

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 21 February 2024** at **7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Cllr Owen Edwards Cllr Rosemary Kemp
Cllr John Peart

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr J Barker declared that she was a trustee on the board of Building Bearpark Community Partnership (BBCP).

Resolved

That Cllr J Baker would temporarily leave the meeting at the point of deliberation regarding a request for financial assistance from BBCP.

3. Requests for Financial Assistance

Members of BBCP attended the meeting to request £360 to fund stock and help advertise a food/clothes/baby supplies bank for families who were unable to afford essential items.

Cllr J Baker temporarily left the meeting.

Resolved

That the request for £360 be approved and the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.

Cllr J Baker re-joined the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

5. County Councillors Report

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

- A BBC Saturday Kitchen presenter, an award-winning chef and a food content creator with millions of TikTok views will headline the Sunday cookery demonstration slots at this year's Bishop Auckland Food Festival weekend. The festival returns to the town on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 April 2024.
- A brand-new cultural venue and register office for Durham and the wider county, The Story, based at Mount Oswald in Durham City, is scheduled to open to the public from Friday 14 June 2024.
- An initiative which recruits local people to become trusted sources of public health information within their communities has been relaunched. More information can be found on Durham County Council's website.

Resolved

That the information be noted

6. Police Report

Cllr M Wilson attended the most recent PACT meeting and advised that signs had now been placed on Colliery Road which meant that any off-road bikes could be seized by Police if necessary.

Council revisited the idea of funding an extra neighbourhood Warden to deter off road bike users in the area.

Resolved

That the Clerk make enquiries as to whether an extra Neighbourhood Warden could be contracted only for the months March-October rather than a full year.

7. Clerk's Report

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

- Update on actions from the previous meeting:
 - Overgrown vegetation at Cook Avenue – had been reported to DCC again. Highways Services will take enforcement action if necessary.
 - Flagpole – nothing further to report at present.
 - Listed Sign – Cllr I Cummings advised that some ironworks were needed. The Clerk would report back to DCC to seek further advice.
 - Remembering Bearpark – Nothing further to report at present.
 - Electricity Bill – had been changed to direct debit.
 - Emergency Plan leaflets – had been distributed as planned.
 - Allotments – Tenancy agreements were ready to circulate once Cllr N Anderson confirmed plot numbers with the Clerk.
 - Royal Garden Party – Cllr O Edwards was not successful in the bid to attend this year.
 - Donation to NEEAS – a letter of thanks had been received.
- Upcoming training opportunities
 - The good, the bad and the ugly of social media in the local council sector – 28 February, 12:00-13:15. Cllr J Thompson would possibly attend. The Clerk to send necessary sign up information.
 - New Councillor Training – Tuesday 27 February 18:00 – 2:00 (a cost of £10 for each place booked). Cllr J Baker would possible attend. The Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.
- Register of Interest forms
 - Councillors were reminded to return their Register of Interest forms ASAP.
- Annual Parish Meeting of Electors
 - To precede the Annual General Meeting. The Clerk to make necessary arrangements.

Resolved

That the information be noted and relevant action taken.

8. Finance Report

The Clerk circulated a report which detailed all recent and upcoming expenditure.

Resolved

That all costs be approved by the Council

9. Planning Applications

One planning application had been submitted since the previous meeting which was delegated and approved. There were no comments.

Resolved

That the information be noted

10. Play Areas

- Refurbishment of play area
 - A plan and quotation had been provided by DCC for the refurbishment of the current play area.
- Proposed new play area
 - Cllr M Wilson would liaise with officers from DCC to discuss the new play area and ask for a plan/quotation.

Resolved

That the proposed refurbishment and new play area be put forward as possible projects for the s106 funding.

11. 106 Money Consultation Event

Cllr M Wilson proposed a public event whereby residents could put forward ideas for the use of s106 funding.

Resolved

That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements for this to take place at 17:30 before the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 17 April.

12. D-Day Anniversary Commemoration

Council discussed possible ways to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Resolved

That the summer village fair coincide with the anniversary. Clerk to make initial enquiries for fair to be held on Sunday 9 June, including seeking SAG approval from DCC.

The next meeting would take place on **Wednesday 20 March, 7:00pm at Beaurepaire Community Hub.**

Signed.......... (Chair)

Date..........