

## **Bearpark Parish Council**

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 20 September** at **7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

**Present:** Cllr M Wilson (Chair) Cllr N Anderson Cllr I Cummings  
Cllr J Thompson Cllr P Wilson

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

Apologies were received from: Cllr O Edwards Cllr R Kemp  
Cllr J Peart

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

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

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **Matters Arising**

Cllr I Cummings advised that no action had been taken regarding the overgrown vegetation at the junction of Woodland Road and Cook Avenue.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk follow up on this report with Durham County Council.

A discussion was held regarding the ongoing issue of off-road bikes/quad bikes at the former colliery site.

### **Resolved**

That a sign be placed in the noticeboard encouraging residents to report issues to the Police.

### **4. Police Report**

Cllr M Wilson advised that there had been a PACT meeting held on Tuesday 20 September whereby litter and speeding traffic were discussed. No other issues were discussed.

### **Resolved**

That the information be noted

### **5. Representations from the Public**

There were no representations received.

## **6. County Councillors Report**

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

- RAAC update – DCC commenced surveys in 2022 in line with relevant government guidance. Based on the surveys undertaken, there was no evidence to suggest there are any council buildings with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). DCC are working with some of the academy trust schools affected in the county to support them.
- Residents in County Durham are being invited to have their say on proposals to balance council budgets next year and beyond. DCC need to make £12.1million in budget savings for 2024/25 - even if council tax is increased - and are forecasting a budget gap of £56million over the next four years. Residents are also being asked to help us identify service areas from which the remaining £6.2million could be saved, and for their views on a council tax increase.

### **Resolved**

That the information be noted

## **7. Report of the Clerk**

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

- CDALCs AGM would be held on Sat 7 October 2023, 10am at County Hall.
- NALC would be holding an event entitled 'Empowering Young Voices in your Community' on Wednesday 25 October 2023, 12:00 – 13:15.
- Durham AAP Board meeting would be held on Tuesday 26 September 2023 at 6:00pm in Sherburn Community Centre.
- The current Web host for the PC site is to start charging £9.99 per month for the most basic package. The Clerk had researched some other companies but had not found any for the same cost or less which would provide the same level of service.
- A finance report was circulated showing all recent payments and upcoming payments.

### **Resolved**

That the information be noted.

That the Clerk arrange for the website to remain with the current web host.

That all costs be approved by the Council.

## **8. Planning Applications**

Details of planning application DM/23/02238/FPA were circulated. There were no objections to the application.

### **Resolved**

That the information be noted

## **9. Requests for Financial Assistance**

There were no requests received.

## **10. Village Matters**

Cllr M Wilson advised that the seat outside of the Community Centre needed to be repainted.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements

Cllr I Cummings reported an abandoned vehicle on Front Street

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk report to DCC

Cllr I Cummings reported a damaged road sign at the junction of Whitehouse Lane and the road to Ushaw College, approximately 100m west of the Aged Miners Homes.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk report to DCC

Cllr M Wilson advised that a new group had been established to try to bring the Community Centre back into use.

### **Resolved**

That the information be noted.

## **11. Flagpole**

The Clerk advised that quotes for installation had been received from Harrisons Ltd to the amount of 1,236.00 and from DCC to the amount of £750 (estimated, subject to change). DCC had also advised that planning permission would be required.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk submit a pre planning advice application and follow up with installation plans with DCC.

## **12. LCTRS Grant**

The Clerk advised that a response to the consultation was required by 30 September 2023.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk respond to the consultation to advise that option 1 would be the preferred option.

### **13. Christmas 2023**

The Clerk advised that she had confirmed the tree arrangements with DCC. Cllr M Wilson advised that there would be a Christmas Fair held at the Community Hub on Sunday 19 November 2023. The PC agreed to fund selection boxes as gifts for the children and a face painter.

#### **Resolved**

That the relevant arrangements be made by the Clerk.

### **14. Anniversary of Colliery Closing**

The Clerk advised that the band were unavailable on 7 April 2024.

#### **Resolved**

That the event be moved to Sunday 14 April and the Clerk would contact the band.

### **15. Remembrance 2023**

The Clerk advised that she had gathered quotes from several organisations for the cost of a portable PA system. The PC agreed to book Durham Events at a cost of £340. The Clerk also advised that Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band would provide a cornet player for The Last Post.

Cllr M Wilson advised that a wreath would be required.

Cllr I Cummings asked for some help with putting up the poppy display.

#### **Resolved**

That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements

### **16. Remembering Bearpark**

No further updates on this project. Cllr M Wilson advised that quotes for a coal tub were required.

#### **Resolved**

That the Clerk gather quotes.

### **17. New Play Park**

No updates. Cllr I Cummings suggested football golf as a less expensive alternative.

#### **Resolved**

That Cllr M Wilson would discuss with DCC.

### **18. Section 106 Monies**

Cllr M Wilson suggested a consultation evening to gather suggestions from residents as to how S106 monies should be spent.

#### **Resolved**

That the clerk adds to next meeting agenda and that Cllr M Wilson advise on suggested dates.

### **19. Allotments**

The Clerk had circulated a draft tenancy agreement in advance of the meeting. This was agreed by the Council with a start date of 1 April.

#### **Resolved**

That Cllr N Anderson provide the Clerk with a list of names and contact details of current occupiers of allotments and the Clerk to issue the new agreement.

### **20. Parking and Waiting Restrictions Order No.1 2023**

The Clerk had circulated details of a consultation from DCC.

#### **Resolved**

That the Clerk respond to say that the Council are in agreement.

### **21. Durham County Council Woodland Management Plan Consultation**

The Clerk had circulated details of a consultation from DCC.

#### **Resolved**

That the Clerk respond to say that the Council are in agreement. However, current issues include access to off road quad bikes/bikes, thick undergrowth, lack of diversity of species and footpaths in poor state of repair.

### **22. Any Other Business**

Cllr M Wilson advised that the listed directional sign at the entrance to Bearpark is in a poor state of repair.

#### **Resolved**

That the Clerk investigate how to maintain.

### **23. Date of Next Meeting**

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