

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 7.00 p.m.**

Present:

Councillor R Kemp in the Chair.

Councillors N Anderson, O Edwards, M Chard, J Peart, T Wilson and M Wilson.

17/51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Hull, E Wilding and County Councillor D Bell.

17/52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

17/53 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from the public.

17/54 POLICE REPORT

There were no police in attendance and no report had been provided.

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that a PACT meeting would be held at Bearpark Community Centre on 21 September 2017 to coincide with the luncheon club, however, it was lack of representation at meetings which was of cause for concern.

Councillor Wright asked if the Parish Council could suggest alternate times and approaches to PACT meetings as the current schedule, specifically for Bearpark made it very difficult for people to attend.

Councillors Anderson and T Wilson felt that an update should have been provided given the amount of burglaries, attempted burglaries and criminal damage that had taken place in both Bearpark and Ushaw Moor.

Councillor M Wilson suggested that the Parish Council may wish to write to make representations to the Chief Constable and/or Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner, which she understood neighbouring parish councils had done.

17/55 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Wilson provided a general update from Durham County Council since the last meeting, as follows:

- J There had been many successes in the Northumbria In Bloom awards across the County, including Chester-le-Street, Consett, Durham City and Chester-le-Street. Staff from the Council's Civic Pride Team had also been recognised in the awards;
- J Flu vaccines were available for carers over the age of 18, free of charge on production of their carers card, in pharmacies across County Durham. Upto 80% of pharmacies were offering the service; and
- J A new parish council covering the central unparished areas of Durham City would be created in April 2018 following a petition submitted by the MP for the City of Durham. The proposal had been consulted on by the County Council by way of a Community Governance Review and the Council had agreed final recommendations.

Councillor Wilson then provided an update on those issues relating to Bearpark, as follows:

- J Taylor Wimpey had expressed an interest in developing on land along Colliery Road (behind Cook Avenue) and were in the process of carrying out investigation works on the land. No planning application had been submitted and Councillor Wilson was seeking further information from Planning Services at County Hall;
- J Councillor Wilson had attended a Task and Finish Group for older people at Durham Area Action Partnership;
- J The Centenary Project was going well and Councillors Wilson and others had visited the archives at County Hall to carry out research. The group have found many of the war graves and where most people lived. Councillor Wilson would continue to update the Parish Council; and
- J Whilst not specifically relating to parish boundary, some residents had queried the site access that had appeared on Tollhouse Road. Councillor Wilson had understood that the site was linked to works being undertaken by Network Rail.

17/56 MINUTES

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2017 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor M Wright and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- (b) A list of action points was noted and updated

17/57 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

(i) 1st Bearpark BP Scout Group

The Council considered a request from the 1st Bearpark Baden Powell Scout Group which catered for children from the ages of 5 to 15 years old. The groups were being held weekly in Bearpark Community Centre and their first session took place on 12 September 2017. Open days and sessions had been held prior to this to scope interest. Many children from Bearpark and the immediate surrounding area had been involved to date. The group were currently relying on donations of equipment and were seeking a financial donation from the Parish Council to assist with set-up and equipment costs. The group had recently established their own bank account.

Councillors were very encouraged by the progress that had been made and the considerable local interest that the scout group had generated. It was Moved by Councillor M Wilson, Seconded by Councillor M Wright; and

Resolved

That the Council make a financial donation of £500.00 to assist with set-up costs and equipment.

(ii) Learning Library

The Clerk informed the Council that a letter had been received from the Learning Library based at Spennymoor seeking a financial donation from the Council.

Councillor Edwards explained that the service offered by the Learning Library could not be questioned and felt that it did offer a valuable service, however, he felt that needed specific information in terms of what the members in Bearpark benefit from, how often they utilise the service before he could commit to making a donation.

Resolved

That the request be deferred until further information had been sought regarding the organisation.

17/58 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) CDALC AGM

The Clerk informed the Council that the County Durham Association of Local Council's would meet on 21 October at 10 a.m. in the Council Chamber, County Hall Durham. The Chair or Vice-Chair would usually attend the event.

(ii) Standards/Code of Conduct Training

The Clerk informed the Council that a session aimed at both new and experienced councillors wishing to gain a better grasp on their Code of Conduct and Standards issues arising from any breach of Code of Conduct rules would be held on 3 October 2017 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham, starting at 6:00pm. Refreshments would be available before the session commences. The Clerk urged Councillors to attend the session if they could.

17/59 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
100583	HMRC	PAYE	95.80
100584	Mr M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (September)	383.21
100585	BDO LLP	External Audit	156.00
100586	Bearpark Community Assoc	Room hire	192.00
100587	The Design Hub	Village Fair Flyer (Design & Print)	147.50
100588	Durham County Council	Licence Fee (Village Fair)	50.00
100589	Rock It Climbing	Climbing Wall (Village Fair)	475.00
100590	Bearpark BP Scout Group	Donation	500.00

Receipts

None

17/60 ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

The Clerk informed the Council that the Annual Return had been completed by the Council's External Auditors. There was one matter that had been brought to the Council's attention whereby the Council had accrued an additional charge of £30+VAT. This came about as a result of IT equipment purchased by the Parish Council during the year, not being recorded appropriately as a fixed asset.

Resolved

That the Council note the information.

17/61 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DM/17/02788/TPO - Lilburn House, 6 Woodland Close, Bearpark, DH7 7EB Tree works to 2no. trees

The Council considered the above application and noted the contents of the Tree Management Report as part of the application documentation. The Council understood the needs for the proposed works to be undertaken.

Resolved

That no objections be raised.

17/62 EVENTS WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Chair informed the Council that the Working Group had not met once since the last meeting to discuss the preparation for the Village Fair. The fair had taken place on Saturday 16 September and was reasonably well attended. The climbing wall

and teacups ride had proved quite popular and the stalls located inside the Community Centre had raised reasonable amounts of funding for their respective groups.

The Working Group would look to organising a Halloween and Bonfire Night events, in conjunction with the Community Association and Bearpark and District Workingmen's Club respectively. In terms of Christmas, the possibility of providing a tree and lights was diminishing due to a lack of time and it was unlikely to come to fruition. However, the Chair informed the Council that she had discussed the idea of holding a Ceilidh in the Community Centre. The Chair sought permission from the Parish Council to pay £320 for the services of the Ceilidh band 'Roughshod'.

Resolved

- (i) That the update be noted;
- (ii) That the Events Working Group be authorised to proceed with the organisation of a Ceilidh band at a cost of £320;
- (iii) The Chair and Council place on record their appreciation to the County Councillors who had provided funding to meet the costs of the climbing wall.

17/63 VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) Play Provision in Bearpark

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she had previously raised the issue regarding the possibility of a project to revitalise the play area behind the Community Centre. The equipment was outdated and no longer fit for purpose. The asset transfer of the Community Centre and issue regarding ownership of the land to the front and rear of building would delay matters, however, the Clerk and Councillor Wilson would continue with their work on this issue.

Councillor Wilson also referred to the play area at Colliery Road and the fact that the facilities at the site only catered for a very small age group. It was also noted that there was no equipment for disabled users in the village. Councillor Wilson would be discussing the Colliery Road site with officials from Durham County Council, although they had made it clear that they would not be investing any further facilities into the site, but potentially would support any investment by the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the information be noted

(ii) Community Safety Event

Councillor M Wilson informed the Parish Council that she would like to arrange a Community Safety Day at Bearpark Community Centre which would bring partner agencies into the village to provide advice and support. A date was yet to be determined. Councillor Wilson would inform the Parish Council of this at a later date once she had the opportunity to discuss the idea with representatives from Durham County Council. The event could also be an opportunity for the Parish Council to seek public views for the area and asked Councillors to give the idea some support.

Resolved

That the information be noted

(iii) **Durham Miners Association – Pitman’s Parliament**

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council of an appeal to restore the Pitman’s Parliament in the Miners’ Hall at Red Hill. The Miners Association would be offering banner groups, parish councils and former DMA lodges the first opportunity to book their seat sponsorship. There are 150 seats which have a number that corresponds to a colliery. That number marked the place where the union delegate from the pit would take his place for the Pitman’s Parliament. Bearpark Colliery is seat no. 80. Each sponsorship is £100 and all proceeds go towards the restoration of the Pitman’s Parliament. A replica pit token bearing the chosen words from the sponsors will be fixed to the underside of each seat. The sponsorship scheme will be launched to the public on 23rd October, 2017. The deadline for advance expressions of interest was 16th October.

Resolved

That the Clerk make an initial expression on interest on behalf of the Parish Council.

(iv) **Remembrance Sunday**

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that Remembrance Day was on the horizon and asked the Parish Council if they would be laying a wreath at the service in Bearpark on Remembrance Sunday.

Resolved

That the Clerk make the arrangements to order a wreath as in previous years.

17/64 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.