

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 19 November** at **7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

Present: Cllr M Wilson (Chair) Cllr J Baker Cllr J Burt
Cllr D Cliff Cllr I Cummings Cllr O Edwards
Cllr J Peart Cllr I Singleton Cllr J Turnock

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Cllr K Davidson and Cllr J Thompson

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr M Wilson declared an interest in Item 9 (b) but as the result of the discussion would not result in any monetary benefit to Cllr Wilson, it was decided she could remain in the meeting for the discussion.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 October 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Police Report

Cllr M Wilson advised there was not much to report. Instances of off-road bikes had decreased along with cases of shoplifting. There had been one report of a domestic disturbance and several reports of illegal fires.

Resolved

That the information be noted

5. County Councillors Report

There were no County Councillors present at the meeting, and no report had been received.

6. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

a) Update on actions from the previous meeting

- **County Councillors' Neighbourhood Budget** – The Clerk had contacted both County Councillors but no response had been received as yet.
- **Speed Monitoring** – The Clerk had requested costings from Police and DCC. Police confirmed it would be DCC who would provide this information. No response had been received from DCC as yet.
- **Extra Neighbourhood Warden Provision** – The Clerk was still chasing a response from DCC.
- **Former Community Centre** – DCC have been in touch to ask for dates of upcoming meetings. Nothing had been confirmed as yet but the Clerk was hopeful that an officer would attend a future meeting to provide an update.
- **Community Clean-up of the Footpath at Aldin Grange Terrace** – The Clerk had arranged for DCC Neighbourhood Wardens and Clean and Green Staff to meet on site on Friday 28 November at 9:00am. Residents had also been invited via social media, and all Parish Councillors were encouraged to attend even if only for a small amount of time to assist with the project.

- **Gov.uk email address** – The Clerk is still researching this and will update at the next meeting.
- **Beaurepaire Community hub** – A meeting was due to take place next week where future requirements would be clarified.
- **Emergency Plan** – The Clerk had contacted Caroline for a stock check and would order the necessary supplies when a response was received. The Clerk had also contacted Gwen from the Methodist Church regarding the location of the AED. Gwen had confirmed the location was registered correctly. This led to a discussion around provision of another AED at the other end of the village. The Clerk would look into the costs of this.
- **Recreation Ground** – The Clerk had been contacted by a new officer from DCC who had taken over this case. A site meeting was due to take place and the Clerk requested that the Parish Council be involved.
- **Community Garden** – There were no further updates on the Community Garden. Cllr I Singleton would pick this up in the Spring when weather would hopefully improve.

b) Training Opportunities

There were no upcoming opportunities of relevance, but the Clerk advised if anyone required any further training to make contact and this would be arranged if possible.

c) CDALC Smaller Councils Forum

This would take place on Thursday 20th Nov 2025 10.30am via Zoom.

d) CDALC Larger Councils Forum

This would take place on Thursday 20th Nov 2025 1:30pm, hosted by Stanley Town Council at The Greenhouse, Amos Drive, Greencroft Industrial Park, Annfield Plain, Stanley, DH9 7XN Remote attendance also possible via Zoom.

e) Outdoor Sports Facilities Survey

The Clerk would circulate a survey for comments and would submit a single joint response.

f) Christmas Tree

This year's Christmas tree would be installed on 25 or 26 November and dressed ready for the Light Switch On Event on Sunday 30 November. Cllr M Wilson advised that she had confirmed someone would be available to dress as Santa for the event. Council agreed to purchase a gift as a thank you to the amount of £20.

g) 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 the tabled planning application. However, there were concerns that a recent planning application for the Gleeson Housing Development had been amended.

Resolved

That the Clerk find out any information on the amended application and circulate to all Members.

8. Allotments

The Clerk advised that letters had been sent to all allotment holders for this year's rent. One holder had decided to give up their allotment and so this would be offered to the next person on the waiting list. Other allotment holders were making the plot suitable for takeover i.e. repair of the fence and levelling the ground etc. This would be ready in January 2026.

Resolved

That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

9. Requests for Financial Assistance

- a) Langley Park & Bearpark Cricket Club requesting £850 for Winter Training Programme

Resolved

That the Council does not fund the entire amount but £500 towards the project due to the fact that some attendees would not be from Bearpark.

- b) Bearpark Primary School requesting £700 for 'I am from Bearpark' project

Resolved

That the Council agree to fund £700 towards the project.

10. Budget 2026/27

The Clerk had previously circulated a budget forecast for Councillors to consider. The Clerk had also asked Councillors to advise of any potential projects for the next financial year, and these would be added to the forward plan. Several options were considered.

Resolved

That Council consider the options and make a final decision at the next meeting.

11. Forward Plan

A few amendments to the forward plan were agreed.

Resolved

That the Clerk collate the amendments and send to Cllr D Cliff to incorporate into the plan.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Wednesday 21 January, 7:00pm, Beaurepaire Community Hub.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....