

## BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7.00 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor M Wright** in the Chair.

Councillors N Anderson, M Chard, O Edwards, G Hendry, R Kemp, J Peart, M Wilson and P Wilson.

### **19/01 RESIGNATION OF CLLR T WILSON**

Prior to the consideration of business on the agenda, the Clerk reported that Councillor T Wilson had resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect. In his email to the Clerk, Councillor T Wilson intimated that he was unable to fulfil the role to the best of his abilities owing to work commitments and felt that it would be unfair to continue in a role where he could no longer contribute in a meaningful and effective manner, but would be on hand to lend any assistance to the Parish Council in the future, if required.

### **19/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor D Bell and Councillor K Milburn.

### **19/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **19/04 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Nominations were sought for a Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

The nomination of Cllr M Wright was **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor R Kemp; and

#### **Resolved**

That Cllr M Wright be elected as Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

*Councillor M Wright duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Proper Officer of the Council*

### **19/05 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Nominations were sought for a Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

The nomination of Cllr M Wilson was **Moved** by Councillor M Wright, **Seconded** by Councillor G Hendry; and

**Resolved**

That Cllr M Wilson be elected as Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

**19/06 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2019 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor G Hendry and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**19/07 POLICE REPORT**

There were no representatives from the Police present and no report had been provided. Councillor M Wilson reported that the Police were aware of the issues regarding vandalism, anti-social behaviour and quadbikes, motorbikes at Beaurepaire ruins. This had been disappointing to note given all the hard work that had taken place by volunteers and the Dream Community Charity.

Anyone witnessing any activities of this nature were encouraged to contact police on the non-emergency number. This would help build up intelligence regarding the situation.

**19/08 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

**19/09 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

County Councillor M Wilson provided an update as follows:

- 66 apprenticeships were currently on offer from Durham County Council and were being advertised in the local media; and
- The first ever Seaham Food Festival was being held on the weekend of 8th & 9th June.

**19/10 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Clerk informed the Council of two requests for financial assistance which had been circulated to Councillors.

**Bearpark Brownies**

The request sought financial assistance towards attending the 'Guiding Overseas Leadership and Development Scheme' as well as games and craft activities. The cost per girl was £8 and a donation of £50 was sought towards Bearpark Brownies to attend the event.

The Council felt that the Brownies were very deserving of a donation whilst also noting the increasing costs associated with the organisation of the group. The Chair intimated that he would wish to support the Brownies from his individual Councillor budget.

**Resolved**

That the Parish Council offer a total donation of £100, comprising £80 from the Parish Council donations budget and £20 from the individual budget of Cllr M Wright.

**Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band**

The Colliery Band had been selected to represent the North East of England at the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain in Cheltenham on 15 September 2019. Expenses for transport, entry fees accommodation and purchase of the test piece were being fundraised for, in addition to the bands general running costs. The estimated cost of attending the National finals was around £5000.

**Resolved**

That the Council offer a total donation of £200, comprising £100 from the parish council donations budget and £50 each from the individual budgets of Cllr M Wright and Cllr G Hendry.

**19/11 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.

<b>Payment</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
BACS	Positive Directions NE	Elizabus Deposit	140.00
BACS	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (May)	429.48
BACS	HMRC	PAYE (Period 2)	107.37
BACS	National Allotment Association	Subscriptions	66.00
BACS	29th Field Kitchen	Armed Forces Day Funday	500.00
DD	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee	35.00
BACS	Bearpark Brownies	Donation	100.00
BACS	Bearpark & Esh Colliery Band	Donation	200.00

**19/12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no planning applications for consideration. In terms of the application to build of 170 residential dwellings on land to the rear of the Old Chapel, Colliery Road, Bearpark, the Parish Council had now been formally notified by Durham County Council that the developer had withdrawn their application who had cited viability concerns as the determining factor.

**Resolved**

That the information be noted.

**19/13 PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN**

The Clerk informed the Council that the action plan had been updated since the previous meeting and summarised the updates which included:

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Notes</b>
GFA 1	The Annual Governance and Accountability return would require agreement at the next meeting and was currently with the internal auditor
GFA 2	Policy and Procedure updates would be considered at the July meeting
ENV 1	The Clerk was awaiting feedback from Assets regarding the lease of land at the Community Centre
ENV 4	The initial allotment site inspection had been held on 1 May. Follow up work is to be arranged. Feedback had been received and compiled
ENV 5	The Community Garden idea had not evolved and ways to use the land were being sought
ENV 7	The Chair was still awaiting to head back from the County Durham Housing Group regarding land at Cook Avenue
HWB 2	The Dementia Friends awareness session would be arranged prior to the next meeting
EV 1	Arrangements for the Armed Forces Day Funday were noted. Further request for funding was being sought

### **Resolved**

That the update be noted.

## **19/14 VILLAGE MATTERS**

### **(i) Bearpark Community Centre Update**

The Chair informed the Council that the trustees elect had recently met with user groups and Durham County Council regarding future proposals for the building and the associated costs.

The repairs and maintenance involved improvement to the toilets and kitchen areas, artist's studio and other structural work. The user groups were keen for the works to go ahead. There had also been interest from other groups taking on space at the centre. The rents had increased, in line with previous agreements made by the Community Association. The increases were very important in terms of cash flow.

There were some very minor issues to overcome during the coming months, however, the short-term future of the centre would soon be resolved. Durham County Council were looking at other areas of the building in terms of health and safety, insurance and safety checks and the general feeling from the trustees' elect was that progress was being made. Many meetings had taken place, information had been collated and scrutinised and it was felt that progress was being made, with much work to be done.

**(ii) Resolved**

That the information be noted

**Pavement Parking**

Councillors Kemp and Chard referred to complaints received regarding obstructive parking on footpaths, specifically at Hilltop Road and by traffic lights at Toll House Road.

**Resolved**

The Clerk advised that anyone who was concerned regarding vehicles blocking pavements should contact the police on their non-emergency number and have the matter logged. In such instances, intelligence and building up a picture of the issue was key to any future progress.

**(iii) Bishops Meadow Estate - Noticeboard**

Councillor P Wilson approached Councillor M Wilson and asked if it would be possible to have a notice board installed on the Bishops Meadow Estate.

**Resolved**

Councillor M Wilson would discuss this with Councillor P Wilson.

**19/15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

**The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.**