

Minutes of the Meeting of Belmont Parish Council is to be held on
Thursday 11th June 2026 at 6:00pm

Present: Chair, R. Hornby, Councillors, M. Corrigan, C. Gray, P. Finley, J. Fletcher, D. Hodgson, C. A. Lattin, L. Mavin, M. Watson S.C. White.
Mrs S. Overton Parish Clerk.

Members of the public. (5)

26.27 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T. Coll, G. Chissell, E. Mavin, F. Robinson. A. Walker.
RECEIVED.

26.28 To Receive update from Belmont Community Association. (Councillor L. Mavin)

Councillor Mavin circulated a written report to councillors regarding the Belmont Community Association (BCA). The report provided updates on staffing, centre usage, the current financial position, and progress on the new lunch club and toddler group. The report was received and noted.
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26.29 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.
declarations of interest were received from
Councillor Hornby – Gilesgate fun day.
Councillor L. Mavin. – Belmont School
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26.30 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

a) Police – see attached PACT meeting notes*

The PACT report was circulated to councillors and noted.

b) Durham County Council Neighbourhood Wardens.

No Neighbourhood Wardens were present. It was agreed to remove this item from the next agenda due to continued non-attendance.

c) Members of the Public.

Travellers on Moorfield.

Members of the public raised concerns about the recent presence of travellers on Moorfield and questioned why their departure took longer than expected. It was explained that the removal process must follow a legal procedure, which can take time. No criminal offences or antisocial behaviour were reported to the police during the encampment. A full report will be provided by the police at the next PACT meeting.

BMX Track

It was reported that youths had contacted Belmont Community Centre stating that the metal hoops installed at Moorfield were slowing users on their bikes as they passed through, and they were unhappy with the arrangement. A concern was also raised regarding youngsters on bikes riding at speed down the slope on Moorfield, creating a risk of near-collisions with walkers using the path. It was noted that metal hoops had been installed to prevent this.

AGREED: the issue to be referred to the Environment Committee.

Drainage Issues

A resident was invited to attend the meeting to speak about drainage problems in the High Grange Estate following recent flooding incidents. Drainage issues were reported across the estate, affecting an estimated 800–1,000 properties. Foul drains are operating as combined systems and are too small to cope with heavy rainfall, leading to repeated flooding, including sewage entering garages. NWL have attended recent incidents and further investigation is scheduled. Residents were encouraged to report all flooding with evidence, as under-reporting limits action.

AGREED: to refer the matter to the Environment Committee, noting that upgrades to key sections of the drainage network may be required.

d) County Councillors Report

Councillor L. Mavin submitted a written report, which had been circulated to all councillors. The report noted that Councillor Amanda Hopgood has been appointed as the 423rd Mayor of the City of Durham, and that Councillor Eric Mavin has been appointed as Deputy Mayor. The report was received and noted.

Congratulations to Councillor E. Mavin for his appointment as Deputy Mayor of Durham.

Birdsmouth Fencing - Upgraded birdsmouth fencing on Broomside Lane has been completed, funded from Councillor E. Mavin's Neighbourhood Budget.

Further birdsmouth fencing at Kirkstone Drive will also be funded from Councillor E. Mavin's Neighbourhood Budget.

e) Parish Chair

Councillor Hornby advised that he was still getting to grips with the new demands and responsibilities as Chair, and hoped that colleagues had patience while he was familiarising himself with the role. He noted that most issues for note had been placed on the agenda.

f) County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC)

A summary of the recent CDALC meeting was provided by Councillor Fletcher. One of the main changes highlighted was in employment rights, including zero-hours contracts, bereavement leave and pensions, which is of particular interest given the staffing on zero hours at the community centre. It was noted that staff on zero-hours contracts have the right to request permanent hours if they have been working a regular set of hours each week. L. Mavin will seek advice from Durham County Council. Councillor Fletcher noted that a Local Network drop-in session will take place at Clayport Library on Thursday 18th June, 11am – 6:30pm.

- 26.31 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2026 – see attached*
AGREED.

- 26.32 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – for Information.

- i) Correspondence related to BMX track. (to refer to Environment Committee)
- ii) Correspondence related to weed control. (to refer to Environment Committee)
(and others)

- 26.33 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 June 2026 and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.
AGREED.

- 26.34 To Consider the establishment of a Business Committee of the Parish Council.

Councillor Lattin proposed that the Parish Council establish a Business Committee Group to explore ways in which the Council could support local businesses.

Councillor Finley proposed an amendment that, in place of forming a Business Committee Group, the Council should establish Task and Finish Groups as necessary to carry out these actions, and that a standing Task and Finish item be included on future agendas. The amendment was seconded by Councillor L. Mavin.

The amendment was put to the vote and carried by 6 votes to 4.

Resolved: That the Parish Council establish Task and Finish Groups as necessary and include a standing Task and Finish item on all future agendas.

26.35 To Receive update on travellers on Moorfield. (Councillor Hornby)

a) Current situation

Large stone boulders have now been placed by Durham County Council.
CCTV installation is scheduled for next week.

b) Discussion of Moorfield Park security

The Council considered options for improving security at the site. A full-size security gate with a square base was discussed. Durham County Council (Durham County Council) and Councillor E. Mavin recommended the use of a padlock and confirmed that a suitable lock had been identified.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders to allow further discussion.

A member of the public suggested that a more robust lock be installed, with access available directly from the parish office, and also considered "Poacher's blocks"

The Chair re-imposed Standing Orders.

c) To refer the discussion of security improvements to Environment Committee under either

i) delegated powers, or

ii) to return to the next meeting of Council. (Council to agree)

AGREED: to refer the matter to the Environment Committee for further discussion to return to a future meeting of Full Council.

26.36 To Consider donation request for Gilesgate Fun Day. (Clerk)

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from Gilesgate Primary School asking whether the Parish Council would consider a donation to support the up-and-coming Gilesgate Fun day event.

AGREED.£50.00.

26.37 To Approve amendments to Cemetery Rules and Regulations. (Councillor White)

AGREED.

26.38 To Receive an update in relation to the BMX track. (Councillors Watson and E. Mavin)

Councillor E. Mavin reported via correspondence that he had been in discussion with two other County Councillors who are exploring the possibility of a BMX track at Pelaw View, Sherburn Road. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the two County Councillors to ascertain whether this proposal is being pursued, as it may be unnecessary to have two BMX tracks in the area if Belmont Parish Council is also considering one for Moorfield. It was further agreed to look at available Section 106 monies and other potential funding sources.

- 26.39 To Consider any updates to the Belmont Emergency Plan in relation to flood risk.
Councillor Hornby reported that he had developed an email alert system in relation to power cuts within his role as Emergency Plan Coordinator for the unparished area, and that he was willing to share this system with Belmont Parish Council. He is also working on a simulation exercise and proposed that this could be held jointly if agreed to. Councillor Hornby to contact the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) for an overview of latest issues as part of a proposed review.
AGREED: Councillor Hornby to review the current Resilience Plan and propose appropriate amendments at a future meeting.
- 26.40 To Receive an update on parking and access issues on Renny's Lane (Councillor Hornby)
Councillor Hornby attended a site meeting to discuss ongoing parking issues at Adolphus Place, where unrestricted roadside parking is being taken up by vehicles associated with a local business, making it difficult for residents to park near their properties. He reported that the meeting had been positive and that the business was agreeable to finding a solution beneficial to all parties. The Tesco store is to be contacted to request the pruning of overgrown greenery so that pedestrians can walk safely down the street, once the work is completed, a further review will be undertaken.
- 26.41 To Receive updates in relation to proposed highway infrastructure at the junction of Broomside Lane and Carrville High Street (Councillor E. Mavin)
An update was provided on the Junction Broomside Lane Project.
The RECI (Roadworks Early Contractor Involvement) meeting with Highways is awaited. This meeting must take place before a fixed price can be confirmed and the funding application progressed.
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- 26.42 To Consider a proposal for the closure of the road link from the A690 to Carville High Street (near the Shell Garage) (Councillors Watson and Gray)
It was noted that it would not be advisable to close the rat run, as there had been no resident complaints, closure could affect the garage's business, and the route may assist emergency vehicles in reaching incidents more quickly.
AGREED: Councillor L. Mavin to arrange a site meeting with Highways to discuss traffic calming options, and invite all interested councillors.
- 26.43 To Receive an update on the enquiry at Durham County Council in relation to their plans for the use of Scully Park (former Gilesgate School field), and to refer this information to Environment Committee (Councillor E. Mavin)
It was reported that no response has yet been received from Durham County Council regarding their future plans for Scully Park.
The position was noted.
- 26.44 To Receive Committee Reports included delegated decisions:
a) Finance and Assets (Councillor White)
1) Election for Vice Chair
Councillor Finley elected for Vice-Chair of the Finance and Assets Committee..
AGREED.
2) To Receive receipts and payments for May 2026 - see attached reports*
RECEIVED AND AGREED.
3) To Receive bank balance for May 2026 - see attached *
RECEIVED AND AGREED.
4) To Receive Donation request for the newly elected Mayor of Durham for 2026-2027
AGREED: To donate £100.00 to *The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham*, Councillor Amanda Hopgood, in support of her chosen charities for 2026–2027 (Point North and St Hospice).
AGREED:£100.00 (£50.00 each)

b) Planning (Councillor Hornby)

i) To receive an update on recent planning applications

To Receive the weekly planning applications for May 2026 - see attached*

To Receive Countywide Delegated for May 2026 - see attached*

RECEIVED.

ii) To Receive a report from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Neighbourhood Plan Councillor Hornby highlighted the importance of commenting on the Scoping Review Consultation. He requested volunteers to assist with further Neighbourhood Plan work before 7 August. The Site Assessment has been sent to Joanne Garrick, Planning Officer, Durham County Council (Durham County Council). The next Neighbourhood Plan meeting will be held on 6th July, 2.00– 4.00pm, to discuss Transport Policy, with Joanne Garrick attending.

RECEIVED.

Upcoming consultations:

New County Durham Plan Scoping: to be discussed

<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspxby> Durham County Council Cabinet on Thursday:

iii) To Receive a report concerning New Durham Club (Councillor E. Mavin, written)

A meeting was held on 7th June to discuss the club's future, attended by Councillor Hornby and Councillor Mavin. An offer for the site was noted, though no proposal has been seen, and wider community consultation was encouraged. Low attendance meant no ballot could be taken; the next meeting is on 21st June.

Councillor Mavin confirmed he has contact details for a company to deliver letters to all members. Members also requested a further land valuation.

RECEIVED.

c) Communications and Events (Councillor Fletcher)

The Chair of the Communications Committee, Councillor Fletcher, presented a report to councillors. The report included a proposal to rename the committee to the Events and Communications Committee and outlined plans to use the Parish website, noticeboards and social media to publicise future events. Councillor L. Mavin will provide guidance to councillors on how to enter next year's Northumbria in Bloom competition and what actions are required. Attendance at the meeting was noted as low.

d) Environment (Councillor Watson(Chair)

Councillor Watson gave a report which included:

- Barriers to deter off-road bikes complete; Giant Hogweed sprayed.
- Coniston Close kissing gate installed; Councillor L. Mavin to inspect.
- Cheveley Park pupils continuing weekly litter-picks.
- Moorfield steel hoops installed; minor gate issues remain.
- Disability bays painted; third required; extra Centre parking under review.
- Zip-wire wet-pour quote to be obtained from Durham County Council.
- Next community litter pick: Sunday 14 June, 2.00pm.

Councillor Watson was thanked for his report.

- 26.45 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.
a) To consider a report relating to bus transport to Belmont School (Councillor Hornby)
An issue with school bus transport from Sherburn to Belmont School has been passed to Mary Foy, MP for the City of Durham for attention.

Councillor Lattin reported that the first gate on Rennys Lane is open and the second gate has now been freed from the bushes.

Concerns were raised that Broomside Lane requires a general tidy-up, the issue to be reported to Durham County Council.

- 26.46 Council business (any item which has been brought to the attention of the Chairman for discussion during the meeting for approval or otherwise).
a) To consider an informal social gathering for Councillors (Councillors Lattin and Hornby)
Councillors Hornby and Lattin expressed a wish for councillors to attend informal gatherings to get to know one another better and strengthen working relationships. The comment was noted, and due to time pressures would be continued outside of the meeting.

- 26.47 Date and time of next meetings
Full Council: Thursday 9th July 2026 at 6:00pm.
Environment Committee: Wednesday 17th June 2026 at 6:00pm
Planning Committee: Wednesday 24th June 2026 at 5:30pm
Communications and Events Committee: Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 6:00pm (subject to confirmation)
Finance and Assets Committee: Monday 12th October at 6:00pm