

**Minutes of the Proceedings of the Meeting of Belmont Parish
Council held in Belmont Community Centre on Thursday 7th March
2013 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Chairman B. Howarth, Vice-Chairman C. Pattinson, Councillors K. Holroyd, S. Inglis, B. Muylaert, K. Neat, M. Robinson, D. Southwell, A.L. Thomson, I. Walker.

Also present: PC 2676 David Bailey.
2 members of the public.

Minutes

In the absence of the Parish Clerk, it was agreed that the Vice-Chairman take minutes.

12.189 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors E. Mavin and A. Walker and C. Atkinson (Parish Clerk).

Resolved: Apologies for Absence were agreed.

12.190 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of Interest were received from Clls Holroyd and Southwell (County Council Planning Committee).

Standing Orders

The Chairman suspended standing orders.

12.191 Miscellaneous Reports

(a)Police

PC D Bailey reported on the crime statistics in the parish in the previous month.

• **Statistics in General:**

Crime is down by 30% in the Belmont and Carrville beats for the year to date.

Anti-Social Behaviour is down by 13% in the Belmont section and 37% in the Carrville section for the year to date.

• **Statistics and incidents of note this month – Belmont**

9 Anti-Social Behaviour incidents within the last month – 3 of which have occurred at Cheveley Park Shops. The incidents at the shops have involved youth nuisance. On-going initiatives to tackle this problem – Think Cheveley Project.

1 damage to a motor-vehicle in Dinsdale Drive where a windscreen wiper has been pulled off a car. House to house

enquiries were conducted in relation to the incident but nothing was seen by residents. Unfortunately there was no scope for CSI. The incident has been crimed however enquiries are complete and no suspects identified at this moment in time. Further unrelated incident also in Dinsdale Drive where it was reported a male had walked across the bonnet of a vehicle before making off. Police attended the incident and attempts were made to trace the male, however these were unsuccessful – no damage was caused to the vehicle.

Report of a suspicious vehicle in Devonshire Road. The vehicle was reportedly collecting scrap. An area search was conducted by police however no vehicle was found. Any suspicious vehicles to be reported to Durham Police, registration numbers if possible.

- **Statistics and incidents of note this month – Carrville**

5 Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents within the last month however no repeat locations – all 5 incidents have occurred in different places. 1 report from Wantage Road from a resident reporting stones thrown at her window believed to be from the old railway line. The resident was visited by police, she did not see the stones being thrown and found the stones in her garden next to a window, no damage was caused.

Burglary at High Street, Carrville. Enquiries on-going by CID and forensic examinations are also on-going.

Reports of suspicious vehicle near to the old railway line behind Wantage Road, there is on-going building work in this area at Ramside Hall. Officers have attended and everything has been in order.

Vehicle Interference at Grange Road in Durham where a catalytic converter has been removed from a van – enquiries are on-going regarding this incident.

Leamside Line

A number of residents in Wantage Road have reported youths throwing ballast from the railway track at windows. Cllr Neat advised that railway contractors have blocked off vehicle access using railway sleepers, whilst noting that this would not, however, prevent motor cycles.

The Chairman informed members that this complaint had also been reported to the PACT meeting and residents had been urged to report **all** cases to the Police.

Scrap Collection

A member of the public sought clarification on the status of unofficial scrap collection vehicles. If concerned, as noted earlier, any

suspicious vehicles to be reported to the Police with registration numbers if possible.

PC Waheed Mughal

Noted that an email expressing the appreciation of the Parish Council has been forwarded.

(b) Neighbourhood Warden

Received: The Monthly Performance Report for February 2013.

(c) Members of the Public

No further comment.

Standing Orders

The Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.

12.192 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th February 2013

Agreed: To Confirm and sign as a correct record subject to following amendments/corrections

- 12.175. Correct spelling of Pattinson in those present and item 12.175.
- 12.175. "on" to replace "an" in line 2.
- 12.186 (b). "their" instead of "there".
- 12.187. Cllr Southwell report to be under Gilesgate Moor and amended to read "paved" and grassed area.

12.193 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

Dog Stencils (12.174 (b))

The Parish Clerk to be informed when a final decision on the dog stencils has been taken.

Agreed: Concern to be expressed if the offer to paint the dog stencils is to be withdrawn.

Queen's Garden Party Nominations 2013 (12.182)

Cllr Pattinson's nomination was unsuccessful.

Willowtree Avenue Shops (12.187 (b))

Work also includes paved area.

Planning Matters (12.175)

Cllr Pattinson to progress a response for the Planners regarding compliance of the extractor flue at 107A High Street with the Planning Approval.

Moorfield Lighting (12.188)

Parish Clerk to progress as work has not commenced.

Grit Bins for Thorndale and Ferndale (12.187 (a))

The County Councillor to progress as work has not commenced.

12.194 Clerks Report, Correspondence Tabled Items

(c) Copies of Magazines to be brought to future meetings.

12.195 Risk Management in relation to Items on the Agenda

Noted: Risk Management has been considered when compiling notes for the March 2013 meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to Members.

12.196 Planning Matters

Received: Planning List for February 2013.

Ramside Estates

Following requests from the Parish Council and Cllr Holroyd, Durham County Council has agreed that the decision on this Reserved Matters Application be considered by the Planning Committee and not delegated to Officers.

Material reasons being overdevelopment of the individual plots and inappropriate Weardale Farmhouse design.

Agreed: To refer the application to our Planning Committee once a date for consideration is known.

107A High Street Carville

As requested at the last meeting, Cllr Pattinson has requested the Planning Office to confirm whether the new extractor flue complies with the Approval – no response to date. Cllr Pattinson to pursue.

12.197 Financial Matters

(a) Receipts and payments of Accounts

Grass cutting

It was brought to members' attention that this is the last payment for

Grass Cutting as it is the end of 3 year agreement with the Council and there will therefore be no payment in future years for grass cutting in the parish, which will otherwise proceed on the current basis.

Payment of Lib Dem charge

Listed in error.

Litter bins

The new litter bins have made a difference.

Received and agreed: Finance documents outlining Receipts and Payment of Accounts from 29th January to 28th February 2013.

(a) Donation Requests

None received.

(c) Membership and Subscriptions

Agreed: Payment of CDALC subscription.

12.198 Cemetery Reports

Received and Agreed: Cemetery Report including

- (a) Burials during the month of February 2013
- (b) Grave & Ashes Purchases during the month of February 2013
- (c) Memorial Erection and Additional Inscription Applications
- (d) Ashes Plots
- (e) Ashes interred in Burial Plots

12.199 Opencast Site

Members were disappointed that the representative from Hargreaves was unable to attend this meeting.

Cllrs Holroyd and Neat attended the public meetings.

A website is available at

<http://www.hargreavesservices.co.uk/fieldhouseform.aspx>.

Agreed: Although not within our boundaries, Belmont Parish is affected, particularly by traffic, noise, pollution and destruction of the natural environment. Though only at a pre-consultation stage at present, the Parish Clerk to write to the Planners expressing concern and requesting that we be included with further consultation and planning application.

12.200 To Consider Big Spring Clean – Litter Pick

Members considered the letter and poster included in the agenda papers.

It was noted that litter cleaning is Durham County Council's responsibility.

Agreed: Following a vote in favour, it was agreed that the 4 volunteer members progress a suitable date and location for the Big Spring Clean in the parish.

Cllr Holroyd expressed concern at the state of the area, especially Carrville High Street.

Members also had issues with litter near the Shell Garage and also along Broomside Lane and in Magdalene Avenue.

Agreed that a letter requesting particular attention to these areas be sent to Clean and Green.

Councillor Neat reminded members of the Scrambles Litter Pick on Sunday 10th.

12.201 Parish Paths Partnership Scheme Renewal

Newsletter circulated.

Agreed: The Planting Working Group to progress the application and report to the next meeting.

12.202 Burial Fees

Members considered the tabled proposal to increase burial fees and expressed concern that the fees proposed by the Cemetery Working Party were too high.

Agreed: An amendment to increase the fees to £60 for burial in a single/double grave, burial of cremated remains in a grave and the Exclusive Right of Burial plus £35 for an ashes plot was proposed, seconded and agreed by a majority of 7 votes in favour to 2 against, with 1 abstention. The motion was carried by a further vote of 8 in favour and 2 against.

12.203 Clerical Assistant's Contract

The Chairman reported that, following annual appraisal, the Clerical Assistant's annual contract was renewed in February 2013.

12.204 To Consider HMRC – Real Time Information

Item deferred to next meeting.

12.17 Committee / Working Party Reports

(a) Playground Development Committee

The Chairman read out a report from the Playground Development Committee Chairman. At a recent site visit with SMP and NWL, the following action is to be taken to improve the play area

- Areas to be top soiled and seeded when the ground has dried out.
- The base of the Momentum Play Area to be dug out and reinstated.
- The area to the left of the entrance to be dug out and a tarmac or resin has constructed with timber edging.
- Quotes for the above to be provided.
- SMP also to quote for a new single frame swing with 2 seats for the toddlers' play area.
- Costs to come from the Neighbourhood Budget. Money originally earmarked for returfing and raising the fence to the Mugga Pitch, however returfing is not now necessary and the fence is not a priority.

(b) Planting Scheme Working Party Committee

Cllr Muylaert reported that the committee met last week.

- The Art Competition for schools is being repeated this year.
- We are entering the Durham and Northumbria In Bloom competitions this year. It was noted that we have received awards previously and last year were awarded a silver.

(c) Cemetery Working Party

Notes of a Cemetery Working Party Meeting held on 27th February 2013 were circulated and it was noted that

- The venue for the meeting was the Cemetery and not BCA as shown in the Notes.
- Plastering to the Robing Room has commenced.
- It has been agreed to remove 4 bushes and 1 conifer.
- A new row of ashes plots are to be incorporated.
- The County Tree Officer is to be requested for advice regarding trees in the cemetery.

(d) Friends of Belmont Scrambles Group Information

Cllr Neat tabled a report outlining

- There was a good turn-out for the Working Party on Sunday 17th February, when dead material was raked off the wet-flush area and intrusive brambles removed.
- The regular spring communal litter-pick has been arranged for this coming Sunday, 10th March at the 2.30 p.m.

- The right-of-way from the main Cheveley Walk entrance has been widened and resurfaced, thanks to funding from Ken Holroyd's County Council Neighbourhood Allowance.
- The Scrambles Management Plan envisages the gradual replacement of non-native species in the woodland with native trees. Tree-felling in the main woodland area to be carried out before the end of M
- A quotation is to be obtained for extending the boardwalks on the path leading down from Coniston Close, as the approaches can be extremely muddy.
- Cllr Neat noted that Dog-fouling Signs at Waldrige Fell state "Please consider children's health and do not allow your dog to foul this area". I think that some would be very appropriate. Ken Holroyd has taken up with the appropriate department of the County Council the provision of similar signs at entrances to the Scrambles.

(e) Parish Plan Steering Group

The next meeting of the Group is 21st March.

(f) Planning Committee

No further comments to earlier planning report.

(g) Finance Working Party

Cllr Holroyd reported that the parish council bank accounts appear quite healthy.

A Statement of Accounts will be presented to the April Council Meeting.

(h) Personnel and Training Advisory Panel

Staff Appraisal's for the Clerk and Clerical Assistant have been carried out. A number of implications have resulted, including time issues and improvements to office computer systems. A report to come to future meetings.

(i) Asset Task Group

Agreed: A report on playground equipment valuation and land valuation to come to the April meeting.

(j) Quality Parish Status

We will not be able to apply for Quality Parish Status until the Clerk obtains the CILCA qualification and it was noted that the revised criteria for Quality Parish Status will not be forthcoming until later in 2013.

12.205 To Receive Reports from Ward Councillors

(a) Belmont Ward

Think Cheveley

Cllr Holroyd expressed satisfaction that Think Cheveley is going well. Merg were awarded £500 to develop 'a youth project for mothers and toddlers' – this has changed (slightly) to raising funds for children in need.

Merg comprises three pupils at Belmont Community School who had the idea to organise fancy dress competitions at the Infant and Junior School on the campus earlier this year with a collection from the junior school pupils for Comic Relief. The two head-teachers are both enthusiastic about the competition. They have produced colourful posters to promote the event

DVDs will be available for sale (proceeds to Children in Need'.

Merg are hopeful that there will be a substantial amount of their grant remaining to enable them to organise similar projects in the future.

Cllr Muylaert has agreed to judge the competition and Cllr Ken Holroyd is mentor to Merg.

litter Bins

New litter bins have been ordered - £750 to be refunded to the Parish Council.

(b) Gilesgate Moor Ward

Cllr Southwell reported that the speed limit of 50mph on the A690 is to be reconsidered by the Highways Committee and Cllr Thomson will present the Parish Council's support of implementation of the 50 mph limit.

(b) Carrville Ward

Bus services

Changes to bus services noted – route 265 is now 261, which now starts at Seaham and not Hartlepool, although the frequency remains unaltered.

Broomside Lane

Cllr Pattinson reported that the position regard the Parish Council's registration of the land at Broomside Lane remains unchanged. We had agreed to negotiation and offered an 8ft strip of land, which was refused and we rejected a counter offer of approximately ½

the site at the last meeting. It would appear that this will mean that that registration will go to Adjudication.

12.206 Any other items of interest to note or for inclusion on the next agenda

None arising.

Date and time of next Meeting – Thursday 4th April 2013 at 6.30p.m to be held at Belmont Community Centre.

The Meeting Closed at 8.30p.m.

Signature

Date