

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 21 September 2022** at **7.00 p.m.** held at **Beaurepaire Community Hub.**

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

Councillors I Cummings, J Peart, J Thompson and P Wilson.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor D Nicholls and Councillors O Edwards, C Gallacher and R Kemp.

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 20 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Police Report

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she had attended a recent PACT meeting and although there had been some issues in the Deerness area, none of the issues highlighted related to Bearpark.

5. Representations from the Public

There were no representations from the public.

6. County Council Report

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

- The Council's clean and green team display on a roundabout at North Road in Durham City which payed tribute to Her Majesty during her Platinum Jubilee year, depicting the royal initials EIIR and the Queen's crown would remain on display until the autumn, despite her death;
- The Council had held a number of events including a local and regional proclamation (at County Hall and Durham Market Place) following HM the Queens Death;
- A service had also been held in Durham Cathedral.

7. Report of the Clerk

Parish Council Land

The Clerk advised the Council that a number of tree works would need to take place on the Parish Council land. The Clerk had attended the site with contractors and noted that the unadopted footpath that ran behind the land was obstructed in places by the large laurel hedge. It had appeared that some residents were using the area to top garden waste into the hedge, given its appearance.

There were currently, twelve trees on the land. Some mature, others had self-seeded. The trees were blocking out light and the branches were hanging low for anyone using the seats on the land.

There was also an ivy clad beech tree of approximately 35ft in height which had an uncomfortable lean over the gardens of two house on Aldin Grange Terrace.

The Clerk had been advised that the laurel hedge ought to be reduced in height. The crown uplift to take place on all of the mature trees and that any self-seeded trees (particularly the cherry trees) should be removed or thinned out. A previously storm damaged tree (removed at the end of Storm Arwen) would need the stems removing from the stump. The leaning beech tree would require some further assessment, but could pose liability issues if left untouched.

Resolved

That the Clerk be authorised to proceed with engaging a contractor for works.

8. Requests for Financial Assistance

There were no requests for financial assistance.

9. Planning Applications

DM/22/01536/FPA – Creation of an outdoor horse arena, with timber rail fencing and floodlighting, exclusively for personal use at Old Arbour House, Crossgate Moor, Durham DH1 4TQ

The Clerk informed the Council that Councillor M Wilson had made a request to call in the application for consideration. On considering the application, Parish Councillors' J Thompson and I Cummings expressed concern that the development was taking place on green belt land, indeed some of it was retrospective as some works had already taken place. Concerns were also expressed that the proposed floodlighting would cause a degree of light pollution into the village and neighbouring development, both in Bearpark and Nevilles Cross and the historical nature of the neighbouring site of Beurpaire.

Resolved

That the Parish Council submit concerns on the points raised.

10. Village Matters

(i) Listed 'Bearpark Colliery' sign

Councillor I Cummings informed the Council that the sign (on private land) required some urgent restoration and queried if Councillor M Wilson had been able to progress the matter. Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that it had been scheduled to be painted, however, the Council had indicated that given the sign was on private land, they were unable to now carry out the works required.

Resolved

The Clerk informed the Council that he would contact the heritage officer at DCC given the listed status of the sign and the fact that it needed works undertaken to ensure its longevity and didn't become an asset at risk.

(ii) Remembrance

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that a small service would also take place at the pit wheel similar to 2021. This would involve children from Bearpark Primary School. It was hoped that Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band would arrange for a bugler to play the last post at the pit wheel. Consideration would need to be given regarding the use of a small PA system if one could be loaned. St. Edmunds Church would also be hosting its usual Remembrance Day service.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agree to install the poppy display on the pit wheel for 2022 and that a wreath be purchased to lay at the village remembrance services taking place at St. Edmunds Church.

(iii) Christmas

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she had held initial discussions with Beaufort Community Hub regarding a Christmas event for 2022. The hub had many Christmas decorations, and it was hoped to use a room as Santa's grotto. The event would be held on a Sunday (date to be determined – possibly Sunday 20 November). Mince pies, seasonal punch and tombola would be on offer. The Clerk informed the Council that given the size of the hub, they may wish to do 2-3 sittings for the event over the period of an afternoon.

The Clerk advised that the village Christmas Tree had been ordered. Installation date was unknown, but it would be in place by 1 December at the very latest. From previous experience the tree was usually installed by the last couple of weeks in November. If installed in time the Christmas Tree light switch-on would be scheduled for the last Sunday in November (27th).

Resolved

That the Parish Council purchase selection boxes for the Christmas event.

(iv) Play area consultation

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that the play area equipment consultation was due to take place. This would see two new pieces of play equipment installed at

the Colliery Road Play area site. It was envisaged that a review of play equipment would take place in the future, with Councillor I Cummings commenting that he would love to see some play provision located at the Whitehouse wood area.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

(v) Defibrillator Training

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that 15 children from Bearpark Primary School had received defibrillator training with the Police Community Support Officers. The school had its own defibrillator. The Clerk advised that defibrillator training remained on the parish council action plan for the wider village, given the recent installation of the defibrillator on the Methodist chapel. This had been donated by the school and installed by a local electrician.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

11. Any other items of interest

There were no additional items of interest.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 19 October 2022.