

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 18 October** at **7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

Present: Cllr M Wilson (Chair) Cllr I Cummings Cllr O Edwards Cllr R Kemp
Cllr J Peart Cllr J Thompson Cllr P Wilson

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Cllr N Anderson

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 September were agreed as an accurate record.

- **Overgrown Vegetation on Cook Avenue**

The Clerk had received a response from Durham County Council (DCC) to advise that this was currently with enforcement. Further updates would be provided as the case progressed.

Resolved

That the information be noted

- **Off Road Bikes**

The Clerk had requested information from DCC/Police regarding how to report off road bikes in the most efficient way.

Resolved

That the information be circulated and posters be displayed in the Parish noticeboard and other appropriate locations.

- **Parish Council Bench at former Community Centre**

The clerk had received a quote to re-paint the bench to the sum of £80.

Resolved

That the quote be approved and that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

- **Abandoned Vehicle on Front Street**

The Clerk had received a response from DCC to advise that this was not an abandoned vehicle and that no further action would be taken.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

- **Damaged Road Sign at Whithouse Lane junction.**

The Clerk had received a response from DCC to advise that this work had been added to a programme but was not priority therefore it could take up to one year to progress.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

- **Flagpole**

The Clerk advised that planning permission would need to be submitted and would cost up to £412.00.

Resolved

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

- **Christmas 2023**

The Clerk advised that the selection boxes for the children would cost £180 and the face painter would cost £90.

Resolved

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

- **Anniversary of the Colliery Closing**

The Clerk advised that the cost of the Band would be £200.

Resolved

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

- **Remembrance**

The Clerk advised that a poppy wreath would cost £23.98 and the cornet player would cost £50.00.

Resolved

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

- **Listed Sign**

The Clerk had contacted DCC Planning department but had not yet received a response.

Resolved

That the clerk follows up with DCC Planning Team.

4. Police Report

Cllr M Wilson advised that a PACT meeting was held on Tuesday 18 October. There was very little to report. There was evidence of youths drinking in the community garden with litter having been left behind. This was cleared up by two young volunteers.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

5. Representations from the Public

No representations had been received.

6. County Councillors Report

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

- Councillors have pledged £2million towards plans for an enhanced three-year programme of world-class events and community-led activities across County Durham. It comes as

County Durham looks to cement its place as "The Culture County" after becoming the first county ever to be shortlisted for UK City of Culture status.

- Lumiere returns to Durham from Thursday 16 to Sunday 19 November, 4:30pm - 11:00pm. Each night, the city will become a nocturnal art experience hosting works made with light on its streets, bridges, buildings and river; from iconic locations like the bustling Market Place, to Durham Cathedral's UNESCO World Heritage site, historic Bishop Auckland town centre and the prestigious Durham University campus.
- County Durham entries won several awards following this year's Northumbria in Bloom competition.

Resolved

That the information be noted

7. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

- A free online training opportunity entitled "Democracy in Action" would be offered by NALC on Tuesday 14 November at 12pm-1:15pm.
- The website host Hugo Fox had offered 15% discount for paying a year's fees in advance. The total cost for the year would be £122.28.
- Planning permission would be required for the installation of the interpretation boards and coal tub planter. This would cost no more than £412.00.
- A finance report was circulated (see attached) detailing all recent expenditure and any upcoming payments.

Resolved

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

8. Planning Applications

Details of one delegated application was circulated (see attached) for information.

Resolved

That the information be noted

9. Requests for Financial Assistance

The Bearpark Emergency Action Group requested £250 for the purchase of 10 snow shovels and 10 emergency lanterns.

Resolved

That the request be approved and the relevant purchases be made by the Clerk.

10. Village Matters

• Eastside Avenue Footpath

Cllr M Wilson advised there had been an issue with ownership of the existing footpath which had delayed this project. However, it had been proposed that the new footpath, once installed to DCC standard, be adopted as a Right of Way. This would mean there would be no ongoing maintenance costs for the Parish Council.

Resolved.

That Cllr M Wilson report back with any future updates.

11. Allotments

The Clerk advised that new tenancy agreements had not yet been sent out due to lack of contact information.

Resolved

That the Clerk follow up on this and issue tenancy agreements as soon as possible.

12. Heritage Walk

Cllr M Wilson had been asked if the funding for the story to go with the walk had been approved.

Resolved

That the Clerk request a breakdown of the costs and this be discussed at a future meeting.

13. Remembering Bearpark

The Clerk had sought new quotes for the project due to delays since initial quotes were received. There had been an increase of £788 overall.

Resolved

That the new costs be approved and the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

14. Parish Funded Neighbourhood Warden

The Clerk advised that DCC Neighbourhood Wardens were available for extra hours if funded by the Parish Council and sought views on take up of this offer.

Resolved

That the Clerk investigate costs and contract arrangements and place on agenda for a future meeting.

15. New Play Park

Cllr M Wilson had met with an officer from DCC to discuss cost and location. Initial estimates were circa £60,000. A plan would be drawn up for use at a consultation event regarding S106 monies. Consideration would also need to be given to inspection, maintenance costs and insurance.

Resolved

That the plans be made available and discussed at a future consultation event.

16. Co-option of Parish Councillors

The Clerk sought views on co-option to fill current vacancies.

Resolved

That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

17. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on **Wednesday 15 November 7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.