To Consider Donation requests during the month of June 2023

St Cuthberts Hospice (Mayor of Durham) Mayors Appeal Fund 2023

AGREED: £500.00 Mayor's Appeal Fund – St Cuthbert's Hospice.

The Chair thanked the Chair of the Finance Committee for his usual diligence and hard work ensuring the reports were clear and easily understood.

(b) Planning

PC made comment on the list of Weekly Planning Applications received during the month of June 2023 – see attached*

PC gave a planning report to councillors - see attached*

AGREED: The Chair of the Planning Committee to write to Stephen Reed, the overall Planning Committee Chair and the Chair of Central Planning to request a Supplementary Planning Document in response to the encroach of HMOs in the parish. It was agreed that Article 4 was a step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough and does not take into account local circumstances.

The Chair thanked the Chair of the Planning Committee for his usual hard work and diligence.

(c) Communication Committee.

No meeting was held last month.

The Chair thanked everyone involved with the delivery of the Summer newsletters.

A meeting to be arranged in early September to finalise items for the autumn newsletter. The Chair thanked members who attended the Community Resilience Plan training. All available to purchase resources to support the plan – flasks, blankets, torches, spades, shovels etc. The Chair will be applying for this grant to purchase resources to support plan Chair of the Communications Committee to email members with date and time for next meeting. The Chair to email notes and updated Community Resilience Plan to all members and display posters in noticeboards and on social media.

AGREED.

(d) Environment Committee. see attached*

The Vice Chair summarised the tabled Minutes:-

Phase 1 of the Play Park Repair Program is now completed.

It was agreed to fund Phase 2 of the repair works highlighted from Durham County Council Safety Inspection Report, a quote for £2,158 has come in for the works.

AGREED: to authorise works to start.

Councillor VH suggested an impromptu litter pick ahead of Northumbria in Bloom judging day.

AGREED: Councillors who are available to assist to meet at at Willowtree entrance Sunday 16th July 2023 at 14:00pm.

Councillor White reported he is in the process of finalising the Northumbria in Bloom itinerary.

Planting of sustainable beds completed.

Councillor White reported he had the TPO Order for the land to Cheveley Walk and Birkdale Gardens therefore those residents who were having satellite problems from nearby trees would not be allowed to cut the tops of trees. SW to meet with Durham County Tree Officer on Wednesday 19th July 2023 to look at the state of the Ash trees.

Belmont Allotment tree issues.

SW to visit Belmont Allotments to have a look at the two Ash Die Back diseased trees.

Northumbria in Bloom

Councillor White and Councillor L Mavin to attend the Northumbria in Bloom judging on 17th July 2023 and feedback at next month's Parish Council meeting.

The Chair thanked the Environment Committee for their hard work and diligence.

23.51 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

AW reported the following concerns for the Belmont Ward.

Councillor Walker had received a request from a resident asking if the barrier at Renny's Lane could be re sited at the top, Councillor EM to forward a response from Durham County Council Officers to Councillor AW for information.

The fence at Renny's Lane underpass has been vandalised nearer the top and several panels are missing, Councillor MW is in the process of organising a new lock.

Councillor LM to follow up with Councillor MW and also look into metal fencing as a more suitable option.

AW raised a concern following recent road surfacing works on a stretch of road at Rennys Lane and requested the litter bin be put back in its original place. The matter to be reported to Durham County Council for attention.

Councillor AW raised an issue from a resident who has concerns regarding a large tree at Cambridgeshire Drive She would like it crowned as it has grown another two feet since Councillors and Durham County Council Tree Officers had last visited the area. Councillor LM to arrange a site visit with Durham Council Council Tree Officers.

There are 3 vans and 4 cars which cause a regular obstruction at a property on Devonshire Road, Councillor LM to follow up

SW reported the pin is missing on the gate at Rennys Lane on the gate the matter to be reported to Durham County Council for attention.

Carrville

Councillor JK raised issues regarding the gate at Poplar Park play area not closing properly when fully opened, allowing dogs to enter the park, Councillor Mavins to follow up concern.

Councillor JK raised a concern regarding speeding traffic on Swinside Drive. There has been a site visit previously with Michelle McIntosh, Traffic Assets Senior Engineer who had agreed for signage to be put on the road. Councillor LM to follow up and design a leaflet to be posted through residents doors reminding them off the need to stay within the 20mph limit.

Councillor JK raised a concern from a resident concerned about the poor state of the bedding plants in the container on Grinstead Way, LM to visit the area.

Councillor JA raised concerns regarding a parked car, drug related activity and anti-social behaviour from a small group of youths in the trees near Carrsway, details of the registration number were passed onto police.

Gilesgate Moor.

Councillor PC reported that residents from Belle Vue Court and St Hilds Court were concerned about potential issues with tree root systems caused by trees growing near their properties which may need monitoring in the future.

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

23.53 Date of next meeting Thursday 14th September 2023.