

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 18 September** 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 J Thompson
 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 17 July 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Police Report

Cllr M Wilson advised there had been a PACT meeting held on Tuesday but there was nothing to report. There had been an issue with the community garden but this was now resolved.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

5. County Councillors Report

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

- There had been several reports of flytipping on College Road and the culprit had been caught and fined
- Cabinet has agreed to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the city to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- A proposal to extend a council tax discount scheme which supports County Durham's most vulnerable residents will be considered by full council next week.

Resolved

That the information be noted

6. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

Update on actions of previous meeting:

- Bearpark Primary School have decided not to ask for a grant from the Parish Council for the community garden but would instead like to ask residents for donations. This request will be posted on social media.
- The Clerk is in touch with officers at DCC regarding the former Community Centre. A further update should be available at the next meeting.
- There had been no response from DCC regarding the notice board as yet. This will continue to be chased.
- Cllr I Cummings suggested a meeting with Bearpark and Langley Park Cricket Club and Bearpark Football Club to discuss opportunities for the use of the

recreation ground by all interested parties as a village wide resource. Cllr I Cummings to arrange.

- The Clerk advised that the Annual Governance and Accountability Review had been approved and no corrective action was required.
- The Clerk would circulate the Local Networks presentation. Any comments to be provided by 20 September.
- A pre-planning application had been submitted by the Clerk for the installation of the interpretation boards. A response had not yet been received.

Training Opportunities:

- National Association of Local Councils – The Future of Neighbourhood Plans - 25 September 2024, 12.00-13.15

Recent Donations:

- A thank you card was received from The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Durham City for the donation made to her charities.
- Bearpark Football Club had been in touch to advise that the girls' team was no longer going ahead this year due to low interest. Therefore, the rest of the donation previously agreed was no longer required.

Gov.uk Domain and Email Addresses:

- New guidance had been received to advise all local councils to use a gov.uk domain and email addresses for all councillors. The current domain provider would be able to provide the new domain name at no extra cost. The new email addresses would be competitively priced. No action was required yet.

Grounds Maintenance:

- An invoice had been received for grass cutting and planter maintenance to the sum of £2560.00
- A quote for the repair of the broken bench had been received to the sum of 349.46. This was thought to be too expensive and so Cllr M Wilson would look at an alternative solution

CDALC AGM

- This would take place on Saturday 12 October, 2024 at 10am in Shildon. Two representatives were invited to attend.

Finance Report

- The Clerk circulated a report which detailed all recent and upcoming expenditure

Resolved

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

7. Planning Applications

DM/24/01457/FPA – No comments were made

DM/24/01686/VOC – No comments were made

DM/24/01823/FPA – The following comments were made:

- This was a retrospective application but this was not stated

- There were some concerns over the number of alcohol licenses in the village and that this may conflict with the County Plan
- The access ramp at the front of the building does not appear to meet requirements
- The change of use could result in a loss of community resource

Resolved

That the Clerk submit comments regarding the relevant application

8. Allotments

An email had been received from PC 9403 to request installation of CCTV cameras at the allotment site to try to combat anti-social behaviour. Unfortunately, resources were not available at this time to fulfil this request.

Resolved

That the Clerk respond to PC 9403.

9. Remembrance Day 2024

This year's Remembrance Day event would take place on Monday 11 November. Cllr M Wilson would contact the Headteacher at Bearpark Primary School and Revd Canon Dr Alan Bartlett regarding the service. The Clerk would contact Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band and a PA company for the sound system. The Clerk would also order a poppy wreath (including a £10 donation to the RBL) and contact DK Horticulture to request the poppy display to be hung.

Resolved

That the relevant action be taken by the Clerk and Cllr M Wilson.

10. Christmas 2024

This year's Christmas tree light switch on event would take place on Sunday 1 December. Cllr M Wilson would contact the Headteacher at Bearpark Primary School regarding a competition for who will turn on the lights. The Clerk would contact Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band regarding the concert prior to the Light switch on. The Clerk would also look into costings for a Santa Claus to give sweets to the children and for a flashing toy stall.

Resolved

That the relevant action be taken by the Clerk and Cllr M Wilson.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on **Wednesday 16 October, 2024, 7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....