

Minutes for Belmont Parish Council held on Thursday 10th October 2024
at 6:30pm in Belmont Community Centre.

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

Also present: Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)
Members of the public (2)

24.60 **To Receive Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for Absence were received from P.S. Conway, V. Hawes, J. Knight, A.C. Walker,
A.P. Watkins and M. Watson.

RECEIVED.

24.61 **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.

24.62 **To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.**

(a) **Police.**

No report received.

(b) **Community Warden.**

No report received.

(c) **Members of the Public.**

A resident who was present at a recent Durham County Council Planning meeting praised the three county councillors for delivering an excellent presentation.

A resident raised a concern regarding the area behind the Travellers Rest which has become a pay park. Councillor PSC reported he had contacted the Tesco Manager regarding an agreement made in 2005 allowing nearby residents to park there for free, the resident has been informed he can still park there for free.

Staff from nearby garages are parking their cars on the pavement making it hazardous for mobility users. Councillor KN suggested sending a letter to the garage saying it has been noted more people are parking on the pavement therefore could staff be made aware of the issue.

Mr. R. Chapman (resident) presented the parish council with a gavel box he had personally made for usage at future meetings. Mr Chapman was thanked for his thoughtful gift.

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

- 24.63 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of the Minutes of the meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 12th September 2024 – Minutes attached*
AGREED.

Matters arising

The BMX Track is still not fenced off, the matter to be chased up with Durham County Council.

Councillor MB reported he had been sent a list of reputable firms after contacting British Cycling, presently he has received two quotes and is awaiting a further quote shortly.

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

The Clerk has contacted Charlton Fencing for an update regarding repair work on the damaged fencing at Cheveley Park play area, awaiting response.

The Clerk informed councillors the painter and decorator undertaking painting works in the parish is unable to begin work until spring 2025 following a recent spell of inclement wet weather.

RECEIVED.

- 24.65 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 October and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

RECEIVED.

- 24.66 To Approve Data Protection, Grievance and Disciplinary Policies.

AGREED.

- 24.67 To Discuss Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2024.

Arrangements for this years Remembrance Sunday were discussed and the following agreed:-

Laying of wreath

AGREED: Chair, Councillor CF to lay the wreath.

Wreath

Councillor LM to pay cash to Patrick Holroyd and reclaim from parish council.

AGREED:£30.00

It was agreed that Vice-Chair Councillor LM could print the Orders of Service using the parish office photocopier.

AGREED.

Donation for the Parochial Church Council towards refreshments

AGREED:£100.00.

It was agreed to invite the resident who had previously expressed an interest in joining the Friends of Belmont War Memorial Group, to lay a wreath. The wreath to be purchased by Belmont Parish Council.

AGREED:£30.00

It was reported there would be no Belmont Anthem this year, two soloists were being considered as an alternative.

The Mothers Union have made knitted poppies on a cross and bought lamppost poppies for along the street.

24.68 To Discuss Kepier Farm Public Rights of Way signage.

AGREED: to defer item until Councillor MW is available with an update.

24.69 To Receive Belmont Community Association report and statement of annual accounts 2023.

A report was given by the Councillor LM, Chair of Belmont Community Association which included the following :-

Roof repairs have been completed however a further leak has been found which is being looked into.

LM thanked Councillors MB and PSC for their invaluable support.

Mr. A. Thurlwell, (Parish Office) was also given thanks for his book keeping work for the Belmont Community Association.

Councillor LM was thanked for her diligent work as Chair of Belmont Community Association.

24.70 To Receive Committee Reports:

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

A report was given by Councillor MB (Chair) which included the following:-

To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of September 2024

– see attached*

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

To Receive bank reconciliation during the month of September 2024

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

Salaries for office staff

Clerk 15 hours per week – 15 hours per week plus (additional meetings and 10 hours work on Annual Return).

Admin/It Support – 15 hours per week.

AGREED.

Sports Pavillion

1. Councillor MB reported 106 monies have been granted but stated not everything could be done and proposed a meeting with CPAL to go through all items.

2. Councillor LM to contact Durham County Council to see if any other monies were available.

AGREED.

3. Councillor EM to contact Believe Housing to enquire if any funding is available from Social Value.

AGREED.

4. A meeting to be arranged between the F&A committee and representatives from Durham County Council to discuss further.

AGREED.

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

(b) Planning – to consider and make comment on Planning matters – see attached*
Councillor CF gave an update on planning matters.

1. Weekly Planning Applications for September 2024 – see attached*

RECEIVED.

2. Countywide Delegated for September 2024 - see attached*

RECEIVED.

3. Planning Report September 2024 – see attached*

Councillor PSC submitted a planning report to councillors for information.

4. Neighbourhood Plan

The next Neighbourhood Plan meeting will take place in the lounge at Belmont Social Club at 7:00 PM Thursday 21st November 2024. Gilesgate Residents Association and a couple of guest speakers will also be attending the meeting.

Councillor PSC was thanked for his diligent work on the Planning Committee/
Neighbourhood Plan.

(c) Communications Committee– to consider communication matters.

A report was given by Councillor LM (Chair) which included the following:-

1. Awaiting delivery of parish newsletter from the printers.

2. A thank you letter from the Chair of Belmont Parish Council to be sent to the Cemetery Contractor in recognition of his work in Belmont Cemetery.

AGREED.

3. A brief meeting to be arranged to discuss arrangements for this years switching on of the Christmas Tree lights.

AGREED.

4. Three quotes were discussed to replace existing parish notice boards within the parish. Price, size, materials and environment factors were taken into consideration.

Belmont Library and Sharpe Crescent - Oak notice board.

Shell Garage Cheveley Park- Aluminium notice board.

AGREED:

UNANIMOUS.

5. Domain address

A meeting to be arranged to discuss moving to a gov.uk domain for councillors, Parish Office and office staff. It was agreed to keep the website belmontparish.co.uk as it is.

AGREED: Councillor LM to obtain three quotes from an approved list of registrars and report back to full council to discuss the one most suited to the councils needs.

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

(d) Environment Committee

1. Scrambles report

Councillor SW reported the boardwalk project had been deferred until next year, more information needed regarding specification and quotes.

The camper van has now gone on the scrambles.

Eight trees are scheduled to be cut down on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 plus another six are getting done, Durham County Council Officer to check for more trees.

Bales of hay have been left in the small meadow, Friends of Belmont Scrambles to request removal.

A group of youngsters attempting to create a BMX Track on the Scrambles to be monitored in case it escalates into anti-social behaviour.

A litter pick is scheduled for Sunday 20th October 2024.

2. Belmont Allotments

Durham County Council Tree Officer says trees can be cut down.

A report from Councillor MW regarding The Friends of Keping Woods was tabled at the meeting in his absence – see attached*

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

24.71 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors. Belmont

A resident from Derbyshire Drive (Rennys Lane) is trying to establish who he needs to contact to have the trees pruned behind the back of his property. The matter to be forwarded to Durham Council for clarification.

Carrville

The Chair reported that the damaged fencing near the A1 Slip road behind Carrsway is getting done.

Gilesgate Moor

Nothing to report.

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

24.73 Date of next meeting 14th November Thursday 2024.