

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 23 March 2022** at **7.00 p.m.**

Present: **Councillor M Wilson in the Chair**

Councillors O Edwards, C Gallacher, R Kemp and J Peart.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Anderson, I Cummings and J Thompson.

County Councillor Dan Nicholls had also submitted his apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Police Report

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that there had been low levels of crime in the area and nothing specific to Bearpark.

5. Representations from the Public

The Clerk informed the Council that he had received an email from residents concerned about the amount of litter in the area. They were undertaking their own litter picks but asked if the Parish Council had any plans to commence regular picks.

6. County Council Report

Councillor M Wilson provided the report to the Council as follows:

- There had been 35 cases of covid – an increase of 135% in the area (Bearpark and Witton Gilbert);
- DCC were consulting on a public space protection order in specific areas of Durham for the next three year and also aggressive begging. Consultation ends on 29 April;
- Durham had been chosen as one of the four finalists for the City of Culture – the bid was a countywide bid. Not just city centric;

- The Brass Festival will return this year from Sunday 10 July and Sunday 17 July. Councillor Wilson had asked for an event to be held in Bearpark this year but the organisers felt that there was nowhere suitable.

7. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk informed the Council that the interpretation boards project had fallen through following the withdrawal of the offer of work from the fabrications company.

The Clerk was seeking an initial expression of interest from the Parish Council regarding the Christmas tree for 2022.

Resolved

That the update be noted and that the Clerk acknowledge interest to Durham County Council regarding the purchase and installation of a Christmas Tree for 2022.

8. Planning Applications

DM/22/00457/FPA - Single storey front extension and first floor rear extension - 10 Aldin Grange Terrace Bearpark Durham DH7 7AN

Resolved

The Council noted the application. There were no comments to make.

9. Request for Financial Assistance – Bearpark Brownies

The Clerk informed the Council that a letter had been received from Bearpark Brownies. The Brownies now had 20 girls and hadn't been away with Brownies at all since covid. There were parents who struggled to contribute towards subscriptions however, kept going through lockdowns, including school holidays, meeting on Zoom every week and occasionally at Ushaw College. The Brownies had a provisional booking at Camp House in Spennymoor for the beginning of July and wondered if the Parish Council could assist with some funding. Covid recovery grants applied to 11- to 19-year-old and seemed to be for capital projects which ruled out the Brownies. The cost to hire Camp House at Spennymoor was £428. To cover that, plus food and activities for the weekend the organisers would work on a total budget of £800. They had 18 girls registered with 3 more due to start at Easter. None of the Brownies wanted to leave, and it was hoped to provide them with a Brownie experience. The girls came from Ushaw Moor, Bearpark, Esh Winning and New Brancepeth with just one from Brandon and one from Neville's Cross. If 16 of the Brownies wanted to attend that would be £50 per girl - one of the Ushaw Moor families had three girls registered aged 7, 8 and 9 and wouldn't be able to afford it at full price.

Resolved

That the Council offer a donation of £300.

10. Queens Jubilee

Since the last meeting, Councillor M Wilson had met with representative from the Church and Caroline from the DERIC project. An afternoon tea at Beaurepaire was discussed. No date had been settled on – just initial discussions were held. The club had a group on Saturday night.

Ideas previously discussed were as follows:

- An offer to help out the aged miners association with bunting etc;
- Chapel and Church – Tea, coffee cakes, brass band in church. Doesn't get younger people involved;
- Activities involving the school field or recreation ground were not feasible.
- The idea of a beacon was discussed with hot dogs, drinks etc. Councillor Cummings had spoken to a Blacksmith who could produce a scaled down version of the Beacon at a fraction of the cost quoted previously, however, the Council would need to ensure that the risk elements associated with the installation of a beacon at the Aged Miners could be achieved. The Aged Miners Association had given their consent, with some associated conditions.

Resolved

- (i) That the Council support the beacon idea;
- (ii) That the Clerk check the Parish Council insurance regarding the risk elements associated with the jubilee beacon.

11. Village Matters

Councillor Kemp asked if the Parish Council would be carrying out an Easter egg themed event this year. The 2021 event had gone very well, however, Councillors felt that a lot of effort had taken place and many prizes were left unclaimed.

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she had received the demolition notice for the old council yard at Colliery Road. It was likely that the application would go to a meeting of the County Planning Committee in April or May.

Councillor R Kemp informed the Council that the soroptimists next project would be looking at health relationships and producing bookmarks for schools.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held a week later than usual on Wednesday 20 April 2022 – apologies from Cllr R Kemp.