

## **BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL**

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 18 July 2018** at **7.00 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor M Wright** in the Chair.

Councillors M Chard, E Hull, J Peart and M Wilson.

### **18/38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Anderson, G Hendry, J Peart and T Wilson.

### **18/39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **18/40 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no representations from the Public.

### **18/41 POLICE REPORT**

Councillor M Wilson provided the Council with an update report from the Police as follows: -

- A complaint had been received with regard to perceived anti-social behaviour along the Colliery Road play area and queried what the authorities were going to do about. The complainant felt that cameras should be installed to the rear of the school buildings and on the play area itself. Reference had also been made to the graffiti on the skating facilities.

Councillors Wilson explained that in some skateparks, graffiti was allowed on the skating facilities to give the users a sense of ownership. It was not considered that the graffiti on the facility in Bearpark contained any inappropriate graffiti. Councillor Wilson was aware that youths were gathering in Bearpark Woods, consuming alcohol. The police had been made aware and had visited the area, as had outreach workers from the DERIC Youth and Community Project.

### **18/42 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

County Councillor M Wilson provided a general update, as follows:

- Comments and complaints had been made regarding speeding traffic in the village by a local resident who requested for some action to be taken. As a result, Councillor Wilson had met with representatives from the Durham Constabulary and DCC on site, together with the resident. They had observed the area, however, it was felt that the speed of vehicles was not at the level as had been implied by the resident. The resident had also commented on the lack of a footpath on the left hand side of the road from

Colliery Road, heading West. A general discussion had ensued regarding highways and self-enforcing speed limits in built up areas;

- Two new noticeboards had been installed in the village (Aged Miners Homes and Aldin Grange Terrace). Groups were encouraged to utilise the notice boards to advertise village activities;
- As part of the Durham Brass Festival, Councillor Wilson had arranged for a band to visit Bearpark Primary School, which had been thoroughly enjoyed by all; and
- A ground-breaking ceremony had been held at DCBC for the construction of a new dining hall. Four young people had been involved from the school. A tour of the factory where the units were made had been provided to the pupils. The young people had been actively involved in the constructions of part of one of the classrooms. The four pupils (2 girls, 2 boys) were now looking to venture into construction and would get on-site training as part of the course and receive this alongside their GCSEs.

#### **18/43 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on June 2018 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor J Peart and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **18/44 PARISH COUNCIL COOPTION**

The Clerk informed the Council that a further expression of interest had been received from a resident interested in becoming a parish councillor. Unfortunately, there had not been enough time to consider the request for the meeting, however, the Clerk had contacted the resident and had provided further details about the role.  
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#### **18/45 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Clerk informed the Council that two requests had been received. Information had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

##### **(i) Mayors Charity Appeal**

The Council considered a request from the Mayor of the City of Durham regarding his charity appeal for 2018/19 (Royal British Legion).

##### **Resolved**

That the Chair draft a letter for the Clerk.

##### **(ii) Citizens Advice Bureau**

Councillor Hull explained that the CAB had been helpful and efficient. Many people had utilised their services as the universal credit scheme had been rolled out and was very much in favour of making a donation.

The Parish Council were minded to make a donation, which was agreed in principle, however, the Council wished to consider the financial position around donations,

following the summer recess and would come to a decision on this matter at the meeting in September.

#### **18/46 FINANCE REPORT**

The Council considered the monthly financial report which detailed the current bank balances, payments made since the last meeting and payments to be made.

##### **Payments**

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
N/A	Coop Bank	Service Charge	5.00
N/A	Coop Bank	Commission	1.50
100631	Carnival Funfairs	Village Fair Ride	350.00
100632	123.Reg	Web Domain Renewal	35.96
100633	HMRC	PAYE (Period 4)	100.91
100634	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (July)	403.62
100635	Bearpark School & Community	Donation	250.00
100636	CDALC	GDPR Training	27.00

#### **18/47 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no applications for consideration.

#### **18/48 COUNTY DURHAM PLAN CONSULTATION**

The Chair referred the Council to the recently held County Durham Plan public consultation event. The Chair was seeking agreement for the parish council to make a formal response to the consultation, should the parish council agree. The Council discussed a number of issues including the proposed western relief road, its design, and the lack of linkage with the proposed Northern Relief Road. There were also financial issues of the Western Relief Road how

##### **Resolved**

That the Clerk be authorised to submit the response, in consultation with the Chair, on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### **18/49 REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

A resident queried why a notice board had been installed at Aldin Grange Terrace near to the bus stop. The resident did not agree with the location or positioning of the sign. Councillor Wilson explained that the sign had been purchased through her neighbourhood budget, following repeated requests from residents. A further sign had been installed at the Aged Miners Homes. Many residents had commented positively towards the additional noticeboards. The boards had been installed by Durham County Council and would be insured by Bearpark Parish Council. In terms of their location, both had been installed near bus stops, in well used locations with decent footfall.

The resident also queried whether the parish council had spoken up for the rights of residents living at Aldin Grange Terrace and their concerns about the area being used as a potential 'rat run' in relation to the proposed housing development at Colliery Road. The Chair explained that the parish council had held discussed the issue a number of times with the developer and highlighted 'rat running' concerns.

The issue had also been raised at the public consultation session arranged by Taylor Wimpey where residents had suggested speed humps.

Residents could still make comments to Durham County Council planners. However, it was important to note that the council and the community had also been consulted.

The resident also raised concerns about a salt bin that had been destroyed and never replaced by Durham County Council and asked Councillor Wilson what could be done.

The Clerk advised that a request for a salt bin had been made by the parish council earlier in the year and did not meet the criteria. Speaking from experience the Clerk explained that any appeal would be rejected. The only way the Council would re-site a bin at the location would be to provide photographic evidence of the supposed bin that had been in place previously, which to date, no-one could provide. The Clerk provided the case reference to Cllr Wilson to follow-up.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## **18/50 VILLAGE MATTERS**

### **Pre-school play group**

Councillor Kemp informed the council that the play group at the pre-school at Bearpark Primary School was no longer in operation. Wooden toys had been purchased for the nursery and 50p was given to charity with the funds that remained.

### **Dog fouling**

Councillor Kemp referred to the dog fouling stencil work and was pleased to report that dog fouling had definitely decreased in some areas. Councillor Wright commented that the school cut had also improved.

### **Future projects**

Councillor Wilson explained that the area around the shops was starting to look a bit scruffy and wondered if the area could be looked at as a future project. In response to questions from other Councillors, Councillor Wilson felt that a deep clean, replacement bollards etc would help.

Councillor Wilson also felt that some play equipment for the play area at Colliery Road would be well received. The Awards for All and AAP could be useful sources for funding. Councillor Wilson explained that it would be a longer-term project however, both the Clerk and herself had met with council officials who agreed that some new equipment would be welcomed and added within reason. There was a clear need for equipment that people with disabilities could use.

Councillor Wright felt that the grassed area behind the derelict shop would lend itself well, something like a village square. Provided it was sensitively done, taking into consideration the surround bungalows and houses, it had the potential to be a nice area, however the derelict building would have to be demolished. Councillor Wilson explained that the derelict shop was under private ownership. Durham County Council had previously tried to take some form of action. Everyone agreed that the area was an eyesore.

**18/51 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 19 September 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

**The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.**