

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on Wednesday **17 April** at **7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

Present: Cllr M Wilson (Chair) Cllr N Anderson Cllr J Baker
 Cllr I Cummings Cllr J Peart Cllr P Wilson

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Requests for Financial Assistance

Jed Collins, Gareth Hall and Tracey Stones attended the meeting to request £1500 for Bearpark Community Football Club for introduction to coaching course costs, safeguarding, first aid and DBS checks.

Resolved

That the request be refused at this time but future consideration be given to fund some of these costs subject to provision of information regarding how many players are signed up to each team and how many of these are Bearpark residents.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 March were agreed as an accurate record.

5. Police Report

Cllr M Wilson advised that there had been further break ins at the former community centre. Front windows had now been secured with Perspex and the rear entrance had been secured to prevent any further incidents. A discussion followed regarding the future of the building.

Resolved

That the Clerk contact Durham County Council to ask what the intentions are for the building and to seek permission for the Parish Council to have a building survey carried out.

6. County Councillors Report

Cllr M Wilson provided an update to the Council as follows:

- DCC began work at Sniperley Park and Ride facility on Monday 15 April, with the extension made possible by a successful application to the government's Transforming Cities Fund. The project will see capacity at the site, on the outskirts of Durham City, increase to almost 600 spaces.
- New markets ranging from street food to Christmas markets will be coming to locations across County Durham. DCC have procured specialist social

enterprise Bacchanalia to organise bespoke markets at 11 centres across the county., the closest being Chester-le-Street

- Bishop Auckland Food Festival returns bringing celebrity chefs, street food traders, live entertainment, and fun family activities. The event will take place from 10am to 5pm Saturday 20 April and 10am to 4pm Sunday 21 April.

Resolved

That the information be noted

7. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided an update to the Council as follows:

- Update on actions from the previous meeting
 - Overgrown vegetation at Cook Avenue – DCC had closed the case as secondary enforcement letters had been issued. The Clerk had requested the case be re-opened and further updates provided.
 - Listed sign – DCC had responded to advise that repair works can be completed but that a specialist metal worker would be required. Cllr I Cummings to discuss with a contact at Beamish Museum.
 - S106 money consultation event – ideas presented to be collated. Cllr M Wilson to summarise in a post on the Facebook page.
 - Summer Fair/D-Day commemoration event – The Clerk had enquired about a play bus but it was not available on the date required.
- Training opportunities
 - Emerging Trends in Local Government Finance, 24th April, 12:00-13:15, online.
- 2024/25 Precept
 - 27,489.93 had been received by DCC. This included the LCTRS grant.
- Renewal of CDALC Membership
 - An invoice had been received to the sum of £311.86. It was agreed that this could be renewed.
- AGAR 2023/2024
 - The Annual Governance and Accountability Return would be due in June. The Clerk was currently working through this and will update on progress as and when necessary.
- Register of Interests
 - Register of interests were still required from Cllrs N Anderson, J Peart and J Thompson. The Clerk would recirculate the document for completion ASAP.

Resolved

That the information be noted and relevant action taken by the Clerk.

8. Planning Applications

Recent planning applications were considered and no objections were to be made.

Resolved

That the information be noted

9. Allotments

A draft letter was circulated which advised plot holders of the rent fees for 2024/2025.

Resolved

That the letter be agreed and sent to plot holders by the Clerk. Cllr N Anderson to confirm plot numbers to the Clerk.

10. Play Areas

Cllr M Wilson had received a plan and quote from DCC regarding a similar play area to give an idea of design and costs.

Resolved

That the Clerk invite the relevant officer to a future meeting to discuss the possibility of a new play area at Whitehouse Wood and additional items in the existing play area at Colliery Road.

11. Parish Funded Neighbourhood Warden

The Clerk had received confirmation from DCC that extra Neighbourhood Warden presence for five hours per week for six months of the year would cost £5,820. This would be to deter off-road bikes and ASB. However, off-road bike activity seemed to have reduced recently which may be due to the presence of the new signs.

Resolved

That cases of off-road biking and ASB be monitored and the costs be considered at a future meeting. The Clerk would also look into possibility of funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

12. Remembering Bearpark (Interpretation Boards)

DCC had responded to advise that they would not lease the small piece of land initially required but instead would only offer to lease the whole area. This would mean Bearpark Parish Council would be responsible for the maintenance of the area which could prove costly.

Resolved

That the site for the interpretation boards and coal tub be moved to Bearpark Parish Council owned land so that a lease would not be required. Necessary action to be taken by the Clerk.

13. Festive Lighting Requirements 2024

DCC had emailed to ask for festive lighting requirements 2024.

Resolved

That the Clerk seek quotes from both DCC and from other sources so that the best value option can be taken.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on **Wednesday 15 May, 7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.