

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 17 July** at **7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Cllr O Edwards

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 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Police Report

Cllr M Wilson advised that there had been more instances of off-road bikes with one having been caught and the bike seized. Off-road bikes continue to cause nuisance. Update on extra Neighbourhood Warden presence to follow on agenda. The school staff had not yet applied for funding for the wildlife camera for the community garden, but this may have been due to end of term activities.

Resolved

That the information be noted, and the Clerk remind the school staff about the funding application in September.

5. County Councillors Report

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

- The stage is being set for Gala Durham's Peter Pan and Wendy, featuring a modern twist on J.M Barrie's classic tale. The show is running until Saturday 27 July.
- Mountsett Crematorium and Durham Crematorium have each been given a Green Flag, an international award which acknowledges parks and green spaces for their good quality, excellent facilities, and high standards of maintenance.
- Durham Brass Festival 2024 saw a number of sell-out performances. It is a key part of DCC's festivals and events programme.

Resolved

That the information be noted

6. Report of the Clerk

a) Update on actions from the previous meeting:

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

- **Former Community Centre** – no further information had been provided. The Clerk will continue to chase with DCC.
- **Listed Sign** – the company who had originally got in touch to provide a quote had not been back in touch. Clerk to seek other options.
- **Noticeboard** – The insurance company had agreed to a pay out of £2260.00 but this did not include fitting of a new sign. Clerk to look into cost of fitting and reply to insurance company.
- **Land to North of Cricket Ground** – Cllr I Cummings to speak with contacts at the Cricket Club.
- **AGAR** – Clerk confirmed that this had been sent off and no response had been received as yet which was usually a good sign that everything that was required had been provided. Confirmation should be received by the end of September.
- **Key Documents** – the new asset register, emergency plan and grant giving policy were now up to date and live on the website.
- **Community Garden** – an application for funding had not yet been received by the school. Clerk would follow up in September.
- **Parish Funded Neighbourhood Warden** – the extra Neighbourhood Warden presence had started as of w/c 01/07/24. The invoice would be sent shortly and require payment of £5820,00.
- **Play Area** – Cllr M Wilson confirmed that no further funding from the PC was needed for play equipment.
- **Finance Report** - The Clerk circulated a report which detailed all recent and upcoming expenditure.

b) Training Opportunities

The Clerk advised the following upcoming training opportunities were available:

- Youth Engagement Summit – 18 July 2024, 10:00-16:00
- Decoding the future of AI in Local Governance – 24 July 2024, 12:00-13:15

c) CDALC Smaller Council's Forum

The Clerk advised that up to two representatives were invited to attend the meeting of the CDALC Smaller Councils Forum which would take place on 18 July 2024, 2pm at Oakleaf Sports Centre, Newton Aycliffe.

The Smaller Council's Forum have advised that DCC are currently running a consultation on Local Network boundary areas. These are proposed to replace the current Area Action Partnerships.

Resolved

That the Clerk obtain a copy of the presentation given regarding the new Local Networks and try to ascertain whether the amount of funding given to each network reflects the number of residents in the area. That the Clerk also try to find out if the Local Networks will have a board of members or if not, who will make decisions about funding.

d) Website Domain

The Clerk advised that the website domain <http://www.bearpark-pc.org.uk/> would automatically renew within the next month and the cost would be £35.97

e) Telegraph Pole Installations

The Clerk advised that DCC Highways Team had been in touch to inform of two potential sites for telegraph pole installations: 6 Hilltop Road and 68 Kingston Avenue. There were no comments made.

Resolved

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

7. Planning Applications

Two planning applications were circulated DM/22/02415/FPA and DM/24/01457/FPA.

Resolved

That no comments were to be made for either application.

8. Allotments

All but two tenancy agreements had been signed and returned as well as payments made for 2024/25. The Clerk would follow up with the remaining two.

A reminder had been sent to DCC regarding the expression of interest in obtaining the land adjacent to the current allotments for the purposes of increasing the site.

The Clerk would provide updates as and when available.

The Clerk would meet with Cllr N Anderson to discuss the waiting list.

One of the allotments holders had been in touch about taking on a 'buddy'. The Clerk had looked into the Co-worker scheme and felt this was the best option to offer. The co-worker would need to apply under his own name and a decision would be made at the next PC meeting. The Co-worker would have no rights over the plot should it become available in the future.

Resolved

That the Clerk follow up on any outstanding actions including contacting the allotment holder about the co-worker policy.

9. Summer Fair 2025

The date for the summer fair 2025 would be Sunday 22 June.

Resolved

That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements

10. Park That Bike Project

An email had been received from the 'ParkThatBike' project offering various types of bike rack and secure cycle-store free of charge.

Resolved

That the Clerk make an application for installation at the car park to the rear of Morrisons.

11. Volunteer Gardening at Beaurepaire Priory Ruins

A message had been received from Dream Heritage CIC to ask if Councillors could share the information regarding upcoming volunteer gardening and maintenance dates at Beaurepaire Priory Ruins

Resolved

Clerk to forward on this information and Councillors to share with their networks.

12. Remembering Bearpark (Interpretation Boards)

The officer dealing with this project has now left DCC and it appears the information was not handed over. The Planning Dept are asking for a pre-planning application to be submitted.

Resolved

That the Clerk submit a pre-planning application enquiry at a cost of £50.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on **Wednesday 18 September, 7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub.**

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....