

Bearpark Parish Council

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Cllr D Turnbull and Cllr P Wilson

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 19 March were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Police Report

Cllr M Wilson advised there was nothing of significance to report.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

5. County Councillors Report

Cllr M Wilson provided an update to the Council as follows:

- a)** Bishop Auckland Food Festival returns to the town centre on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 April, offering two days of fun, food, and family entertainment. There will be over 140 traders selling delicious food and goodies, as well as cookery demonstrations from a line up of celebrity chefs including Simon Rimmer, Jane's Patisserie, Brin Piranthapan, Cherish Finden, Paul Young and Francesco Mattana.
- b)** King Charles and Queen Camilla are due to attend a Maundy Service at Durham Cathedral on Thursday, 17 April, when they will meet specially invited guests and hand out Maundy money. DCC are working closely with Durham Constabulary and the cathedral to support the visit and to ensure residents, visitors and businesses are able to make the most of the historic occasion.

Resolved

That the information be noted

6. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

a) Update on actions from the previous meeting

- **Extra Neighbourhood Warden Support** – the Clerk advised she is waiting to hear back from DCC to finalise arrangements for this year.
- **Noticeboard** – This has now been installed. The Clerk will collect the keys ASAP.
- **Flagpole Service Plan** – The Clerk had not received any information from DCC. Cllr J Turnock to make some enquiries.
- **Authorisation of Payments** – The Clerk advised a new form would need to be signed. Cllr O Edwards and Cllr J Thompson were not present at the meeting. This would be actioned at the next meeting.
- **Recreation Ground** – The Clerk had submitted an asset transfer request. A request would be made to DCC before completing the transfer to bring the grounds up to standard (i.e. resolution to drainage issues).
- **Nominations for Parish Council** – Nominations had now closed and 10 submissions were received for 11 places. Therefore all 10 nominations would automatically become Parish Councillors following the election in May. One vacancy would remain and the Council would seek to co-opt to this vacancy as soon as possible.
- **Overgrown Trees at Cook Avenue** – DK Horticulture would return to site to finish the works. Andrew Donnelly had requested a site visit to discuss exactly what was required. Cllr I Cummings agreed to assist with this.
- **Community Garden** – quotes had been received for the replacement of the pergola in the community garden. However, it was decided to hold off on this for the time being and to review at a later date.
- **Summer Fair** – The Clerk had purchased 175 prizes for the summer fair at a cost of £129.93

b) Training Opportunities

- **NALC** – Engage, Lead, Resolve: Strengthening local connections – 30th April 2025, 12pm, online.

c) Annual Governance and Accounting Review

- **This year's AGAR would be due for completion in June. An internal auditor would be required at a cost of £100.**

d) Parish Meeting of Electors

- The Parish Meeting of Electors would take place on Wednesday 21 May prior to the Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk would post notices on the Facebook Page and the website.

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 made on any of the previously circulated planning applications.

Resolved

That the information be noted

8. Allotments

Letters were still to be circulated to allotment holders

Resolved

That the Clerk circulate the letters ASAP.

9. Forward Plan

Tackling Speeding Issues – The Council agreed to fund a speed monitor, up to a maximum cost of £1000, if DCC were not willing to carry this out.

Civic Pride – a discussion was held regarding how the children of Bearpark Primary School could be involved in a litter pick.

Beaurepaire Communal Hall – The Council agreed to help fund essential consumables for the Communal Hall in order to continue to be able to use the space for future meetings, events, public consultation sessions etc.

Resolved

That the Parish Clerk would request DCC carry out a speed survey on Woodland Road but further along from where the last one was conducted.

The Clerk would make enquiries to DCC and Bearpark Primary School about the possibility of Tidy Ted visiting and arranging a litter pick.

The Clerk to arrange a donation of £2000 to the DERIC Project for continued use of the Communal Hall.

10. Village Matters**a) Fires**

Cllr M Wilson advised that there had been several fires reported recently in the skate park and in the woods.

Resolved

That the Clerk request increased Neighbourhood Warden Patrols in these areas and post on Facebook to advertise the upcoming Blue Light Event which would raise awareness regarding the dangers of illegal fires.

11. VE Day 80

The Council would not host a special event for this but would mark the occasion with decorations in the village.

Resolved

That the Clerk look to purchase some flags and bunting to decorate the flower tubs and the pit wheel. The Clerk would also post on Facebook on Thursday 8 May.

12. Date of Next Meeting

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

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....