

Minutes of the Belmont Parish Council held on Thursday 5th March 2020
at 6:30pm in Belmont Community Centre.

Present: Chairman, Councillor D.J. Southwell, Vice-Chair R. Murphy, Councillors J. Appleby, C.A. Fletcher, B. Howarth, S. Inglis, C.A. Lattin, L. Mavin, and M. Watson.

Also Present Mrs S. Overton (Parish Clerk)
Community Warden (2)
Members of the Public (2)

19.174 To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies of Absence were received from Councillors E.B. Finlay, P.T. Finley, T.A. Lemmon, S. Lowes, E.S. Mavin and J.J. Wildheart.

Received.

19.175 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.

Received.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.

19.176 To Receive Miscellaneous Reports.

(a) Police.

A report has been circulated to Councillors, the Chairman has contacted Sergeant Hall (Durham Police) with regards on how to obtain information on crime incidence and outcomes in the area and was advised to visit www.police.uk for information.

(b) Community Warden.

The Wardens gave a report regarding various issues in the parish which included fly tipping, untidy gardens, anti-social behaviour and dog fouling. A resident personally thanked the Wardens for keeping Moorfield tidy. The Chairman thanked the Wardens for doing an excellent job in the parish and making a difference.

(c) Members of the Public

A resident raised a concern regarding parking issues at the entrance to Wantage Road where drivers are regularly parking their vehicles on the side of the road making it difficult for cars to drive down the middle. He would like solid white lines putting there to alleviate the problem. The Chairman advised the resident to send a letter to the Parish Office which would then be forwarded onto the appropriate Officer at Durham County Council.

A concern was raised regarding a van parking in the gap where the white lines are at the entrance to Belmont Community Centre, the Chair said he would look into the matter.

A concern was raised with parked cars causing obstruction issues along Sunderland Road near the opticians when trying to turn left or right.

Received.

The Wardens left at 6.50 pm

The Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.

19.177 To Consider and make Comment on Planning Matters

The Chairman of the Planning Committee commented on relevant applications on the Weekly Planning List for February 2020 and the Delegated Decisions for February 2020, both of which had been circulated to all members.

The Chairman thanked BH for her report.

The resident left the meeting at 7:10pm.

Councillor JA left the meeting at 7:15pm

19.178 To Confirm and Sign as a Correct Record of the Minutes of the Meeting of Belmont Parish Council held on 6th February 2020*

To amend to say Councillor C.A. Fletcher was not present at the February 6th 2020 Parish meeting.

Agreed.

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

19.166 PG 3 – Speeding Restrictions on A690 and Belmont Road - There has been no feedback as yet with regards to this item.

Received.

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

1. A Planning Training meeting will take place on Wednesday 18th March at 5:30pm in Belmont Community Centre Room 3.
2. Letters of concern have been sent to relevant grave owners and all issues raised have now been resolved.
3. The final amount raised for the Children's Art Calendars is £141.50p, a cheque to be sent to the Great North Air Ambulance.
4. 7-a-side football pitch on Moorfield – see attached*- it was agreed to support the application at the appropriate time.
5. White lining - Wantage Road.
6. Cemetery – Hedging – A request from a resident to purchase land at the side of the Cemetery to plant privet has been declined.
7. Footpath - Moorfield, a site meeting will take place on Friday 6th March 2020 at 11:00am with the Chairman, two representatives from Durham County Council (DCC) and any Councillors wishing to attend.
8. Police – Sergeant Hall said he would be happy to meet with County Councillor EM to discuss installing CCTV cameras in Moorfield.

9. Coronavirus- the Chairman advised taking a balanced view and to take advice from government guidelines, a link to be put on the parish website for information.

Received.

19.181 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 March 2020 meeting and has been incorporated into reports and presented to members.

Received.

19.182 To Consider Financial Matters*

(a) To Receive Receipts and Payments during the month of February 2020

(b) To Receive Bank Reconciliation to end of February 2020

(c) To Consider donation Request during the month of February 2020

(0)

Received.

After a recent attempted break-in of the Cemetery Robing Room it was agreed to give a cheque for £150.00 as a thank you to a nearby resident whose assistance and time was greatly appreciated, towards works to repair criminal damage.

Agreed.

19.183 To Consider and make Comment on Cemetery Reports.

(a) To Receive the report of burials during the month of February 2020

(1)

(b) To Receive the report of Grave & Ashes Purchases during the month of February 2020

(2)

(c) To Consider Memorial Erection and Additional Inscription Applications during the month of February 2020

(1)

(d) Ashes interred in Burial Plots during the month of February 2020

(0)

Received.

Cemetery plant equipment

Agreed: a site meeting to be arranged with the Cemetery Contractor and Councillor SI (Chair of Cemetery Working Party) to discuss current plant equipment to ensure it meets with Health and Safety guidelines. A Cemetery Working Party to be arranged to report back findings to members.

Parish Office – Office equipment

Agreed: Councillor CF to work with office staff regarding possible updating of office computer and printer.

19.184 Office Risk Assessment update.

Received and Agreed.

19.185 Code of Conduct update.

Received and Agreed.

19.186 Model Publication Scheme update

Received and Agreed.

19.187 Update on Belmont Football United request for Sports Hub.

The Chairman met with the appropriate Officer from Durham County Council and representative from Belmont Football United to discuss possible sites regarding Belmont Football United's request for a Sports Hub in the area. The Chairman said that the Parish Council would support the club but that's all and that its Durham County Councils decision whether to move forward with the request.

Received.

19.188 Update on Site Meeting regarding off road vehicle use of Moorfield.

The Chairman reported that the site meeting had been very positive with regards to installing a CCTV system to monitor the Community centre and surrounding fields. Durham County Council to look into applying for a license and the legalities involved. The meeting was attended by the Chairman, County Councillor EM, two representatives from Durham County Council and Durham Police to discuss off road bike issues and anti-social behaviour.

Received.

19.189 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

A Cemetery Working Party Site Meeting took place in Belmont Cemetery on Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 9:30am - see attached *

The Chairman met with a grave owner who had recently received a letter from the Parish Council regarding his placing of an unauthorised memento addition on his grave which impeded grass-cutting. The grave owner agreed to moving the item to the head of the grave and the matter was resolved.

After the recent attempted break- in of the Cemetery Robing Room two security lights and two alarms have been purchased to secure the property against further attempts.

(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 and circulated to Councillors*

(h) Parish Newsletter Working Party

No meeting was held this month.

Councillors were informed the newsletters were now ready for distribution and help with delivery from Councillors would be appreciated.

Agreed: for Councillors to assist with delivery of newsletters.

(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 meeting was held on Friday 7th February 2020 at 9:30am in Belmont Community Centre - see attached notes*

(l) Playground Development Committee

No meeting was held this month.

(m) Public Arts Group

A meeting took place on Thursday 20th February at 5.00 pm in Belmont Community Centre – see attached notes*

A meeting to be arranged to discuss the election of a new Chair and to move forward with benches.

Agreed: Councillors RM and MW agreed to joint - chairmanship of the Public Arts Group as current Chair Councillor PF is standing down.

The Chairman said after benches project has been dealt with he would be looking to move forward with play equipment.

Agreed: County Councillor LM to contact the appropriate Officer to see what 106 monies are available.

(n) Area Action Partnership (AAP)

At a recent meeting the Chairman reported that he had been disappointed with the lack

of social housing plans for the parish especially in the Gilesgate area (Lord Gort site). The Chairman is looking for support from Durham County Council regarding his concerns.

- (o) National Association of Local Councils (NALC)
No report given.

19.190 To Receive Reports from Ward Councillors.

Belmont

No concerns were reported.

Carrville

A concern was raised regarding parked cars causing issues at the entrance to Carrville High Street from Wantage Road this issue was raised earlier and the member of the public was advised accordingly.

Gilesgate Moor

It was reported that the newsagents at Willowtree shops was opening up as a sub post office on Friday 6th March.

A concern was raised regarding an abandoned car parked on white lines this has now been removed and the matter resolved.

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

Councillor LM left the meeting at 8:25pm

19.192 Date of Next Meeting Thursday 2nd April 2020 at 6:30pm in Belmont Community Centre

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.