

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 16 July** at **7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

Present: Cllr M Wilson (Chair) Cllr J Baker County Cllr M Burnard
Cllr J Burt Cllr D Cliff Cllr J Peart
Cllr I Singleton Cllr J Turnock

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Cllr I Cummings Cllr O Edwards
Cllr J Thompson County Cllr S Healy

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items of business on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 June 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Police Report

Cllrs M Wilson and D Cliff attended the most recent PACT meeting and advised that off road bikes were still causing problems, and residents should be encouraged to keep reporting issues to Police.

Resolved

That the Clerk re-post on the Facebook page the information on operation endurance (i.e. reporting of anti-social motorcycle use)

5. County Councillors Report

County Cllr M Burnard provided an update to the Council as follows:

- a) The amount of money being spent on the Climate Emergency which was declared in 2019 was to be reduced significantly and re-directed towards Special Educational Needs Development as well as Adults and Children's Social Care.
- b) Work had begun on a new County Durham Plan and a consultation would be announced shortly.

Cllr M Wilson asked what services/projects had been sacrificed to redirect the budget and what were the exact figures.

Resolved

That Cllr Burnard find out the exact figures and respond to Cllr M Wilson's questions as due course.

6. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

- a) Update on actions from the previous meeting

Speed Monitoring on Victor Terrace – This has been requested as well as the re-painting of the ‘Slow’ markings on the road.

Extra Neighbourhood Warden Hours – This had been requested again as no response had been received. Other officers were copied in, in case the officer previously dealing with the enquiry was on a period of extended leave.

Listed Sign – Cllr Matt Burnard advised that he could have the sign repaired free of charge.

b) Training Opportunities

No upcoming training opportunities.

c) CDALC Smaller Councils’ Forum

CDALC Smaller Councils Forum would take place on Thursday 17 July 2025 at 2pm, hosted by Easington Village Parish Council at Seaton Holme, Easington Village, Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 3BS or alternatively could be joined via Zoom.

d) Parish Council Vacancy

This would be left open until September to give residents a chance to apply

e) Finance Report

The Clerk circulated a report which detailed all recent and upcoming expenditure.

Resolved

That the information be noted, relevant action taken by the Clerk and all costs be approved by the Council

7. Planning Applications

There were no comments on any of the previously circulated planning applications.

Resolved

That the information be noted

8. Requests for Financial Assistance

A request had been received from BBCP to the amount of £500 for nappies, milk and care packages for the Baby Bank.

Cllr J Baker declared an interest and would not take part in the debate/vote.

Resolved

That the request be approved and the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

9. Former Community Centre

This had been chased up again with DCC officers. At the very least, Council wanted to know the results of the consultation which were promised earlier in the year.

Resolved

That the Clerk would request the results of the consultation and any further available updates.

10. Flagpole Service Plan

The Clerk asked if a service plan for the flagpole was still to be considered.

Resolved

That this was not necessary.

11. Remembrance Day 2025

Cllr Marion Wilson advised that the usual service would take place on Tuesday 11 November, from 10:45am, at the Pit Wheel.

Resolved

That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements including a horn player to the sum of £50, a wreath to lay to the sum of £30 and a PA system to the sum of no more than £250. Cllr M Wilson would liaise with the Church and the School. Cllr I Cummings would liaise with DK Horticulture regarding hanging the poppy decoration on the Pit Wheel. Some repairs were needed to the decoration, Cllr M Wilson would circulate the knitting pattern for the poppies.

12. Christmas 2025

The Christmas concert and lighting of the tree service would take place on Sunday 30 November (time to be agreed).

The Christmas Fair would take place on Sunday 23rd November

Resolved

That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements for the tree lighting service including Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band to the sum of £200, a PA system, chocolate coins for the school children to the sum of £100 and two £10 Smyths vouchers for the two children who would turn on the Christmas tree lights. Cllr Marion Wilson would liaise with the Church and the School.

The Clerk would also make arrangements for the fair including selection boxes for the children to the sum of £160, a face painter to the sum of £100 and a donation to the DERIC Youth Project for refreshments to the sum of £200.

13. Forward Plan

A consultation event had taken place prior to the start of the meeting where several ideas were discussed. A further event would be held prior to the next meeting on 17 September.

Resolved

That Cllr D Cliff collate the suggestions raised at the consultation events and update the current forward plan.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on **Wednesday 17 September, 7:00pm at Beaurepaire Community Hub.**

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....