

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 19 February 2020** at **7.00 p.m.** at **Bearpark Community Centre.**

Present:

Councillor M Wright in the Chair.

Councillors N Anderson, R Kemp, J Peart, M Wilson and P Wilson.

19/95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O Edwards, G Hendry, M Chard and K Milburn.

19/96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

19/97 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/98 POLICE REPORT

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she had attended a recent meeting of the Police and Communities Together (PACT). A number of wheelie bins had been reported as stolen and set on fire. There had been three fires in the woods including the story telling area and opposite the play area.

19/99 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Three members of the public were in attendance.

One member of the public raised concerns that a number of trees in a property of the village had been cut down toward the end of last year. A further four trees had been planned to be cut. Some of the trees were around 70-80 years old. The resident had made representations to Durham County Council who immediately placed a Tree Preservation Order on the trees, given their significant impact on the local environment and their significant skyline features.

It was noted that trees in question added amenity value to Woodland Road, which already had a number of TPO's in nearby properties. The order came into force on 13 November 2019 and would remain in force for six months. During the time period, Durham County Council would decide whether the order should be made permanent. The resident asked if the Parish Council would support his view on the significance of the trees and support any proposed permanent order.

Resolved

That the Clerk make the necessary enquiries to Durham County Council Landscape and Arboriculture regarding the temporary TPO.

19/100 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor M Wilson provided an update as follows:

- Durham County Council were due to set its budget and Council Tax on 26 February;
- The County Council planned to set-up a youth council which would have its own budget;
- Lots of work was being done around preventing domestic abuse;
- In response to a query from Councillor R Kemp, regarding the abuse of the Park and Ride sites in Durham, Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that the terms and conditions relating to the sites were to be changed; and
- The bollards to be placed on the grass verge on C19 were on order.

19/101 BEARPARK SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Chair welcomed Gordon Hull to the meeting. Gordon had been working with Bearpark Primary School on their school garden venture. A leaflet produced by the school was circulated to the Council for information. The school garden was located 50 yards from the school and had been adopted from the Parish Council on land they Parish Council had fenced off sometime ago following the general untidiness of the area and the amount of fly tipping that was taking place. Notices promoting the school garden had generated a good level of interest. Strimming works had been carried out and the entrances to both the single and double gate had been built-up.

The school had been discussing with pupils what types of things they would like to see in the school and community garden. Contact had been made with other County Durham Associations, MIND mental health etc. The school garden project will fit with the curriculum, such as spotting the seasons, biology etc. It would offer learning outcomes for the pupils of the school and wider community cohesion. Durham County Council Civic Pride team would assist with the loan of wheelbarrows, rakes etc. The School and Community Garden would require money at some point, however, this was not a prime issue at present. The site would need to be strimmed, sprayed and rotavated before the design. Two local businesses including a stonemason and fencing company had offered support by way of donations of anything that they did not require before they quit the nearby units at Colliery Road (such as off-cuts for path edging etc). The first parent/volunteer session would take place on Friday 13 March 2020 (weather permitting). Saturday and Sunday mornings were difficult times to attract help due to the amount of activities the children were involved in over the course of the weekend. It was hoped to map out the main pathways across the site on the volunteer session day. A local craftsman was making a sign for the garden. A fly tip of rocks would be put to some use as a rockery to build the sign on. Potential funders were being sought, this may include the Parish Council, Area Action Partnership, Royal Horticultural Society (which the school were a member of) and Woodland Trust (by way of trees and hedging).

Councillors thanked Gordon Hull for the update and were extremely enthusiastic regarding the progress made in conjunction with the school.

Resolved

That the project update be noted.

19/101 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.

Payment	Supplier	Description	Amount
BACS	HMRC	PAYE (February)	107.37
SO	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (February)	429.48
BACS	DERIC Youth and Community	Grant	1000.00
BACS	Bearpark Community Assoc	Room Hire	65.00

19/102 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk informed the Council that there were no applications for consideration.

19/103 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk informed the Council of the following:

(i) Great British Spring Clean

The Great British Spring Clean would run from 20 March to 13 April. The Parish Council had arranged litter picks in previous years to coincide with the campaign. The Clerk explained that the litter pick should act as the launch event for the Brighten up Bearpark campaign for 2020. The Clerk asked Councillors to spread the work in an attempt to get people involved. The more volunteers that could be attracted meant that more areas of the village could be targeted.

Resolved

That a litter pick be arranged for Sunday 5 April 2020. Participants to assemble at 10 a.m. with locations to be confirmed.

(ii) Far Right Extremism

The Clerk informed the Council that Durham County Councillors had recently attended a two hour training session on how to identify Far Right Extremism. This was to make them more aware of and identify such traits within their communities. Feedback from this course was that it was extremely useful and helped give councillors a much better understanding of what could be going on in their communities. The County Durham Association of Local Councils have suggested that a similar two-hour session may be of interest to parish and town councillors. Before any arrangements are made CDALC are scoping initial interest in attending such a course from parish councillors and clerks.

Resolved

That the Clerk inform CDALC that the training would be something Councillors may be interested in attending.

(iii) Smaller Councils Forum

The Clerk informed the Council that the next CDALC Smaller Councils Forum meeting was being hosted by Murton Parish Council on Thursday 20 February 2020 in The Glebe Centre, Durham Place, Murton, Seaham, County Durham, SR7 9BX at 2 p.m. A presentation regarding "Scaling on Street Charging Infrastructure" (SOSCI) would be provided at the meeting.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

(iv) Scams Awareness

The Clerk informed the Council that a Scams Awareness Event was being held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on 5 March 2020 from 9:30 until 12:30 p.m. This free event would include talks from Durham County Council's Trading Standards, Durham Constabulary's Cyber Crime Team, National Trading Standards', Friends Against Scams Team. The event was open to Durham County Council staff, members of the public and any organisations who feel they could benefit from becoming more Scam Aware.

Resolved

That the event details be noted.

(v) Free all-day Regional training – Play areas

The Clerk informed the Council that a free all-day regional training event on play area was being delivered by County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership in Association with Streetscape, Came and Company, Fields in Trust and Wellers Law Group LLP. This free Regional event would be held on the 21 April 2020 in the Glebe Centre, Durham Place, Murton, Seaham, County Durham, SR7 9BX starting at 9:30 with registration and refreshments. The full day session on Play, Sport and Fitness would cover seminars on the design of Play, Sport and Fitness Areas, Consultation and Project Management, Funding and Playground Inspection and Maintenance.

Resolved

That the event details be noted.

19/104 PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

The Clerk informed the Council that the plan needed to be updated and would be prepared for the meeting in March.

19/105 VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) County Durham Plan

Councillor M Wright informed the Council that a letter had been received from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the County Durham Plan. Some minor modifications were to be proposed. Further determination would follow regarding the

proposed deletion of Greenbelt land for housing and the proposed relief roads. An announcement would follow in due course.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

(ii) Land at Colliery Road

Councillor Wright informed the Council that it was understood that businesses on Colliery Road were due to vacate the site in March. It was felt that the landowner was taking action to de-risk the site and potentially sell the site. This would likely see the re-emergence of interest in the site by a developer and the likelihood of the submission of a new planning application.

(iii) Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Councillor R Kemp informed the Council that a Fairtrade coffee morning would take place on Saturday 7 March 2020 and would provide the Clerk with details to circulate via the e-newsletter.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

(iv) Emergency Planning

Councillor M Wright, referring to the recent flooding across the country, explained that the Parish Council did not have anything in place for such issues. It was noted that other parish council's in other parts of the country had acted as a facilitator as and when such issues may arise. The Clerk explained that he was aware that the County Council and its partners had a team in place to deal with emergency situations.

Resolved

The Clerk to enquire to the County Council Civil Contingencies Unit in terms of what the parish could do to assist in the event of an emergency situation affecting the parish.

19/106 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 18 March 2020 at 7.00 p.m. at Bearpark Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.