

Belsay Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Belsay Parish Council

held on **Wednesday, 28 January 2026**

Sir Stephen Middleton Memorial Hall, Belsay First School

Present:

Chair: Cllr Roe

Cllrs: Sadler, Straughan

In attendance:

Clerk: Annie Howliston

County Cllr Richard Dodd

Two members of the public - Mr and Mrs Clegg

40. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Common, Mole and Storey.

41. Declarations of Interest

None Received

42. Public Questions (Maximum 5 minutes per person)

a) Grade II Listed Pant (Belsay village)

Mrs Clegg reported that Belsay Estates considered the addition of a trough to be an excellent idea and were happy to support the funding. Cowells Garden Centre had quoted £229.49 for an Errington Reay trough (supply, delivery, plants). Alternatively, a stone trough could be sourced through Belsay Estates or via salvage. Maintenance of the proposal would need further investigation and agreement.

It was **AGREED:**

- The Parish Council support up to 50% of the funding of an appropriate trough.
- Mrs Clegg assisted with sourcing.

43. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Belsay Council held on 26 November 2025

Confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

44. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

a) Emergency Resilience Base and Generator

Cllr Straughan reported that she had contacted Jake Delacey, Community Buildings Energy Advisor at Community Action Northumberland, with a view to organising a visit to the school hall to discuss requirements and offer advice.

It was noted that Northern Power Grid Foundation have moved to an assessment window for energy resilience grants. Completion of an eligibility quiz can be taken at any time.

It was **AGREED:**

- Cllr Straughan contacts Jake at CAN to seek availability in February with a view to holding an Extraordinary Parish Meeting.
- Cllr Straughan to complete the Northern Power eligibility quiz to obtain an instant eligibility result and report back.
- Cllr Straughan to approach Ray Wind Farm Fund for grant eligibility.

45. Highways Matters

a) Gateways

County Cllr Dodd reported that he had still not received a response from Neil Snowdon at NCC regarding the gateway specifications. The costs are estimated at £3,000 per gate. It was suggested that, as an alternative, rumble strips could be used. Cllr Dodd agreed to look into the requirements.

b) Overhanging Branches and Hedges

County Cllr Dodd reported that some cutting back had been carried out at Wallridge; however, this had not resolved the issue, and there remained significant overhanging vegetation within the parish. This needs to be addressed through Kris Westerby, Head of Highways at NCC.

It was **AGREED:**

- Cllr Straughan identifies the problem areas on a map and passes this to County Cllr Dodd to present to Kris Westerby.

County Cllr Dodd left the meeting at this point.

46. Planning Matters

a) Previous applications detailed on the agenda had been circulated to members with nothing to report.

b) Application 22/01909/CCMEIA

The Chair reported that she had lodged a representation on behalf of Belsay Parish Council and would speak on behalf of the Parish at the planning committee meeting on 3 February 2026.

47. Financial Matters

a) Members approved the following payments:

Payee	Detail	Chq No.	£
SLCC	2026 Membership	607	84.00
Clerks Pay Slips	Dec 2025, Jan 2026	608	540.28
HMRC	Quarter ending Dec 2025	609	129.90

b) Members approved the Monthly Bank Reconciliation.

c) Grants and Donations Policy

It was **AGREED:**

- To adopt the new Grants and Donations policy, which now provides for the submission of an application form.
- To adopt a process whereby grant applications received during the year are discussed for approval at the ensuing November meetings.

d) Grant Applications

The following grant applications were approved for payment at the next meeting:

- Bolam Church £200
- Tynedale Hospital £200

It was **AGREED:**

- The Clerk to inform the remaining applicants to submit a new application in accordance with the approved policy.

48. Correspondence Received

The following attendance was confirmed:

- a) NCC Town and Parish Conference - Cllr Mole attending
- b) NCC Safe and Resilience Forums - Cllr Mole and Cllr Straughan attending

49. Any Other Business

To consider any other business which is for information only.

- Cllr Straughan reported that she had acquired a litter grabber tool from NCC.
- Cllr Roe to report the removal of old road signs on FixMyStreet if this has not already been done.
- Cllr Straughan reported that a resident had requested an additional street light at Wallridge, which she would follow up via email to County Cllr Dodd.

50. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Confirmed as Wednesday 25 March

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

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

Chair Signature:

Date: