

Minutes of the Meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on Thursday 10th July 2025 at 6:00pm
in Belmont Community Centre

Present Chair, Councillor E.S. Mavin, Vice-Chair L. Mavin,
Councillors: M. Corrigan, T. Coll, C.A. Lattin, D. Hodgson, S.C. White, J. Fletcher, P. Finley and
R. Hornby

Also present: Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)
Members of the public
(4)

25.35 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Chissell, A.C. Walker, and
M. Watson.
RECEIVED.

25.36 To Receive update from Belmont Community Association

No update was provided at the Full Council meeting. An update is to be given at the Full
Council meeting in September.

25.37 To Receive Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda.

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.

25.38 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

a) Police – see attached*

A Neighbourhood Police Report was circulated to councillors which included:-

Wantage Road Shed Burglaries

Residents received security advice and reassurance from the beat team following shed
burglary incidents.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Off-Road Vehicle Activity

Reports of off-road vehicle activity and fire-setting led to a police talk at Cheveley Park
Primary School addressing these issues.

Community Traveller Incidents

Several incidents were noted involving the beat team and Durham County Council between
travelling communities. Travellers who had temporarily stayed at the Park and Ride have
now moved on.

b) Warden

No report received.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders.

c) Members of the Public

Land Use Discussion – Kirkstone Drive

Councillor Hornby met with John Adamson of Ramside Estates to discuss potential uses for a parcel of land at Kirkstone Drive. Previous suggestions included a play area, community garden, bungalows, or a low-level dentist/NHS walk-in centre. Concerns regarding access were raised, and Mr Adamson confirmed he had consulted with his architect about possible options. He was invited to attend the September Parish Council meeting to present proposals.

Ramside Nets Adjustment

John Adamson reported that, following concerns raised by nearby residents, the height of the nets at Ramside had been reduced.

Building Condition – The Old Fulling Mill

A concern was raised regarding the condition of The Old Fulling Mill, a building owned by Durham University situated on the Durham City riverbanks. Councillor Lattin agreed to pass on the details to the appropriate contact.

Parish Maintenance

A member of the public praised the general appearance of the parish, while noting that the Belmont Library car park was overgrown with branches from the adjacent care home, and the entrance to High Grange Estate required strimming. It was agreed that Durham County Council would be contacted to address these areas.

Kepier Crescent - Gilesgate

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the condition of gardens at several residential properties. As the properties are privately owned, no formal action can be taken. Councillor Lattin to consult with the Neighbourhood Warden.

Traffic Light Stop Line – Follow-Up Request

A member of the public who had previously raised concerns about the positioning of the stop line at the traffic lights—to allow safer turning for larger vehicles—requested an update. It was agreed that the matter be pursued further with Durham County Council.

Signage at Belle Vue

A member of the public raised concern regarding unauthorised signage attached to highway railings at Belle Vue. It was agreed that the Durham County Council Enforcement Officer would be contacted to address the issue.

Garages behind Ashdown Avenue

A concern was raised regarding the condition of a row of six garages located behind Ashdown Avenue, which appear to be in need of attention. It was agreed that Believe Housing would be contacted to confirm ownership.

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders.

Tree Issue Carrsway Carrville

A resident reported that Councillor Hodgson and Councillor Chissell had attended a site meeting with the Durham County Council Tree Officer to discuss ongoing concerns regarding tree height and the impact on light levels. The Tree Officer is to prepare a report, which will be forwarded to the resident once available.

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

- 25.39 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 12th June 2025 – see attached*
AGREED.
- 25.40 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for Information.
1. Painting works have been completed.
2. Repairs to the Cemetery Robing Room are scheduled to begin on Saturday, 12th July 2025.
3. A defibrillator is scheduled to be installed on the exterior wall of Belmont Library next week. The outdoor placement will ensure public accessibility in case of emergency, with installation expected to follow standard safety and electrical guidelines.
- 25.41 To Consider Risk Management in Relations 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.
- 25.42 To Consider donation request for the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor Gary Hutchinson Mayors Appeal for 2025/2026 St Cuthberts Hospice.
Members considered a request for financial support towards the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor Gary Hutchinson's Appeal for 2025/2026, in aid of St Cuthbert's Hospice.
It was agreed that a donation of **£100.00** be made to the Appeal.
- 25.43 To Discuss improvement to the skate bowl Moorfield .
Councillor Finley is exploring Section 106 funding to support improvements at the Moorfield skate bowl. Proposals include commissioning a graffiti artist to create site artwork and pursuing the reinstatement of the road surface. Councillor E. Mavin will forward details of the young person who previously brought the issue to the Council's attention.
- 25.44 To Receive Committee Reports:
a) Finance
1. To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of June – see attached
RECEIVED AND AGREED.

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

3. To Receive three monthly budget statement for April/May and June 2025
RECEIVED AND AGREED.

106 Applications

Councillors were informed that 106 applications concerning the Belmont Sports Pavilion and car parking space on the Belmont Allotment site are scheduled to be considered by the planning panel in July 2025.

Cemetery site visit.

A site visit to the cemetery has been scheduled for Monday 21st July 2025 at 6:00pm. All councillors are invited to attend and participate in the review.

AGREED.

b) Planning

To Discuss Planning Applications.

Councillor Hornby gave an update on Planning Applications and outstanding decisions for the month of June. He also noted at the last meeting of Council that the Planning Committee would review consultations raised by DCC. Those open for consultation are: County Durham Plan call for sites, which is to be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group), Lane Rental Scheme (charging for roadworks on busy streets), pharmacy services in County Durham, and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) – it was decided that these last ones should be returned on an individual basis, so if Councillors want to give their on on these, they can do so via letstalkcountydurham.co.uk.these, they can do so via letstalkcountydurham.co.uk.

Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillors Hornby and E. Mavin, and are working with Patrick Conway and Joanne Garrick DCC to finalise the Neighbourhood Plan's wording.

The next Working Group meeting will take place on 16th July 2025 at 1:30pm at Belmont Community Centre, with a focus on land use.

Councillor Lattin reported that Durham City Parish Council is reviewing the Durham City Neighbourhood Plan, with a focus on HMOs in collaboration with Durham County Planning Officers.

c) Communications

Northumbria in Bloom – Duffy Triangle Judging

Judging at the Duffy/Triangle is scheduled for Wednesday 23rd July 2025, beginning with a site meeting at 11:00am following the visit, lunch will be held at Belmont Community Centre.

Parish Newsletter

Councillor L. Mavin informed members that the parish newsletters and the Chairman's report had been completed and distributed. She noted that the next edition of the newsletter is scheduled for release before the end of September. A meeting date is to be confirmed in due course to discuss and agree upon suitable items for inclusion.

Northumbria in Bloom – Summer judging.

Members noted that the Northumbria in Bloom summer judging is scheduled for Friday 11th July. Judges will visit Belmont Cemetery, Belmont Allotments, Belmont Scrambles, Ramside Hall, Gilesgate Primary School, and assess floral planting schemes around the parish.

Noticeboards

Councillor L. Mavin reported that arrangements regarding the parish noticeboards are currently in hand.

Identity badges for councillors

Councillor L. Mavin reported that the identity badges are now ready. Lanyards are yet to be purchased to complete the arrangements.

d) Environment

Friends of Kepier Woods

Councillor Watson's report was circulated for information in his absence.

Friends of Belmont Scrambles

Councillor White gave a report to councillors which included Coniston Close / The Scrambles. Residents have raised concerns about fire-setting and anti-social behaviour in The Scrambles and request tree thinning to improve visibility. A walkabout with officers is recommended to assess vegetation near homes and agree priority actions.

25.45 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

Scrambles Meadow Mowing

Councillor White is seeking a contractor to mow the Scrambles meadows in early September. An update will follow at the next meeting.

Carrville

Wantage Road – Resurfacing work is on the schedule for repair for 2026.

Broomside Lane – Residential property upgraded with new window installations.

Gilesgate

Rennys Lane

Councillor E. Mavin is looking at gate for Rennys Lane.

Bollards have now been installed at Rennys Lane.

The owner of the flats at Sherburn Road is expected to open the premises in September.

Residents at Adolph's Place have raised concerns regarding limited parking availability and ongoing access difficulties. Councillor E. Mavin to explore options for resident parking passes to alleviate the issue.

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

25.47 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 11th September 2025 at 6:00 pm.