

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30pm 2023.  
in Belmont Community Centre.

Present: Chair, Councillor Christine A. Fletcher, Councillors, J. Appleby, M.P. Bennett, P.J. Conway, P.S. Conway, V. Hawes, E.S. Mavin, A.C. Walker, A.P. Watkins and S.C. White.

Also present: Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)

Member of the Public (2)

23.54 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors, J. Knight, C.A. Lattin, L. Mavin, K. Noble and M. Watson.

RECEIVED.

23.55 To Receive Declarations of Interest.

Members Please Note: - this is a standard item. If Members are aware of a personal 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.

**The Chair suspended Standing Orders.**

23.56 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

A PACT report was circulated to councillors for information.

EM reported the Police had had a spate of 6 burglaries in Belmont over a two-night period, although no further issues have come about.

No hot spot anti-social behaviour or crime areas were identified over the last six weeks.

(b) Community Warden.

There was no Community Warden present.

(c) Members of the Public.

A member of the public reported a resident had been attacked by a large black lurcher, the concern has been reported to the police.

A member of the public reported that another parish council had refused a HMO Application in their area with the same arguments put forward as Belmont Parish Council. Councillor Conway stressed the need for more public attendees at planning meetings to strengthen their case, as the parish council who had been successful had 100 attendees present.

AGREED: to share thoughts with Chair regarding public attendees at meetings.

AGREED: Councillor Conway to reiterate via a letter regarding Article 4 Directive.

A resident raised issues regarding the traffic lights at Tesco saying there was no pause to allow pedestrians to cross safely. The resident was advised to email his concerns to the parish office which would be forwarded onto Durham County Highways Department for attention.

The Chair thanked the members of the public for their attendance who left shortly after.

### **The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.**

23.57 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Minutes attached\*

AGREED with one amendment: -

PG 5 (d) Environment Committee line 4 from (£2,1 has---) to £2,158.

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

PROW Claim Form has been sent to Durham County Council.

The Clerk applied for the Community Safety Charter.

This year's Local Heroes Event will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2:00pm – 3:30pm in Belmont Community Centre.

The Northumbria in Bloom Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Lancastrian Suite, Gateshead, fifteen representatives will be attending at £10.00 per person.

AGREED.

22.59 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 September and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

RECEIVED.

23.60 To Discuss maintenance work on the memorial benches.

A discussion took place regarding several benches which need re-painting.

AGREED: Clerk to contact Councillor Watson to see if he has any paperwork regarding insurance cover for repair / replacement of the damaged benches.

AGREED: Councillor Fletcher to contact Emmanuel church to see if their volunteers would sand down and re paint the most damaged ones

23.61 To Consider suitable locations for an additional EV Charging point.

A discussion took place regarding suitable locations for an additional EV Charging point in the parish.

AGREED: the Chair to pass on all suitable locations to Durham County Council.

23.62 To Receive Committee Reports

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

To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of July/August 2023 -  
see attached\*

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

To Receive bank reconciliation during the month of July/August 2023 - see  
attached\*

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

To Consider donation request for Belmont Bowling Club

AGREED: to request a letter from Belmont Bowling Club to clarify nature of request.

Councillor White sought approval for three Cherry trees overhanging garage to be felled to ground level following quote from Arborline Tree Services for £290.00.

AGREED.

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

Weekly Planning Applications for July/August – RECEIVED – see attached\*

County Wide Delegated for July/August – RECEIVED – see attached\*

Planning Report – RECEIVED – see attached\*

Neighbourhood Planning – RECEIVED – see attached\*

AGREED: the Chair of the Parish Council would determine whether the discussion with Gary Swarbrick was open to the general public.

The Chair thanked Councillor Conway for his planning reports.

(c) Communications – to consider communication matters  
Newsletter update.

AGREED: draft newsletter to be shared with all members as soon as it is completed

(d) Environment – to consider environment matters  
Scrambles

SW asked for approval to apply to Durham County Council for planning permission to take down the five Ash die back trees on the Scrambles following quote from Arborline Tree Services for £670.00

AGREED.

Belmont Allotments

Simon Chivers, Durham County Council Tree Officer to be invited to a site visit at Belmont Allotments to discuss Willow tree which needs replacing and other issues.

The Chair congratulated Councillors JA and SW with regards to organising this years Northumbria in Bloom competition and Durham County Council Gardeners team for their work in the parish.

23.63 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Due to time restraints the Chair asked councillors if they had any ward issues to report to contact the parish office.

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

23.65 Date of next meeting Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023.