

Belsay Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Belsay Parish Council
held on **Wednesday 26 March 2025**
Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School

Present:

Chair: Councillor Roe

Cllrs: Common, Metcalfe, Mole, Sadler, Storey

In attendance:

Clerk: Annie Howliston

Residents: One in attendance

46. Apologies for Absence

County Cllr Dodd

47. Declarations of Interest

None received

48. Public Questions (Maximum 5 minutes per person)

Interest from the member of the public in attendance to stand as a candidate at the May 2025 elections.

49. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **29 January 2025** were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

50. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

a) School Storm Hub

The Chair confirmed that she had messaged the school to ask for a meeting regarding its use as an emergency resilience base but had not received a response and would follow this up.

b) Defibrillator Signage

The Clerk confirmed that the school had agreed to obtain directional signage for the defibrillator and this to be sited at the entrance of the school grounds. The Clerk will chase this request to seek confirmation.

c) Parish Website Move

Information regarding the landscape, community background and history of Belsay and its surrounding hamlets and settlements was provided by the Chair and agreed that the Clerk will use this when planning to move over to a new website.

51. Highways Matters

a) Gateways

Cllr Dodd was not present to give an update regarding any contact with Neil Snowdon at NCC.

b) Overhanging Branches and Hedges

Concern was expressed that the state of overhanging branches and hedgerows were getting worse on some of the highways and action was required. It was agreed that members would supply road details to the Clerk, and she would contact the highways department at NCC.

c) Road Resurfacing Through Village

It was suggested that a request to extend the road resurfacing works could be raised at the next meeting with County Cllr Dodd if present.

52. Planning Matters

Previous applications detailed on the Agenda had been circulated to Members with nothing to report.

53. Correspondence

a) BT Digital Switchover

General concern was expressed over the plans for the BT digital switchover and how this could affect some residents. The Chair agreed to display a notice on the noticeboard listing the details of drop-in sessions being provided by BT to give support.

b) Mobile coverage in Northumberland (NCC Survey)

c) Emergency Planning and Local Councils (London School of Economics Survey)

d) Supporting Nature in our Green Spaces (NCC Survey)

The above surveys had been circulated prior to the meeting which some Members had completed.

54. Parish Council Elections 1 May 2025

a) Notice of Election

The Clerk confirmed that this had been published on the Parish website and the Chair would also post a copy on the village noticeboard.

b) Retirement of Cllr Keith Metcalfe

Cllr Keith Metcalfe announced that he would be stepping down from his position as Parish Councillor. The Parish Council is very appreciative of the commitment Keith has given over the many years and we thank him for his valuable contribution and involvement and wish him well for the future. Cllr Metcalfe will remain in post until Tuesday 6 May 2025 when all existing councillors relinquish their positions too.

54. Financial Matters

a) Payments

Members approved the following payments:

Clerk Salary (Feb 2025, Mar 2025)	£347.02
HMRC (Feb 2025)	£43.20
HMRC (Mar 2025)	£43.20
NALC Clerk Training	£10.00
Hall Hire (Jan 2025)	£20.00
CI Accountancy Ltd (Payroll Services 2024/25)	£264.00

55. Any Other Business

a) Annual Great British Spring Clean

A discussion took place around NCC encouraging residents and businesses to pledge to do their bit to clear up litter during the 10th annual campaign. This is an open invitation for people to get together to join in and make it a community event.

As Belsay is situated on a main highway and can be risky due to traffic, this is something that would need careful consideration to the safety of those involved and would be more suited to those areas with little or no traffic.

b) Bolam Church Grant

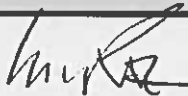
A request was made to assisting Bolam Church with a donation. It was agreed to look at this at the next Parish Meeting along with any other donation requests received during the financial year with regard to the adopted Parish Grants and Donations Policy.

56. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed would be the **Annual Meeting of the Parish** and the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**, but there would be need to adjust the previously agreed date of 28 May due to the requirement to have newly elected members sign their Declarations of Acceptance of Office within the statutory period. The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

These minutes will remain as draft until approval at the next Parish Council Meeting

Chair Signature:



Date:

21st May 2025

