

## **Bearpark Parish Council**

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 17 November 2021** at **7.00 p.m.**

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

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

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Gallacher.

County Councillor Dan Nicholls had also submitted his apologies.

### **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 October 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

### **4. Police Report**

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that there had been the odd disturbance in Bearpark but it had been relatively quiet. The current PCSO was retiring and a new PCSO would be in place soon. PACT meetings would commence in early 2022. Councillor M Wilson asked that consideration be given to holding a meeting at Chapel between 10-11am on a Wednesday.

### **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 the report to the Council as follows:

- 27 coronavirus cases in the area. The virus figures in the output area of Bearpark and Witton Gilbert were down 15%;
- The Council's Children and Young Peoples' Service had been recognized nationally in the CYPS excellence awards;

- The Lumiere event would commence during the coming week with lighting installations being held across the City of Durham, with one installation at nearby Ushaw College;
- The County Council's Cabinet had confirmed that the Council Tax reduction scheme would continue as well as the associated discounts; and
- £4.6m grant from the Government Household Support Fund had been awarded to help families with essential costs across the winter for things like fuel, power and food. Benefits of the grant would be based on awarding criteria.

## **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.

### **Resolved**

That the accounting statements be agreed.

## **9. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications for consideration.

## **10. Report of the Clerk**

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

- The Clerk provided an update on salt bin provision. Durham County Council were experiencing a delay in the supply of salt bins and salt. They would be able to install new salt bins for the parish council later in 2022, if the parish council wished to supply salt over and above the standard DCC criteria and offering. Highway's agreement would need to be sought in relation to the installation of the salt bins which was standard practice. The parish council discussed the potential to order a dumpy bag on the parish land. Councillor M Wilson would speak to Doctors regarding salting their footpath and the entrance to surgery should someone be able to supply any salt.
- Details of the Smaller Local Councils up and coming forum meeting were provided should any Councillor wish to attend. No Councillors expressed an interest in joining the online meeting.
- The Clerk explained that the village xmas tree would be installed within the next few weeks, however, no events had been planned to coincide with the switch-on.
- The Clerk extended his gratitude and thanks to Cllr I Cummings for his work regarding the poppy display and installation on the pit wheel. It was the first time the Parish Council had carried out a display in the village and it had been very well received. Other Councillor were unanimous in their praise for the display and to all of the individuals and groups who had contributed to making the poppies, the Reverent Alan Bartlett for the small service of dedication and

to Bearpark Primary School who had also made poppies for the parish land and attended the service of remembrance at the pit wheel.

**Resolved**

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

**16. Village Matters**

- It had been noted that some of the white lines had faded as had other advisory road markings. There was a general view that it was getting quite dangerous; and
- Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she was meeting with officers from the Council in December regarding Bearpark Community Centre.

**Resolved**

That the update be noted.

**13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 19 January 2022 at Bearpark and District Workingmens Club.