

**Minutes of the Belmont Full Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday 1st February 2018 at 6:30pm in Belmont Community Centre**

Present: Chairman, Councillor D.J. Southwell, Vice-Chair Councillor R. Murphy, Councillors J. Appleby, E. Finlay, B. Howarth, S. Inglis, E. Mavin and L. Mavin and J. Corrigan.

Also Present: Sergeant Kevin Hall, Durham Police.

Members of the public (2)

Mrs S. Overton (Parish Clerk)

17.178 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. M. Leggott, T.A. Lemmon, S. Lowes and O. Whear.

Received.

17.179 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.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.

17.180 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports

(a) Police.

Belmont Parish Council would like to congratulate a resident in the Parish who has recently been awarded a Chief Constables Commendation in recognition of problem solving initiative and partnership working to reduce dwelling house burglaries across County Durham.

The Police thanked the Parish Council for their kind offer and purchase of three bicycles, three safety helmets, three safety chains and three years warranty and service which have been gratefully received.

Councillors were informed that the Police were looking into deploying a community speedwatch in the area however there has been a poor response. A Councillor said he would like to be involved and gave his name to the Police.

A concern was raised regarding poor attendance at recent PACT meetings by residents. A suggestion of the Police working with the Residents Association was discussed and it was agreed for a Councillor to e-mail dates of pre-booked Residents Association meetings over the next twelve months to Police. It was also agreed to put dates of future PACT meetings in the Parish Newsletter.

(b) Community Warden.

A report to be forwarded to all Councillors when received.

(c) Members of the Public.

A concern was raised regarding the safety of the Gabion Wall on the AVANT HOMES Development in Gilesgate Moor. The Chairman to contact the appropriate people to discuss the safety concerns regarding the wall.

A concern was raised regarding the future closure of Marks and Spencer in Durham City.

A concern was raised regarding graffiti in the area on sides of buildings and walls the Police are aware of the matter.

The representative for the Police, members of the public and a Councillor left the meeting at 7:00pm.

The Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.

17.181 Assisting Police with their Workload.

A meeting with the Police took place recently with the Chairman, Vice- Chair and a Councillor. The Chairman looked for support from Councillors to purchase a suitable laptop for the Police. The Chairman said the laptop was affordable and residents in the Parish and un-parished areas would benefit greatly due to the Police being able to be on site at Gilesgate to carry out works with the computer which at present they have to travel down to Durham City.

It was proposed and seconded to approve the vote was unanimous.

17.182 To Consider and Make Comment on Planning Matters*.

For discussion at the meeting:

- a) Weekly Planning List for January 2018. Received – no comment on applications.
- b) DM/ 17/03960/FPA: Bannatyne Health Club – car park extension.
As agreed at 4th January Full Council a letter had been sent to the Planning Department expressing some concerns about completion of application and loss of trees and hedging. Letter summarised for members.
- c) A request from a resident who would like to purchase some land adjacent to their property to use as domestic garden/driveway was discussed.

Agreed: That a letter be sent to the Planning Department strongly objecting to an identified area of the said land and voicing the Parish Council’s concerns regarding access and purpose of purchase. Should the sale be agreed to ask that a condition be inserted on the Exchange of Deeds that the land cannot be built on or used to accommodate building.

d) Kepier Woods

For information there will be a temporary Footpath Closure of Footpath Nos 7 & 1 Belmont Parish, Kepier Wood, Durham. The maximum duration of the closure under this Notice is 5 days commencing Thursday 1 February 2018. The closure will then be continued in force by an Order, which will commence from 6 February 2018 and be implemented as required during site preparation works followed by ground investigation works over a 6-month period. Throughout the period of closure an alternative route will not be available to pedestrian traffic during the preparatory works, however local diversions will be signed on site if considered safe during the ground investigation works.

17.183 To Confirm and Sign as a Correct Record of the Minutes of the Meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 4th January 2018. Minutes attached *.

17.160 PG 1 Community Warden - amended to read 'These concerns raised were to Durham County Council regarding poor road markings near the entrance to High Grange Estate'.

17.184 To Receive Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda.

17.171 PG 3 – A Councillor has spoken to the appropriate person at Belmont School and has reported that staff are happy to assist with the badges, appropriate wording to be agreed. An e-mail to be sent to all Councillors to purchase a passport size photo (a supplier suggested) be handed into Parish Office, Councillors will be refunded for the purchase of the photographs.

Agreed: That the word 'Councillor' on the badge should be wrote as 'cllr'

17.171 PG 3 – Signatories – The Chairman to chase up the matter.

17.171 PG 5 Carrville – The rubbish outside properties has now been cleared.

17.171 PG 5 Gilesgate Moor – The accommodation of a defibrillator at the newsagents on Willowtree Avenue has now been signed for.

Agreed: That two training courses be booked on how to use the defibrillator and the Parish Council to be invoiced for the two courses.

17.185 To Receive Matters of Information, Clerk's Report, Correspondence Tabled Items – For Information*.

1. Precept Form 2018/2019 has been sent to Durham County Council.
2. A letter has been sent to Arriva Bus Company regarding speeding issues from buses in the area.
3. An email has been sent to the comments@postoffice.co.uk regarding the cancellation of the new post office in Gilesgate Food and Wine saying the Parish Council and residents were very disappointed at the recent news.
4. For information, a Councillor and companion have been successful in being selected to attend this year's Queens Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 5th June 2018. Commiserations go to those Councillors who were unsuccessful this present time.

Agreed: That £150.00 be made available to the Councillor and companion towards their travelling expenses.

5. Congratulations to the Friends of Belmont Scrambles, the National Trust and Belmont Community School for their involvement with projects on the Scrambles receiving Best Conservation Project 2017. The Award will be displayed in the display cabinet in Belmont Library display.

Received and Agreed.

17.186 To Consider Risk Management in relation to Items on the Agenda.

Members please note: - this is a standard item. Risk Management has been considered when compiling these notes for February 2018 meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

Agreed.

17.187 To Consider Financial Matters*.

Finance documents outlining Receipts and Payment of Accounts for January 2018.
Bank reconciliation for January 2018.

Received and Agreed.

17.188 To Consider and Make Comment on Cemetery Reports.

(a) To Receive the report of Burials during the month of January 2018

(3)

(b) To Receive the report of Grave & Ashes Purchases during the month of January 2018

(0)

(c) To Consider Memorial Erection and Additional Inscription Applications during the month of January 2018

(2)

(d) Ashes interred in Burial Plots during the month of January 2018

(0)

Received and Agreed.

17.189 Standing Orders Approval.

A meeting was held on Wednesday 24th January at 9:30am to discuss Standing Orders, copies were circulated at the meeting. The Chairman informed Councillors that hard copies are available at the Parish Office to take home however they must be signed for and returned after inspection.

Agreed. The Standing Orders were agreed by Councillors and look to review every twelve months.

17.190 Risk Assessment Approval

A meeting was held on Wednesday 24th January at 9:30 am to discuss Risk Assessment copies were circulated at the meeting. For information a fire blanket has recently been provided for the Parish Office.

Agreed.

17.191 Governance Statement Approval

A meeting was held on Wednesday 24th January at 9.30 am to discuss Governance Statement, copies were circulated at the meeting.

Agreed.

17.192 Identity Badges Update.

This was discussed earlier.

17.193 Metal Detecting on The Scrambles

This item to be discussed under the Planting Scheme Working Party Report.

17.194 Signage and Yellow Lines Cheveley Park Play Area.

The Chairman met with a County Councillors to discuss signage at Cheveley Park Play area and it was agreed that it would cause a distraction. It was agreed that they are happy to go ahead with yellow lines outside the play area as soon as possible.

For information parts have been ordered for the Belmont outdoor gym at Cheveley Park Play Area which are defective.

It was agreed that two signs were needed saying persons under the age of fourteen years were not allowed to use the gym equipment. The local County Councillor to let the Parish Clerk know form of wording and she will order two signs, one for Cheveley Park Play area and one for Moorfield.

Agreed:

17.195 Appointment of New Members of The Finance Working Party.

Agreed: For Councillors J. Corrigan and E. Finlay to be appointed as members of the Finance Working Party.

17.196 Appointment of New Members of The Planning Committee.

Agreed: For Councillors J. Corrigan, E. Finlay, E. Mavin and L. Mavin to be appointed as members of the Planning Committee. It was also agreed for future Planning Committee meetings to be held early evening, whenever possible, to accommodate those members who are employed.

17.197 Lighting Community Centre Car Park and path to High Grange Estate.

The Chairman Informed Councillors that a concern recently raised regarding damaged lighting in Belmont Community Centre car-park has now been resolved.

17.198 A690 Proposed 50mph Update.

The Chairman to look at arranging a meeting with the appropriate persons to discuss speeding issues on the A690.

17.199 To Receive Working Party Reports.

(a) Appeals Committee

No meeting was held this month.

(b) Asset Task Group

No meeting was held this month.

(c) Cemetery Working Party

No meeting was held this month.

(d) Christmas Tree Working Party.

No meeting was held this month.

(e) Complaints Procedure Committee

No meeting was held this month

(f) Finance Working Party

No meeting was held this month.

(g) Friends of Belmont Scrambles

A report has been received from Friends of Belmont Scrambles for information purposes, see attached *

An application for grant funding of a Scrambles project is to be submitted to the Royal Horticultural Society.

(h) Parish Newsletter Working Party

A meeting was held in the Parish Office on Wednesday 17th January at 6.00 pm.

(i) Personnel and Training Advisory Panel

No meeting was held this month

(j) Planning Committee

No meeting was held this month.

(k) Planting Scheme Working Party

A Special Planting Scheme Working Party was held on Friday 19th January see attached*.

1. A recent request from a resident wanting to undertake metal detecting on the Scrambles was discussed. The Chair of the Planting Scheme Working Party informed Councillors that it is not the recommendation of the Planting Scheme Working Party for the request to be granted.

It was proposed and seconded not to allow for the safety of residents and the protection of the environment.

Unanimous.

The Parish Clerk to contact the person concerned with the outcome.

2. A suggestion from Friends of Belmont Scrambles looking at creating small ponds on the Scrambles which would attract wildlife and insects to the area was discussed. The Chairman advised against the idea due to safety reasons with visitors to the Scrambles. Members expressed a similar view, but a site visit was to be arranged.

Agreed.

3. The Vice-Chair of the Council and a Councillor recently met with a resident on Broomside Lane who would like to plant a tree on a strip of land next to her property. The lady was told that it wasn't a suitable option but was agreeable to being involved with planting on the land in association with the installation of a coal tub.

Agreed.

(l) Playground Development Committee

No meeting was held this month

(m) Area Action Partnership (AAP)

A report to be sent to all councillors when received.

(n) National Association of Local Councils) NALC

No information has been received this month.

17.200 To Receive Reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

For information the Parish Council have been informed that the yellow lines outside the entrance to Cheveley Park Play area will be done as soon as possible.

Carrville

A concern was raised regarding cars parking on the footpath outside Bristol Street Motors causing issues, this is being dealt with by County Councillors.

A damaged bollard on Carrville High Street has now been repaired.

A request for two salt bags along Frank Street was raised, also a request for a bag of salt at site of removed grit bin at Broomside Court.

Agreed: That this item be put on the October agenda prior to winter weather and for the Parish Council to pay for two salt bags and the County Councillor to purchase another.

Gilesgate Moor

Durham County Council have informed the Parish Council that the road markings at the entrance of Willowtree Avenue from Belmont Road will be done as soon as possible.

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

(1) Cemetery Contract 2018/2021.

The Cemetery Contract for 2018/2021 was discussed and the following agreed.

Agreed: That the Cemetery Contract be increased to £15,000.00 per year for the next three years commencing May 2018.

It was proposed and seconded the outcome was unanimous.

17.202 Date of Next Meeting Thursday 1st March 2018

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Chairmans signature ----- Date -----