Minutes of the Meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on
Thursday 10th September 2026 at 6:00pm

Present: Chair Councillor R. Hornby, Councillors T. Coll, M. Corrigan, D. Hodgson, P. Finley, J. Fletcher, C.A. Lattin , J. Fletcher and A.C. Walker.
Also present Mrs S. Overton (Clerk)
Members if the public (3)

26.65 To Receive Apologies for Absence.
Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors E. Mavin, L. Mavin, F. Robinson, M. Watson,
RECEIVED.

26.66 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.

There were no declarations of Interest received.

Councillor Lattin thanked all councillors for the bouquet of flowers she received following her recent injury.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders,

26.67 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.
a) Police – see attached PACT report*
PACT reports for July and August were circulated to councillors. It was noted that a temporary PCSO is currently in place, covering several areas until a permanent PCSO is appointed. Police advised that staffing levels remain low due to recent staff departures. The next PACT meeting will take place on Friday 18th September 2026 at 2:00pm in Belmont Community Centre.

b) Members of the Public.
Carrville Methodist Church – Highway Safety Concerns
Two representatives from Carrville Methodist Church raised concerns regarding difficulties and safety issues when exiting onto Carrville High Street. Church members and local groups using the building are being advised not to park outside the church as the situation is becoming dangerous. The Chair confirmed he was willing to contact the Highways Department about the matter and asked the representatives to send an email to the Parish Office.

Ramside Estates – Land and Tree Proposal
The owner and director of Ramside Estates informed councillors that drawings have been prepared for two proposed bungalows on part of the land leased to Belmont Parish Council at a peppercorn rent. He advised that he wishes to remove trees currently protected by a TPO and sought councillors' views before submitting a pre-planning application.
AGREED: To refer the matter to the Planning Committee and invite the owner to attend the October Parish Council meeting. Residents will also be contacted for their views.

The Chair reimposed Standing Orders.

c) County Councillors

d) Parish Chair

Northumbria in Bloom Awards Presentation
Information on the awards will be circulated following the event, which takes place on Wednesday 16th September 2026.

Cheveley Park Play Equipment
The Chair reported that a small repair was required on the circular swing and this has now been resolved.

Scrambles Meadow
Two members of the Friends of Belmont Scrambles have been liaising with the person who carries out the mowing on the Scrambles. He is currently in hospital but has indicated he knows someone who could assist in the meantime.

BMX Pump Track
There have been no developments to date regarding the update of the track.

Moorfield – Anti-Social Behaviour Measures
The metal hoops and fencing recently installed to deter anti-social behaviour on Moorfield have been damaged. Durham County Council have removed them and replaced them with a boulder on a trial basis.
AGREED: Deferred to the Finance & Assets Committee.

Broomside Lane
Work has begun on the pit tub, and the old concrete fencing is being removed and replaced with new birdsmouth fencing.

Road Safety – Broomside Lane
Road safety works at the Broomside Lane junction by the Sportsman's are ongoing, funded from the Neighbourhood Budget.

Barrier Rennys Lane
The barrier in Rennys Lane now has a 'super lock' on it.

Teddy Bears' Picnic and Sports Day Events. Belmont Community Association.
A big thank you was recorded to Councillor L. Mavin for organising two successful and well-attended events. The new weekly Monday lunch club is also proving very popular.

e) County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC)
Councillor Training and DALC AGM
Councillor Fletcher reported that the New Councillor Basic Training Course will take place on 22nd September 2026, and that the Annual General Meeting of the Durham Association of Local Councils (DALC) will be held on 24th October 2026.

26.68 To Confirm and sign as a correct record of Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on 9th July 2026 – see attached*
AGREED with one amendment Mackingtosh Court to Mackintosh Court.

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

Parish Paths Partnership Scheme

The Clerk reported that £2,300 had been received from the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme.

Pay agreement NJC

NJC pay award confirmed at 3.3%, backdated to 1st April 2026.
AGREED.

Conclusion of Audit

The Conclusion of Audit has been received from the external auditor Mazars, with no matters, and will be placed on the parish notice boards and the parish website.
RECEIVED.

Cemetery hedges

Cemetery hedges are overgrown and the cemetery contractor is aware and will carry out trimming works.

Donation request

A donation request for St Cuthbert's Hospice was considered, following the funeral of an ex-councillor whose family asked that all donations be directed to St Cuthbert's Hospice.
AGREED: £50.00.

26.70 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 September and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.
AGREED.

26.71 To Discuss Councillor Vacancies Carrville/Belmont and Gilesgate Moor Wards and the way forward regarding co-option.

A discussion took place regarding the three notices of vacancy. The Chair proposed that the Parish Council should have a clear process in place for potential councillors seeking co-option, with the Communications Committee promoting awareness of the role, as many residents were not fully informed. It was agreed to seek nominations until the end of November. The three former councillors were thanked for their work and contribution during their time on the Parish Council.

26.72 Civility and Respect Pledge

The Chair stated that the motion was for Belmont Parish Council to consider signing the Civility and Respect Pledge, noting its importance. Councillors could also sign individually.
Proposed by Councillor Lattin.
Seconded by Councillor Coll.
AGREED.

26.73 To Discuss quotes for Safety Surface for Zip Wire (Moorfield) – see attached*

Three quotes were circulated to members and discussed. Members felt they did not have sufficient knowledge of play equipment to make a decision.
Councillor Finley proposed that the matter be referred to the Finance and Assets Committee.
Councillor Hodgson seconded the proposal.
AGREED: To refer the item to the Finance and Assets Committee for further discussion.

26.74 To Receive Committee Reports included delegated decisions:

a) Finance and Assets Committee.

1. To Receive Receipts and payments for the months of July and August.

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

2. To Receive bank balances for the months of July and August

RECEIVED AND AGREED.

3. Election of Chair for the Finance and Assets Committee

Councillor L. Mavin has confirmed she will serve as Chair of the Finance and Assets Committee.

b) Planning (Councillor Hornby)

i) To receive an update on recent planning applications – see attached*

RECEIVED.

ii) To receive a report from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Councillor Hornby reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has not yet met, but a meeting has been arranged to agree a date for an extraordinary meeting.

c) Communications and Events (Councillor Fletcher)

Councillor Fletcher reported that newsletter deliveries had gone well, with only a few delivered outside the parish due to use of a new delivery service.

Parish Website

The parish website requires restructuring and updating. A new parish council logo is proposed, with local school children to be invited to contribute design ideas.

Christmas Lights Switch-On Event

Councillor Hornby will be arranging the Christmas lights switch-on event.

d) Environment (Councillor Watson)

Eden Terrace

A discussion took place regarding the Eden Terrace grassed area, which had been left to grow naturally. It was agreed that the trial has not worked well and the area is looking untidy. The grass now needs cutting back, and the matter will be referred to the Environment Committee to consider a plan for the way forward.

New members required

Councillor Coll reported that additional members are needed for the Environment Committee following the recent resignations of three parish councillors.

26.75 To Receive reports from Ward Councillors.

Rennys Lane

Councillor Walker reported that the new gate in Rennys Lane is working well; however, at Cambridgeshire Drive the chain has been unlocked and this will be looked into.

Waste bin issue

The waste bin at the top of Rennys Lane has still not been installed. The waste bin at the top It was also noted that around four yards of grass have been strimmed and the underpass channel is full of debris, which may cause the drain to become blocked during heavy rain.

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

Memorial Benches

The memorial bench on Moor Crescent has been renovated and reinstated at a cost of £160.00. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Finance and Assets Committee to consider whether future bench refurbishments should continue as needed or be carried out two at a time.

Cemetery Trees

The Chair reported that several trees in the cemetery, including at least five on the perimeter, are very tall. He proposed obtaining a quote from a tree specialist. A resident has also reported that tree roots are affecting his driveway, and it was noted that the height of the trees could be a danger during periods of strong winds.

BCA Business Funding Request – Belmont Community Association (Councillor Lesley Mavin)

Councillor L. Mavin reported that a representative from the youth club operating at Belmont Community Centre every Friday evening had requested financial support due to the club's current lack of funding. As Belmont Parish Council is the sole trustee of the Belmont Community Association, Councillor Mavin recommended approving funding of **£2,083.00** to enable the club to continue operating for approximately one year, after which the position would need to be reviewed.

Members supported the proposal in principle but agreed that further details were required. The item will be discussed in more detail at the October meeting under the BCA report.

Belmont Community Centre – Car Parking Proposal

Councillors E. Mavin and L. Mavin are exploring the creation of additional parking spaces outside Belmont Community Centre, which is owned by Durham County Council. The proposed bays would be near the existing tree, and comments were made about whether the tree could be moved. Members agreed that further information was required before any decision could be made. It was also agreed to clarify the purpose of the shipping container at the top of the car park and whether it could be relocated to free up additional parking bays.

26.77 Date and time of next meetings

Full Council: Thursday 8th October 2026, 6:00pm.
Environment Committee: Wednesday 16th September 2026, 6:00pm
Planning Committee: Wednesday 23rd September 2026, 5:30pm
Communications and Events Committee: Wednesday 7th October 2026, 6:00pm (subject to confirmation)
Finance and Assets Committee: Monday 12th October 2026, 6:00pm