

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 21 March 2018 at 7.00 p.m.**

Present:

Councillor M Wright in the Chair.

Councillors O Edwards, R Kemp, J Peart and M Wilson.

17/109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Chard, E Hull, E Wilding and T Wilson.

17/110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

17/111 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from the public.

17/112 POLICE REPORT

There were no representatives from the police present and no report had been provided.

A general update was provided by those Councillors present who had attended the evening PACT meeting where there had been a decent attendance. Issues raised related to speeding, dog fouling and the potential rise in anti-social behaviour with the onset of lighter nights. It was hoped that the detached outreach work being carried out by the DERIC project may have an effect. The Council also noted that the speed enforcement action had been carried out in the village.

17/113 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Wilson provided a general update, as follows:

- Two new village noticeboards had been purchased and would be erected at the Aged Miners Homes and on the Parish land at Aldin Grange; and
- The Brownies had attended County Hall on 13 March to meet with the Chairman of the County Council and participated in a Q&A session with other Councillors. All participants felt that it had been an interesting and rewarding experience.

17/114 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 21 February 2018 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor R Kemp and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

17/115 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

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Amount
	Mr M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (March)	383.21
	HM Revenue and Customs	PAYE	95.80

17/116 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no applications for consideration.

17/117 RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk informed the Council that the Parish Council must review, each year, any risks associated with the work of the parish council and the services it provided. Good risk management allowed stakeholders to have increased confidence in the authority's corporate governance arrangements and its ability to deliver priorities. A copy of the document was circulated to the Council for their attention. The Clerk explained that the document was an assessment of the risks the parish council faced together with the controls and methods used to minimise the risks. The risk assessment was a living document that was continually monitored reviewed and revised to ensure that it was fit for purpose.

Resolved

That the risk assessment be agreed with the Medium/High Risks to be re-ordered.

17/118 EVENTS WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Councillor R Kemp provided an update to the Council following the meeting of the Events Working Group held on 7 March 2018 which included an update on the folk concert taking place on Saturday 28 April 2018 at the Methodist Chapel.

The Council were informed that the working group were in the process of contacting various groups and individuals in terms of attractions and stalls for the village fair and there had been some further discussion about fundraising for a village xmas tree.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

17/119 VILLAGE MATTERS

Community Centre

The Clerk informed the Council that he had been provided with an update from Durham County Council regarding the centre. In their update the Council reported that they were in 'phase two' of the process. This involved preparing the management group and share out roles and responsibilities. Roles would include a line manager for the caretaker and cleaner. New job descriptions were being developed. The County Council were engaging with the Coal Industry and Social Welfare Organisation regarding capital works.

The County Council's Asbestos Manager was also trying to arrange a meeting with Community Centre representatives. In addition, the Chair also provided further details relating to the condition of the building and some of the issues that needed to be resolved.

Land at Cook Avenue

The Chair informed the Council that an enquiry had been made to the County Durham Housing Group regarding land at Cook Avenue.

Your Village, Your Say

Councillor M Wilson reminded the Council of the event taking place on 27 March between 3-7 p.m.

Dog Fouling

The Council discussed issues regarding dog fouling in the village. There had been numerous reports of large amounts of litter and dog fouling in specific areas. The Clerk informed the Council that he had contacted Neighbourhood Wardens on at least three occasions over the past month, with the school cut being a particularly problematic area. Reports had also been received from Cook Avenue, Colliery Road, the recreation ground and the quarry road. The Clerk had asked for increased patrols to be carried out in the area. Additional notices had also been requested. Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she had also contacted Neighbourhood Wardens on behalf of the Council. It had been confirmed to her by Durham County Council that cameras could not be used for surveillance for dog fouling. The Clerk advised the Council that the Parish Council could be more proactive in terms of trying to educate dog owners and discussed a possible campaign with Councillor M Wilson.

Parking of grass verges

Councillor Kemp raised the issues around the village of cars being parked on grass verges. Councillor Kemp felt that it was unacceptable and verges were being ruined. Councillor Wilson informed the Council that she was due to visit Brandon to view a verge hardening scheme.

17/120 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.