

Minutes for Belmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2024 at 6:30pm  
In Belmont Community Centre.

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

Also present: Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)

Members of the public

(5)

24.46 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors J. Knight, A.P. Watkins and M. Watson.

RECEIVED.

24.47 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.

**The Chair suspended Standing orders.**

24.48 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

No report received.

(b) Community Warden.

No report received.

(c) Members of the Public.

A member of the public praised Councillor PSC for his input at a recent planning meeting.

A member of the public who attended a special planning meeting on the 22nd July 2024 raised concerns regarding the poor attendance of members of the Durham County Council Planning Committee and felt he was ignored and not listened to.

AGREED: Councillor EM to contact the Chair of the Planning Committee, Durham County Council to discuss further.

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

24.49 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 11th July 2024 – Minutes attached\*

AGREED.

- 24.50 To Receive matters of information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for information.  
 1. The Public Rights of Way claim form has been submitted to Durham County Council.  
 2. An Insurance Claim has been submitted to Zurich Insurance regarding the damaged fencing at Cheveley Park Play area.  
 3. The Annual Governance Audit Report has been completed for 2023/2024 and will be published on the parish website.  
 4. Tree stump in cemetery has been removed and the matter is now resolved.  
 RECEIVED.
- 24.51 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.
- 24.52 B.M.X. Track update.  
 Following advice from Durham County Council advising closing off the BMX track to prevent potential Health and Safety issues arising, the Clerk to contact Durham County Council to request temporary fencing to be placed around the track until the council agrees to a decision on the way forward. An article to be placed in the parish newsletter, Facebook page and website regarding the BMX Track for information.  
 AGREED.
- Councillor MB to acquire two quotes for the repair of the track and give feedback at the next Finance and Assets Meeting on 16th September 2024.  
 AGREED.
- 24.53 To Consider possible funding for Writer in Residence at Belmont Library.  
 The three County Councillors to fund the monies for the above, Councillor CF, Councillor EM and Councillor LM.
- 24.54 Conclusion of Annual Governance Audit Return 2023 – 2024.  
 The audit has been concluded for 2023-2024 and the statement of accounts will be published on the parish website.  
 AGREED.
- 24.55 To Approve revised Financial Regulations 2024.  
 APPROVED AND AGREED.  
 UNANIMOUS.
- 24.56 To Receive Committee Reports:  
 (a) Finance – to consider financial matters  
 Councillor MB gave an update to councillors on the following items.
- To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of July/August 2024 – see attached\*  
 RECEIVED AND AGREED.
- To Receive bank reconciliation during the month of July/August 2024  
 RECEIVED AND AGREED.

To Receive donation requests  
St Cuthberts Hospice.  
AGREED:£50.00

Councillor MB was thanked for his diligent work on the Finance and Assets Committee.

Thanks were conveyed to the three County Councillors, Councillor EM, Councillor LM and Councillor CF, Councillor MW and M. Stagg (Wider World Project) for their input regarding the disability accessible play equipment at Moorfield Park  
AGREED: to include an article in the parish newsletter regarding the completed project.

(b) Planning – to consider and make comment on Planning matters – see attached\*  
Councillor PSC gave an update to councillors on the following items.

Weekly Planning Applications for July/August 2024 – see attached\*  
RECEIVED.

Countywide Delegated for August/September 2024 - see attached\*  
RECEIVED.

Planning Report September 2024 – see attached\*  
Councillor PSC presented a report to councillors which included a discussion on Policy 16 of the County Durham Plan and in particular Part 3 relating to Houses in Multiple Occupation.  
AGREED: to include a piece in the parish newsletter on how residents can voice their concerns.

### **The Chair suspended Standing Orders.**

RH from Gilesgate Residents Association (GRA) said policies can be adopted within the Neighbourhood Plan that effects Policy 16.

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

Belmont and Gilesgate Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – see attached\*  
Councillor PSC presented a report to councillors - see attached\*

Councillor PSC was thanked for his diligent work on the Planning Committee and Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

(c) Communications – to consider communication matters.  
The Chair of the Communications informed members she would be corresponding by email regarding suitable articles for the autumn newsletter.

Councillor LM was thanked for her diligent work on the Communications Committee.

(d) Environment – to consider environment matters – see attached\*  
An update was given by the Chair of the Environment Committee Councillor KN which included the following :-  
Councillor SW reported he was awaiting consent from Durham County Council Planning Department 8 Ash trees to be felled due to ash dieback. Councillor SW was thanked for his work on this.

Gardening Contract/Public Rights of Way – a meeting to be arranged with Durham County Council to discuss a number of issues.

Councillor KN said she had contacted homeowners for their thoughts on a bench being placed opposite their properties following a residents request for one. Residents were not happy with the proposal and the resident was given an alternative solution.

Board Walk project need to know costs.

A concern was raised regarding overgrown vegetation on Moorfield path causing Health and Safety issues for residents.

AGREED: the Clerk to ask cemetery contractor to clear the path.

#### Scrambles

Councillor SW reported the mowing of the meadows is nearing completion.

Councillor KN was thanked for her diligent work on the Environment Committee.

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

##### Belmont

It was reported the site visit at Coniston Close had been very positive and that the speed limit 20mph for all had been rectified.

A concern was raised when turning right from Dinsdale into Thorndale a dip in the road is pooling with water, the issue is being monitored.

Councillor EM reported he is looking at getting a metal fence for the underpass and the remains of the current wooden fence removed.

Councillor EM would like the Standing Orders to have a paragraph regarding any councillors on compassionate leave not to be contacted for two weeks.

A concern was raised regarding ongoing graffiti and antisocial issues in Rennys Lane underpass a site visit to be arranged.

Councillor AW requested an update on a residents concerns at the previous meeting regarding the traffic signal system at Belmont Business park remaining on red when there was no obvious reason why cars could not proceed forward into Durham whilst cars were able to turn right into the business park.

Councillor LM followed this up following the last meeting and the response was that the right turn into Belmont industrial estate operates at the same time as the pedestrian crossing running from the western central island to the southern footway, so for safety reasons the westbound ahead traffic is held on red. The resident concerned has been informed and is happy with the response.

##### Carrville

A concern was raised regarding three damaged fence posts on Broome Road Carrville (previously reported) requiring attention, the matter to be chased up with Durham County Council.

Gilesgate Moor

Councillor PSC to speak to Tesco Manager regarding the car-park at Dragon Lane if permit is still applies for residents to park their cars, which was historically negotiated with Durham City Council many years ago.

A concern was raised regarding unclear road markings near home bargains and Lidl the matter to be reported to Durham County Council.

- 24.58 Council business (any Item which has been brought to the attention of the Chairman for discussion during the meeting for approval or otherwise)
- 24.59 Date of next meeting 10th October Thursday 2024.