

## **Bearpark Parish Council**

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 18 June 2025** at **7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

**Present:** Cllr M Wilson (Chair)      Cllr J Baker      Cllr John Burt  
Cllr D Cliff      Cllr I Cummings      Cllr O Edwards  
Cllr J Peart      Cllr Ian Singleton      Cllr J Thompson  
Cllr J Turnock

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received.

### **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 21 May 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **4. Police Report**

Cllr M Wilson and Cllr D Cliff attended the recent PACT meeting which had reported that several off-road bikes had been seized. There had also been reports of fires, but it was unknown if these were started intentionally or had been due to recent hot weather. It was suggested that chipping of fallen/damaged trees could prevent this.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk contact the relevant officers at DCC to request help with wood chipping.

### **5. County Councillors Report**

There were no County Councillors present at the meeting and no written update was provided.

### **6. Report of the Clerk**

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

#### **a) Update on actions from the previous meeting**

- **New road markings and Speed monitor request** – still to be done.
- **Extra Neighbourhood Warden Hours** – Clerk has chased again but with no success. Will keep trying.
- **Authorisation of Payments** – this had been returned due to incorrect signatures. The Clerk obtained the signatures again and would send off for authorisation.
- **Recreation Ground** – The Clerk had been informed that this was being discussed at DCC's CASG meeting. The Clerk would chase if no response was received within the month.
- **Summer Fair** – The teacup ride was not going to be available so this had now been swapped for a fun house at no extra cost.
- **Insurance Renewal** – the contract was still in place and so the cost for this to be renewed was £541.08. The Clerk would look for a less expensive quote next year.

- **Former Community Centre** – the Clerk had requested information from DCC and had been told that the information was delayed due to the recent election and pre-election publicity period. The information should be ready in time for the next Parish meeting.

#### **b) Training Opportunities**

- Why your Council's Code of Conduct Matters for Councillors, Thurs 19th June 2025 on Teams 6-7pm, Free to attend but must sign up in advance.
- Social Media Skills for Parish and Town Councillors - Weds 25th June 2025 at 6pm on Zoom, 1½ – 2 hours (bookings close Tues 24th June 6pm) – cost £20

#### **c) AGAR**

The Clerk circulated the AGAR information including results of the internal audit and requested Members to agree the information be signed off. The Internal audit invoice was £150, not £100 as previously reported.

#### **Resolved**

That the AGAR be signed by the Chair and that the fee of £150 for the internal audit be approved.

#### **d) NSALG Membership Renewal**

The renewal was now due at a cost of £84.00

#### **Resolved**

That the cost be approved and the subscription be renewed.

#### **e) Donation to Mayor of Durham Appeal Fund**

The Mayor of Durham had written to the Parish Council to ask for donations to his Appeal Fund. This year's appeal was for St Cuthbert's Hospice, Nevilles Cross.

#### **Resolved**

That £100 be donated to the fund.

#### **f) 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 all costs be approved by the Council

### **7. Planning Applications**

There were no comments on the previously circulated planning application.

### **8. Allotments**

The Clerk had circulated a draft letter to Allotment holders asking for this year's rent. Cllr Singleton requested a copy of the tenancy agreement.

#### **Resolved**

The letter was approved with the addition of a paragraph regarding responsibilities relating to Avian Flu.

The Clerk would send the template tenancy agreement to Cllr Singleton

## 9. Listed Sign

The Clerk had received two quotes as follows:

1. *Refurb include dig out and refit £1150 + vat.*
2. *Fab new include dig out old and fit. £1298 + vat. Note, this will not be exactly as previous. We would also reuse part of the original sign section.*

Marion had contacted Dream Heritage and Rebecca had advised she would take a look when she was in the area and respond with her thoughts.

### Resolved

That the Clerk would place on the agenda for the next meeting and follow up with DCC regarding permissions and funding.

## 10. Village Consultation

A village consultation was to take place for residents to submit their ideas and plans for future projects and spend. There would be two sessions to take place just before the next two Parish Council Meetings and online expressions would also be accepted.

### Resolved

That the Clerk/Cllr M Wilson advertise the two sessions on social media and in noticeboards. Cllr I Singleton would post info on to the website.

## 11. Forward Plan

Cllr D Cliff had produced a draft plan which was had been previously circulated. Feedback from the consultation events would be integrated into the plan.

### Resolved

That all comments be forwarded to the Clerk to collate and necessary amendments be made by Cllr D Cliff. Cllr I Singleton would upload to the website when ready.

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

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

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....