

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **15 May 2024, 7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

2. Election of Chair for Ensuing Year

Cllr I Cummings nominated Cllr M Wilson.

Resolved

That Cllr M Wilson would continue to be chair for the year 2024/25

3. Election of Vice Chair for the Ensuing Year

Cllr M Wilson nominated Cllr J Thompson.

Resolved

That Cllr J Thompson would continue to be Vice Chair for the year 2024/25

4. Declarations of Interest

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

5. Requests for Financial Assistance

Tracey Stones and Katie Hall, from Bearpark Community Football Club, attended the meeting to request £1230 for introduction to coaching course costs, safeguarding, first aid and DBS checks. Council asked questions relating to number of children interested in joining the teams and any fundraising activity the Club had undertaken.

Resolved

That the Council grant £300 per new team. £600 would be released immediately for the Under 8s Boys team and Under 10s Boys team. A further £300 would be released when a full girls team was up and running.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 April were agreed as an accurate record.

7. Review of Key Documents

The Clerk had previously circulated the latest version of the following documents:

- Code of Conduct
- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Risk Register

There was currently no up to date Asset Register, Emergency Plan or Grant Giving Policy/application form

Resolved

That the Clerk publish and retain the updated documents and draw up a new Asset Register as well as an Emergency Plan document and a Grant Giving Policy and application form.

8. Police Report

Cllr M Wilson had attended the most recent PACT meeting and advised that off-road bikes continued to be an issue but not as much as had been in the past.

Resolved

To continue to monitor the situation.

9. County Councillors Report

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

- Durham County Council have begun a public consultation on the possibility of putting additional measures in place to control anti-social behaviour in the city. The consultation focuses on begging, urinating or defecating in a public place, and using intoxicating substances/drugs in a public place. The consultation will run until 5pm on Sunday 23 June.
- The road resurfacing programme will be expanded this year after receiving an additional £3.72 million from the Government. The additional schemes will focus on improving the structural integrity and resilience of the road network.
- Residents are being encouraged to have their say on proposals to provide face-to-face customer services at more locations across County Durham.
- Under the proposals, the opening hours at these CAPs would be reduced to reflect the current demand for appointments, but alongside this, access to face-to-face customer services would be made available at additional locations across the county. This would reduce the distance some residents have to travel.

Resolved

That the information be noted

10. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

- Update on actions from the previous meeting
 - Former Community Centre – Enquiries had been made which DCC had acknowledged. This was currently with the Corporate Estate Management Team. Updates would be provided as and when available.
 - Overgrown vegetation at Cook Avenue – A final enforcement letter had been issued.
 - Listed Sign – Cllr I Cummings had made enquiries at Beamish Museum but unfortunately, they were unable to assist. The Clerk would

gather some quotes for the repair work and investigate any funding available. The Clerk would also write to the landowner to advise of the proposed works.

- Register of Interests – Cllr J Peart and Cllr N Anderson requested a paper copy of the form to complete. All other Cllrs had returned the completed form.
- Play areas – Clerk still to invite DCC officer to a future meeting.
- Parish funded Neighbourhood Warden – The Clerk had made enquiries to the PCC's office regarding help with funding. Off road bike activity had reduced. Council would discuss this again at a future meeting.
- Remembering Bearpark – The Clerk had made enquiries regarding whether planning permission was now required following the change of location.
- Christmas Tree and Lighting 2024 – Several quotes had been sought and it was decided to use DK Horticulture for this year's tree and lighting.

- Training Opportunities

NALC would be running the following session: Unleashing the power of local councils to tackle the climate emergency on 26 June 2024, 12:00-13:15.

- Insurance Renewal

The insurance renewal quote from Hiscox was £539.91. The Clerk had sought other quotes and found Zurich to be the most reasonable at £396.00. Council agreed to change provider to Zurich for the ensuing year.

- Flagpole

Planning permission for installation of the flagpole on parish council owned land had now been submitted. An update would be provided as soon as possible.

- Noticeboard Repair

The noticeboard in front of the former community centre had been vandalised and required repair. The Clerk had sought a quote from Andrew at DK Horticulture who advised he could repair for £80. Council agreed to go ahead with the repair.

- CDALC Smaller Councils Forum

A meeting of the CDALC Smaller Councils Forum would take place on Thursday 16 May at 2pm, Shildon Civic Hall, Shildon.

- Finance/Budget Report

The Clerk circulated a report which detailed all recent and upcoming expenditure as well as updated budget information.

Resolved

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

11. Planning Applications

Details of two applications were circulated. Cllr M Wilson advised that application DM/22/01536/FPA had recently been discussed at Area Planning Committee and was approved. An objection from Council was noted at the meeting.

No comments were made on application DM/23/03853/TPO.

Resolved

That the information be noted

12. Allotments

The Clerk was still to send out the rent information letters and new tenancy agreements.

The Clerk had submitted an expression of interest to Durham County Council regarding the land adjacent to the existing allotment site with a view to creating more allotments. An updated would be provided ASAP.

Cllr J Baker advised that she had received complaints regarding fly tipping of pigeon droppings from allotments holders.

Resolved

That the Clerk send out the letters and tenancy agreements ASAP. That the information be noted. That the Clerk write to allotment holders reminding them to dispose of waste responsibly.

13. Summer Fair/D-Day Commemoration

The Clerk had sought quotes for a teacup ride, as well as some other attractions and side stalls as well as a face painter. Council agreed to fund the teacup ride, three side stalls and a face painter.

Cllr M Wilson suggested a donation of £200 to the Deric Youth Project for refreshments and decorations which was agreed by Council.

Resolved

That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

14. Land to the north of Cricket Ground

At the recent consultation event held by the Council, it was suggested that the football pitch and cricket ground could be improved by installation of a drainage pond. The land to the north of the cricket ground would be a good location for this. However the land was privately owned.

Resolved

That the Clerk look into the cost of a survey in the area, seek some advice from Durham County Council's Drainage Team and contact the officer who was currently carrying out a review of all football pitches. It would then be decided at a future meeting as to whether the landowner be approached.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on **Wednesday 19 June 7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub.**

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....