

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 21 July 2021** at **7.00 p.m.**

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

Councillors R Kemp, C Gallagher, J Peart and J Thompson.

There was one member of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O Edwards.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Parish Council Cooption's

The Clerk informed the Council that since the last meeting one person had expressed an interest in being coopted and was in attendance.

The nomination of Mr I Cummings was **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor J Peart. The parish council then heard from Mr Cummings who gave a summary of his background, skills, experience and his motivation for the role.

Resolved

That Mr I Cummings be coopted onto Bearpark Parish Council. Mr Cummings then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. Police Report

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she had met with representatives from the Police and there were no serious issues affecting Bearpark currently.

6. Representations from the Public

There were no members of the public present and no representations had been received.

7. County Council Report

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

- Bearpark Community Centre
- Colliery Road Play Area

8. Finance Report

The Clerk provided a copy of the latest accounting records which included all payments for approval, payments made since the last meeting and a bank reconciliation. The Clerk informed the Council that some elected members would need to become signatories on the account as there was only one remained elected signatory and the Council required a minimum of two signatories, in line with its mandate agreement.

Resolved

That the accounting statements be agreed.

9. Code of Conduct

The Clerk informed the Council that the CDALC Executive Committee had agreed that all member councils consider the adoption of the new DCC Code of Conduct. There had been a lukewarm sector response to the Model Code as many monitoring officers considered it to be less robust than current codes and there were concerns whether it correctly mirrored the law with respect to councillors acting in a private capacity.

DCC had been working on its an amended code since 2019 and had taken the view that it was all embracing and more robust than the LGA Model. CDALC had been involved in the work to create the DCC Code through representation on the DCC Standards Committee.

Resolved

That the code of conduct be adopted.

10. Planning Applications

The Council noted the following planning application:

- (i) **DM/21/01520/FPA - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 148no. 2, 3 and 4 bedroom two-storey dwellings with associated works at land to the rear of the old Chapel, Colliery Road, Bearpark DH7 7AU**

The Clerk informed the Council that the application was ongoing with comments still awaited from some of the statutory services and the Council had previous deferred making any representations on the application until the full impact of the potential development had been understood. It was suggested that the Council meet with a

representative from Gleasons talk through the key parts of the application, most likely, on-site.

Resolved

That the Clerk make arrangements for a site visit to be held.

- (ii) **DM/21/02198/FPA - Construction of 3 new detached dwellings with integral on-site parking and Garages with shared site access from Auton Stile road on land opposite Aldin Grange House, Aldin Grange Terrace, Bearpark**

The Clerk informed the Council that the application had recently been posted on-line. Initial concerns from the Clerk centered around the impact on the adjacent greenbelt, the difficulty of the proposed access (and how this may conflict with the Colliery Road development) and the fact that the land was not identified in the Strategic Housing Land Allocation Assessment.

Resolved

That the Council note the application at present, given that it was in its early stages. It was agreed to list it for consideration at the next meeting.

11. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided the Council with an update regarding correspondence received which included:

- Remembering Bearpark Colliery interpretation update
- Smaller Local Councils forum meeting

Resolved

- (i) That the update be noted; and
(ii) That any required follow-up reports be considered at the next meeting.

12. Village Matters

(i) Poppies

Councillor R Kemp provided an update in relation to the number of poppies that had been knitted to display in the village. Councillor I Cummings felt it was a good idea and would arrange for some designs to be shared.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

(ii) Unadopted Road

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that some residents had complained about the state of an unadopted road in the village, near to the Doctors Surgery.

Resolved

That the Clerk arrange to look at the issues raised.

(iii) Trees

Councillor J Peart informed the Council that residents were concerned that some of trees planted as part of National Tree Week a few years ago had not been attended to for some time and needed some maintenance.

Resolved

That the Clerk arrange to look at the issues raised.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 15 September 2021 at Bearpark and District Workingmens Club.