

## **Bearpark Parish Council**

At the Annual Meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 18 May 2022** at **7.10 p.m.**

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

Councillors I Cummings, C Gallacher, R Kemp, J Peart and J Thompson.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O Edwards.

County Councillor Dan Nicholls had also submitted his apologies.

### **2. Election of Chair**

**Moved** by Councillor I Cummings, **Seconded** by Cllr R Kempt

#### **Resolved**

That Councillor M Wilson be elected Chair of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

### **3. Election of Vice-Chair**

**Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Cllr I Cummings

#### **Resolved**

That Councillor J Thompson be elected Vice-Chair of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

### **4. Cooption of Councillor**

An expression of interest had been received for a cooption to the Council. Mr P Wilson had previously been a coopted member of the Parish Council. He had not stood for election in 2021 due to Covid but was now looking to become involved within the village again.

A nomination was **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor R Kemp.

#### **Resolved**

That Councillor P Wilson be coopted onto the Parish Council.

### **5. Declarations of Interest**

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

### **6. Minutes**

**Resolved**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2022 were agreed.

## **7. Police Report**

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that once again there were very low levels of crime with no major incidents reported in the area. There had been a couple of incidents of shoplifting. PACT meetings were to be held a week on Friday and next Wednesday at 5.30 pm in the Hut at Ushaw Moor.

Councillor I Cummings informed the Council that there had been an empty property broken into in Bearpark.

## **8. Representations from the Public**

There were no representations from the public.

## **9. County Council Report**

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

- DCC are offering free pool based activities for people aged 18 and under as part of 'be water aware week' from every weekend until 17 July. Free swimming sessions were on offer for young people. These were being funded by County Durham Sport. Fun activities such as rafts, floats and inflatables were also being held;
- County Durham's Bid for the City of Culture had been showcased to the UK City of Culture Panel last week. The result would be announced towards the end of May.
- Queens baton relay was to take place in the City of Durham. The relay would pass through Palace Green, Durham Cathedral, South Bailey and Prebends bridge. The convoy would then travel to Seaham;
- The new Durham History Centre would be called 'The Story' at Mount Oswald. This would bring the listed Manor house back into use, together with an extension and secures more than 5 miles of County Archives and 900 years of history. The permanent DLI collection would be exhibited at the Story; and
- The DLI Museum was to be reopened as an art venue and high end café. The DLI collection would remain at Mount Oswald, although some aspects of the DLI collection would be held at the DLI Museum.

## **10. Report of the Clerk**

The Clerk provided an update regarding up and coming training sessions being organised by the County Durham Association of Local Councils. Details of the next meeting of the Smaller Local Council's Forum taking place at Shildon Town Council Offices starting at 14:00 on the 19 May.

A reminder would be circulated regarding the Emergency Planning free session being held remotely and at Spennymoor Town Hall in June. This topic had been a particular interest for Councillors given the issues experienced with Storm Arwen.

## **Resolved**

That the information be noted.

## **11. Planning Applications**

**DM/22/00947/FPA - Single storey front and rear extensions - 3 Woodland Close Bearpark, Durham, DH7 7EB**

**DM/22/00483/RM - Details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for single dwelling approved under DM/21/00350/OUT - Aldin Grange Farm, Bearpark, Durham, DH7 7AR**

## **Resolved**

That the planning applications be noted. There were no objections or comments to be made regarding the applications.

## **12. Request for Financial Assistance**

The Clerk informed the Council that there were two requests for financial assistance for the meeting. Supporting documentation had been provided for each request.

### **(i) Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band**

Cllr I Cummings was supportive of the application and felt that the band used the Bearpark name and the heritage of the village but would also like to see them do more in the village.

Councillor R Kemp proposed a donation of £500 toward the bands costs in respect of the National Finals event. Councillors also discussed donating a further £500 in lieu of an event or events to be held in Bearpark during 2022. These could be related to Christmas and Remembrance if the Band were available.

## **Resolved**

That the Council agree a donation of £500.00 and a further £500.00 if the band would be agreeable to holding a couple of additional events in Bearpark in 2022.

### **(ii) Little Jems Playgroup**

Councillor M Wilson explained that there was no toddler group in Bearpark. The Little Jems sessions were being run by a qualified youth worker, ex-primary school teacher and ex-qualified play teacher from the Beaurepaire Community Hub.

Councillor M Wilson **proposed** £300. The proposal was **Seconded** by Councillor R Kemp who felt that the venture sounded promising.

Councillor P Wilson suggested that some of the books from the community centre library could be donated, if they were suitable.

## **Resolved**

That the Council agree a donation of £300.00

### **13. Queens Jubilee**

The Clerk informed the Council that the flagpole had been ordered and paid for along with two flags (Union Jack and Queens Jubilee Flag). The event at Beaurepaire Community Hub would take place on Friday 3 June from 12 noon to 4 pm. The Parish Council had provided financial contributions towards laser tag, game of cones and teacups ride. Both the Church and Chapel would have stalls. There would be Children's crafts and sweets from a local business. The Hub were providing refreshments including hot dogs, teas, coffees and milk shakes. Councillor M Wilson had mentioned it to the Community Football Team if anyone wished to come along to volunteer. Councillor J Thompson informed the Council that he would volunteer to serve some refreshments at the event.

Cllr I Cummings had contacted the Aged Miners and explained the situation regarding the beacon. Whilst it was disappointing, the Aged Miners were understanding of the risk and factors not to proceed with a beacon installation. Councillor Cummings had recommended that the Aged Miners contact the Parish Council if they required any funding for the Queens Jubilee.

## **Resolved**

That the update be noted.

### **12. Village Matters**

Councillor R Kemp informed the Council that there had been a lot of storm damage within Bearpark Woods. There were many trees across paths and so on and wondered if the Woodland group were still in existence.

The Clerk informed the Council that the request for salt bins for winter had been requested from Durham County Council following advice received earlier in the year.

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that Active Valleys were looking to commence couch to 5k running programme in September 2022. They were looking for qualified run leaders. There was also the potential to train people up so they could volunteer to run the sessions.

The Clerk and Councillor M Wilson were progressing the idea of holding some seated exercise sessions at Beaurepaire Community Hub. They had met with the sports organisers and some feedback had been obtained from the Parish Council Facebook page regarding the type of activities people were interested in and what time of day people would prefer to participate. There had also been some interest in a local walking group.

Cllr I Cummings informed the Council that he had attended the Community Emergency plan session held earlier in May. He encouraged other Councillors to attend the session being held in June with a view to having the matter discussed at a meeting of the Parish Council in June or July.

**Resolved**

That the matters be noted and actioned where required.

**13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 15 June 2022.