

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 19 October 2022** at **7.00 p.m.** held at **Beaurepaire Community Hub.**

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

Councillors I Cummings, O Edwards, R Kemp, J Peart and J Thompson.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor D Nicholls and Councillors C Gallacher and P Wilson.

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 21 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Police Report

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that there had been some fly tipping incidents, which the police had been made aware of. Predominantly low-level crime in the area, such as shoplifting. There had been an incident at the cricket field whereby a car or quad bike had driven over the football field and the cricket wicket. Councillor M Wilson had discussed the matter with Cllr B Coult who assisted with the running of the cricket club around the installation of bollards or a drop-down gate, although the perimeter of the ground and the condition of the perimeter was of concern. The last PACT meeting was held in the hub where devices for home safety were issued.

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 had recently levied fines of £2,500 to two individuals who had failed to assist with flytipping investigations (Seaham Grange and Pittington);

- The Story at Mount Oswald were giving residents the opportunity to search for relatives in two online talks. Sessions were charged at £5 and there was the option of a morning and evening session.

7. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk informed the Council of the correspondence that had been circulated by email, which included:

- Consultation on the redevelopment of the former DLI museum
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- New patient records system of the County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust
- Free civility and respect online sessions by the Local Government Association
- Financial support to create a local warm hub

The Clerk also sought agreement for a poppy wreath to lay on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Services on Sunday 13 November 2022.

The Clerk provided the Council with an example of some matters of concern raised through a recent public interest report within some parish councils, e.g. the use of personal emails and telephone numbers by the clerk and not a generic council email address or telephone number that can be used by any clerk when one leaves and another commences. The use of personal emails and personal mobile phones by clerks had been reported to councils in the past and action should be taken to rectify this if the council is not using a generic council produced email address and the clerk does not have a council issued mobile phone. Other matters raised included the non-completion of AGAR returns, the lack of providing the required Mandatory/Statutory Transparency Code for Smaller Councils information online and lack of minute production. The Clerk advised the Council that he would be reviewed all areas of Council policies and procedures to ensure that the Council was compliant across all of its activities.

Resolved

That the Clerks report be noted and actions agreed, where appropriate.

8. Requests for Financial Assistance

There were no requests for financial assistance.

9. Planning Applications

There were no applications for consideration.

10. Community Emergency plan update

Councillor I Cummings updated the Council in relation to the proposed Community Emergency Plan. To date the Council had approached and met with groups to ensure there was sufficient. Representatives had met from the Aged Miners Homes, Beaurepaire Hub, Primary School, Chapel and Church. All groups were keen on

moving the project forward. Through discussion there had also been some thoughts around warm homes / warm spaces and it had made sense to merge two themes together. The Church would look to run a warm hub from Beaurepaire on a Monday. Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that the Hub had put a bid in for an emergency contingency plan. Further discussions around any system in terms of who would visit homes, data gathering etc. would need to be discussed at a later stage. It had proven to be a positive meeting and the next step would be to move to public meetings. Ultimately the area wanted to ensure that it was better prepared in times of emergency. The Club was the only organisation that the group hadn't been able to reach out to.

Resolved

That the update be noted and the Clerk consider the material and themes required to move to the next stage of the process which would be around a public meeting.

11. Village Matters

(i) Cost of Living

Councillor R Kemp informed the Council that the Chapel had a food bank if anyone had any donations. Councillor M Wilson also informed the Council that discussions were underway regarding a warm hub in the village.

(ii) Remembrance Events

Councillor R Kemp agreed to lay the wreath at the Remembrance Service in November at St. Edmunds Church. Arrangements were being made to install the poppy display on the pit wheel by DK Horticulture and a small service would take place at the pit wheel on 11 November at 10.45 a.m.

(iii) Christmas Events

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that arrangements for the Christmas Fayre had been finalised. The event would be held on Saturday 19 November at Beaurepaire Community Hub between 11am and 2pm. Councillor M Wilson asked if the Parish Council would supply selection boxes for Santa and organise a facepainter for the event.

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. The Christmas Tree light switch-on would be scheduled for the first Sunday in December (4th). This would coincide with Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band playing Carols in St. Edmunds Church, then carols around the tree if sufficient lighting could be sourced.

Resolved

That the information be noted and that the Parish Council purchase selection boxes for the Christmas event and arrange for a facepainter.

(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. Councillor M Wilson would contact the Outdoor Play Provision officer at the Council and seek further information regarding the additional area identified.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

(v) Defibrillator Training

Further defibrillator training for the wider village would need to be arranged, most likely to be in the New Year.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

12. Any other items of interest

There were no additional items of interest.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 16 November 2022.