

**Minutes of Belmont Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd April 2015
at 6:30pm in Belmont Community Centre**

Present: Chairman Councillor D. J. Southwell, Councillor T. Charlton, P. Conway, J. Knight, B. Howarth, S. Inglis and D. Waggott.

Also Present: Community Warden R. Cornwell – joined meeting at 7.00 p.m.

Members of the Public: 1 – joined meeting at 7.00pm

14.200 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors J. Corrigan, K. Corrigan, E. Mavin, L. Mavin, R. Murphy, B. Maylaert, G. Robinson – Lundy and A. Walker.

Also Mrs C. Atkinson (Clerk)

N.B. in the absence of the clerk it was agreed that Councillor Howarth should minute the meeting.

14.201 To Receive Declarations of Interest

Members Please Note: - this is a standard item. If Members are aware of a personal or 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.

Councillor Conway declared an interest in all planning items.

14.202 (i) To Receive Miscellaneous Reports

(a) Police

There were no police present at the meeting.
Tabled reports for February 2015 and March 2015 were received.

(b) Community Warden

There was no Warden present at this point in agenda - see item 14.210 (ii) below.
Tabled Durham Area Report for January 2015 was received.

(c) Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present at this point in the agenda – see item 14.210 (ii) below.

14.203 To Consider and Make Comment on Planning Matters

a) Durham County Council Weekly Planning Lists for March 2015 – received and applications noted.

Application DM/15/00718/VOC: Variation of Condition no 2 of CE/13/00849/FPA to reduce the scale of the student accommodation development at Renny's Court, Gilesgate Moor.

The Parish Council and County Councillors Conway and Moir have requested that this application goes to Committee. After discussion it was agreed that a letter of objection should be sent from the Parish Council on the grounds that:

1) Although the site was originally designated for light industry, the original student accommodation application was considered acceptable as there was no alternative use and development of the whole site, inclusive of the old industrial units plus properties in Ernest Place, was thought beneficial to the area and residential amenity. If, as now proposed, Ernest Place properties remain, the street-scape will be little improved.

2) Ernest Place is in a poor state of repair with all but one property unoccupied. Development, as in the VOC, would severely disadvantage the one remaining occupant and there has also been strong

objection from other local residents.

3) Members also queried whether the nature of the revised development should be as a new application rather than Variation of a Condition of a previous approval.

b) Durham County Council Delegated Decision List for March 2015 – received and noted.

14.204 To Confirm and Sign as a Correct Record Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th March 2015

Agreed and signed with one amendment

Item 14.187 (Minutes of 5th February)

Amendment 2 of 14.169 (Parish Plan) should read:

Councillor Conway proposed and Councillor Mavin seconded a resolution that each Parish Councillor could suggest two items arising from the Parish Plan for further consideration and possible implementation by the Parish Council'

The resolution was agreed.

14.205 To Receive Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

14.186 Planning Applications

DM/14/03708/FPA: New Ferrens Park, Pulman Holdings, and DM/15/00280/FPA: Faerch Plast Manufacturing, have both been approved with conditions.

14.195 Wantage Road traffic concerns

A Public Meeting has been arranged at Belmont Community Centre on 16th April 5.30p.m.- 7.30p.m. DCC officer Mr D. Battensby (and Ms Maxine Stubbs if possible) will attend to feedback information from the site visit and receive questions. Local residents and the three County Councillors have been informed.

14.198 Ward Reports

b) Carrville - the pothole in Poplar Road, has been reported and should be on the DCC repair list.

c) Gilesgate Moor – concern expressed about DCC failure to locate fly-tipped mattress at side of A690 and further details have been given.

14.206 Clerk's Report, Correspondence and Tabled Items – For Information

(a) Letters/Emails forwarded to:

1. All funeral/memorial services (Cemetery Fees),
2. Receipts to North East Granite and Scott Memorials,
3. Thornhill Primary School (Donation),
4. Beautiful Durham - Donation (Mr P. Lee),
5. Tender letters (Cemetery Contract):
 - a) North East Site Maintenance
 - b) Sandersons
 - c) Batsons
 - d) Durham County Council

Received

(b) Correspondence Tabled Items:

1. Durham County News
2. The Clerk Magazine

Received

14.207 Risk Management

Members please note:- this is a standard item. Risk Management has been considered when compiling these notes for January 2015 meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to Members.

14.208 To Consider and Make Comment on Financial Matters

Finance documents outlining receipts and payments of accounts for 24th February–31st March

Attention drawn to:

- a) Work done by Oliver's Tree Services on Scrambles, behind Cheveley Walk, and in the Cemetery, adjacent to Rosedale Road,
- b) Purchase of fireproof cabinet

Budget Statements

End of Year Saving - £1,221.28

Unallocated 2015/16 - £27,513.90

N.B. Local Council Tax Grant £400 less than expected - Budget 2015/16 adjusted accordingly.

(a) Donation Requests

(0)

(b) Membership and Subscriptions

(0)

Received and agreed

14.209 To Consider and Make Comment on Cemetery Reports

No burials, purchases, memorials, inscriptions or ashes interments reported.

Cemetery Wall update

At the meeting of the Finance/Cemetery Working Party on 31st March 2015 it was agreed to go forward with the works if agree by Full Council on 2nd April 2015. Work schedule to be monitored and DCC Technical Services officer to meet with the Parish Council to ratify work and cost at the end of the job. Residents to be informed of work by Cllr Knight.

Agreed

Cemetery Contract 2015/2016

The tenders were opened at the meeting of the Finance/Cemetery Working Party on 31st March and the contract awarded to North East Site Maintenance.

Agreed

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders at 7.00 p.m.

14.210 (ii) To Receive Miscellaneous Reports

Community Warden (Mr Ray Cornwell)

Apologies were given for not presenting a local report; officers have been on a legal training course. There is now 16 hour shift coverage by dog fouling patrols across the whole County. Patrols have been on the Scrambles and the Chairman asked for attention to Moorfield.

A proactive approach is being taken to fly-tipping. The delegated officer is Colin Macey. Anti-social behaviour at Cheveley Park shops has been dealt with. Names are taken, home visits made and injured parties kept informed.

Questions were raised about untidy gardens. The present procedure of issuing notices and logging complaints was explained. New 'duty of care' procedures, in respect of items left for 'scrap men', are in progress and will be communicated to all residents when finalised. It was suggested that Mr Steve Ragg may be able to help publicise via parish councils.

The Chairman thanked Mr Cornwell for his attendance and report.

Member of Public

A member of public gave his views on the pending student accommodation planning application at Renny's Court, Gilesgate Moor,

Many of his concerns were similar to those expressed by members earlier in the meeting. He was particularly concerned about the application being made as a Variation of Condition rather than a new application.

The Chairman thanked him for addressing the meeting and said his views would be noted.

The Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders at 7.20 p.m.

14.211 Tree adjacent to 30 Rosedale Road Belmont

Removal and cost dealt with at 14.09 under Finance.

14.212 Removal of tree roots Belmont Cemetery

Because of lifting of tarmac it was anticipated that work to cemetery paths may need to be done in the next financial year.

14.213 To Receive Committee / Working Party Reports

(a) Playground Development Committee information
No meeting this month

(b) Planting Scheme Working Party Information
Report received.

(c) Cemetery Working Party Information
Joint report with Finance received.

(d) Friends of Belmont Scrambles Group Information
Report received.

(e) Planning Committee
Given under Planning Matters at 14.04

(f) Finance Working Party
Joint report with Cemetery received.

(g) Personnel & Training Advisory Panel
No meeting this month

(h) Asset Task Group
No meeting this month

14.214 To Receive Reports from Ward Councillors

(a) Belmont

Dog bin at the Coniston Close entrance to the Scrambles has been replaced.

(b) Carrville

No matters to report

(c) Gilesgate Moor

No matters to report.

14.215 Any Other Items of Interest to Note or for Inclusion on the next Agenda.

AAP feedback

Councillor Knight reported on the concerns expressed about the suicide rate as presented at a recent AAP meeting. It was agreed that he should forward the power point sheets to the Parish Clerk to be distributed to all members

Date and time of next Meeting –Thursday 7th May 2015 at 6.30p.m to be held at Belmont Community Centre

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Date: _____

Chairman's Signature _____