

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11th April 2024 at 6:30pm
in Belmont Community Centre.

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

Also present: Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)

Member of the Public (1)

23.126 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from C.A. Fletcher, A.C. Walker, A.P. Watkins, M. Watson.
RECEIVED.

23.127 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.
RECEIVED.

23.128 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

a) Police.

A PACT report was circulated to councillors for information.

b) Community Warden.

A report was circulated to councillors for information.

c) Members of the Public.

(1)

23.129 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 14th March 20234 – see attached*

AGREED with amendment

Page 3 line 12 to read Opposed (3)

Matters arising –

PG 2 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports 23.113 c) Members of the Public

Leazes Bridge, a Freedom of Information request was conveyed to Durham County Council, requesting sight of the structural assessment report and potential costings for repair/ replacement of the bridge, there has been no response to date.

AGREED: The Chair to chase up with Durham County Council..

PG 2 – 23.120 speeding concerns on Carrville High Street

Councillor Knight reported speeding concerns on Swinside Drive were becoming a

majority problem, Councillor ESM said ‘slow markings’ have been ordered and will be done when workload allows.

23.130 To Receive matters of information, Clerk’s Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for information.

1. Framed picture of His Majesty King Charles 111 has been delivered to the Parish Office. A request from Belmont Bowling Club for the portrait to be hung in the Pavilion was agreed on the proviso after a period of time it could be hung in a different venue for other members of the public to view and appreciate.

2. The Bowling Club is in the process of purchasing a basic fridge up to the value of £150.00 which the parish council will recompense following sight of the receipt.

3. The Internal Auditor is conducting the annual internal audit report for 2023/2024.
RECEIVED.

23.131 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.

23.132 Trusteeship of Belmont Community Association update

The Chair reported that recent repairs to the Community Centre roof have been successful and things were looking positive. The next meeting of the Belmont Community Association will take place on Wednesday 15th May at 7:00pm to discuss any business followed by refreshments.

23.133 Belmont bowl / BMX site

Concerns were raised regarding Belmont Skate Bowl not being safe and in need of repair work to make it fit for purpose.

AGREED: to request a quote from Durham County Council for fixing and cleaning the Skate Bowl.

BMX site

A resident who previously attended a parish council meeting looking to regenerate the bowl and offer a cost effective plan for the BMX track which would see the creation of a pump track, to be informed there was no funding available.

AGREED: the Chair to organize an independent assessment from Durham County Council and report back findings to full council.

23.134 Heritage 100 walk – possible sponsorship

Following a recent request from a resident asking if the parish council would support a local walk in this Heritage 100 walk series to show off the area and suggested Belmont Scrambles, Kepier Woods and Pelaw Woods as possible areas. A discussion took place and it was agreed that information regarding the Heritage 100 walk be included in the parish newsletter to promote health and well-being rather than sponsoring the scheme.

AGREED: to inform the resident of the council's decision.

23.135 Provision of Teracycle pill recycling

Councillor CAL put forward a possible collaboration with Durham City Parish Council and Belmont Parish Council over recycling of empty pill blister packs. Councillor CAL reported she had visited several local chemists with only one chemist (outside the parish) who was interested in the scheme. Concerns were raised regarding costings and also being outside the Parish.

AGREED: to take back to Environment Committee for further discussion and report back to full council.

23.136 To Receive Committee Reports:

a) Finance and Assets Committee – to consider financial matters – see attached*

To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of March 2024 - see attached*
RECEIVED AND AGREED.

To Receive bank reconciliation during the month of March 2024 – see attached*
RECEIVED AND AGREED.

To Receive quarterly budget statement for January/February and March 2024
RECEIVED AND AGREED.

Councillor MPB asked for approval for the clerk to be re-reimbursed for ten hours extra work on completing the Annual Return.
AGREED.

A request from a resident to place a “Letters to Heaven postbox” in the cemetery was discussed at the previous Finance & Assets Committee whereby members agreed it was a lovely idea but might go against other peoples personal beliefs.
AGREED: the Chair to respond to the resident saying his request had been refused.

Cemetery encroachment update -

A further letter to be sent to resident repeating request for removal of the concrete block and metal fence causing an encroachment in the cemetery. If request is ignored it was agreed to seek legal advice.
AGREED: to arrange a site meeting with resident.

Councillor MPB was thanked for his hard work and diligence regarding financial matters.

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

Weekly Planning Applications for March 2024 - see attached*
RECEIVED.

Countywide Delegated March 2024 - see attached*
RECEIVED.

Planning Report – see attached*
RECEIVED.

Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor PSC gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan and informed councillors the final Housing Needs Assessment has now been received. The next meeting of the working group will be meeting on 21st March and the 26th March.

The Chair thanked Councillor PSC for his hard work and diligence on planning matters.

c) Communications Committee – to consider communication matters.

The Chair reported the spring judging for the Northumbria in Bloom competition would take place on Thursday 18th April, meeting at Ramside Hall at 10:30am, a light lunch and refreshments will be provided by Ramside Hall afterwards.

The Chair informed Councillors there would be no Beautiful Durham Competition taking place this year.

The Chair informed councillors the website hosting is now up and running.

Councillor LM was thanked for her hard work and diligence on the Parish Newsletter.

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

It was agreed the Cemetery Contractor would be responsible for the planting, digging, weeding and watering of the cemetery flowerbeds and tubs and maintenance (plants to be provided by the Parish Council).

The Chair has arranged a meeting with Durham County Council Highways Officers to discuss the Gardening Contract.

The gate at Rennys Lane, the lock is still missing and there has been no further issues with vehicles, it was agreed to leave gate as is, thus enabling the man with the tractor to gain access to Renny's Lane to do the annual Scrambles cut.

Councillor CAF is looking into at CCTV for Rennys Lane.

Scrambles Report April 2024

A report has been received from Councillor SCW and KN – see attached*

Friends of Kepier Woods.

A report from Councillor MW was circulated to Councillors for information – see attached*.

The land at Kirkstone Drive is in need of grass cutting, the Chair informed Councillors she had won a cordless lawnmower which would prove helpful.

Councillor LM was thanked for standing in as Chair of the Environment

Committee.

23.137 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

Councillor EM said he had reported a large pot-hole at the rear of Cheveley Park.

Carrville

Councillor JK reported issues when exiting junction from estate at Blue House Shops onto the High Street.

Councillor JA raised concerns regarding Fallsway in need of possible road markings.

Pupils from St Leonards School have painted a mural and were looking for a suitable location to display it, Councillor LM suggested the end of Cheveley Park Shops.

Gilesgate Moor.

Councillor VH reported a large bush causing visibility issues as you turn right at the junction opposite MKM, the matter to be reported to the Neighbourhood Wardens.

Councillor CAL raised a concern regarding a bush growing over the path on Sunderland Road as you go past the ESSO Garage in need of cutting back.

Councillor CAL informed councillors that the recently formed Friends of Rennys Lane Group has unfortunately ceased.

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

There was no other business.

23.139 Date of next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting on Thursday 9th May 2024 at 6:00pm.