

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 16 October 2024** at **7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

Present: Cllr M Wilson (Chair) Cllr N Anderson Cllr J Baker
 Cllr I Cummings Cllr O Edwards Cllr P Wilson

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Cllr Joe Thompson

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 September 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Bearpark Community Centre Consultation

Craig Morgan from Durham County Council attended the meeting to advise that a consultation had been launched on the future of the former Bearpark Community Site. There were two options put forward: 1. To demolish the building and use the space as a community open space. 2. To demolish the building and build a new fit for purpose community centre building. Hard copies of the consultation had been left at Morrisons, a link to the electronic version had been posted on Facebook and posters including a QR code were to be posted in notice boards.

Resolved

That Council encourage as many residents as possible to respond to the consultation.

That Craig attend a future meeting (possibly Spring 2025) to discuss the results of the consultation.

5. Police Report

Cllr M Wilson advised that there was nothing to report from the most recent PACT meeting. A member of the public present at the meeting queried an incident involving a smashed up car and a shot fired. Cllr M Wilson advised that this information had not been reported to her by the police yet but that it may be available next time, or the information may be classed as confidential. A discussion was held regarding a more formal Police report which used to be delivered at the meeting by a Police Inspector.

Resolved

That the Clerk contact the Police Inspector to ask if it would be possible for them to attend meetings regularly to provide a more detailed update.

6. County Councillors Report

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

- People are being reminded to ensure they dispose of vapes and batteries correctly after the latest in a series of fires in bin lorries.
- Spennymoor's swimming pool will reopen to the public this month following essential maintenance.
- People are being invited to have their say on a new vision for Durham City. DCC have launched a consultation on a new Strategic Places Plan (SPP) and a Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP) for Durham.

Resolved

That the information be noted

7. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

(a) Update on actions from previous meeting

Notice Board – A response had been received from DCC to advise that the name of the contractor and 7 days notice would be required before any works could be completed.

Interpretation Boards – The response to the pre-planning application was that full planning permission was not required, therefore the project could now go ahead.

Flagpole – DCC had asked for further information about the foundations of the flagpole. This had been provided but a response regarding the cost had not yet been received.

Broken Bench – The cost of a new bench was excessive. Repair of the current bench was the preferred option. The cost of this would be £349.46.

Remembrance Day – A poppy wreath was handed over to Cllr M Wilson, The band had confirmed the cornet player would be available and would cost £50. The PA company had advised they were available and would only charge £40 base rate expenses due to the failure of equipment at the previous event.

Christmas Events – The band had been contacted regarding the concert prior to the light switch on event and were available at a charge of £250. A company had provided a quote for provision of a Santa mascot to distribute sweets to the children. This would cost £367. This was considered too expensive and was not approved. A PA system would also be required at a cost of £314.50. Two Smyths vouchers were to be purchased at £10 each for the winners of the light switch on competition and chocolate coins were to be purchased for all children who take part at a cost of £100 or less.

The Clerk had contacted the North East Play Bus Company to enquire if the bus was available for the Christmas fair on Sunday 24 November. No response had yet been received but the cost of £300 was approved if available. Selection boxes were required to give to the children at a cost of £200 or less. A face painter would be booked at a cost of £90. A donation of £100 would be given to DERIC for the provision of refreshments.

Allotments – No update was available as yet. This would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

(b) Training opportunities

NALC – Local Council Award Scheme – Introducing the new criteria,
Thursday 17 October, 12:30-13:45, online.

(c) Bank Charges

A letter had been received by Unity Trust Bank to advise that charges would change from quarterly to monthly as of this month.

(d) 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 that all costs be approved by the Council.

8. Planning Applications

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

Resolved

That the information be noted

9. Community Garden

Cllr M Wilson advised that she had held a meeting regarding the community garden to ask for volunteers to help keep it from being vandalised but it was not very well attended. She had also made the DCC Anti-Social behaviour team aware of the recent vandalism.

Resolved

That the Clerk contact the DCC Neighbourhood Warden Team Leader to ask if they could provide extra patrols in the area.

10. Recreation Ground

Cllr I Cummings would arrange a meeting between Parish Councillors, Bearpark Football Club and Langley Park and Bearpark Cricket Club. A survey of the site would be required before a decision could be made about moving forward.

Resolved

That the Parish Clerk arrange a survey and Cllr I Cummings arrange the meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on **Wednesday 20 November, 7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....