

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 20 February 2019** at **7.00 p.m.**

Present:

Councillor M Wright in the Chair.

Councillors N Anderson, M Chard, O Edwards, G Hendry, R Kemp, J Peart and M Wilson.

18/105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, P Wilson and T Wilson.

18/106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

18/107 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2019 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor G Hendry and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, except for the reference in Minute No. 18/95 being amended to Ushaw Moor Catholic Club.

18/108 POLICE REPORT

There was no representative from the Police present and no report had been provided.

18/109 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

18/110 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor M Wilson provided an update as follows:

- The Superhero's themed Fire and Ice Festival was taking place in Durham at the weekend;
- County Durham Archaeology Day was taking place on Saturday 9 March 2019;
- The planning application for the proposed new County Council HQ at the Sands, Durham would be considered on Tuesday 5 March 2019;
- The County Council had set its budget on 22 February. A 4.99% was being levied from Durham County Council. This comprised a 2.99% increase in Council Tax and a 2% Adult Care levy.

18/111 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk informed the Council that there had been no formal requests for financial assistance, however, the Council had agreed to make a donation to Bearpark Community Association as a thank-you for assisting with the music and refreshments at the Parish Council Christmas Lights Switch-on event.

Resolved

That the Parish Council make a donation of £150.00.

18/112 FINANCE REPORT

The Council considered the monthly financial report which detailed the current bank balances, payments made since the last meeting and payments to be made.

Payments

Payment	Supplier	Description	Amount
BACS	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (February)	403.62
BACS	HMRC	PAYE	100.91
BACS	Bearpark Community Assoc	Donation	150.00

18/113 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications for consideration. There was an update to the following application:

DM/18/00129/FPA - Development of 170 residential dwellings, including 34 no. affordable dwellings (Amended 9th October 2018) on land to the rear of the Old Chapel, Colliery Road, Bearpark, DH7 7AU

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that Planning Services had intimated that the application would be put for consideration to a meeting of the County Planning Committee in April. Most aspects of the application were almost complete. There remained some minor contribution issues outstanding, one of which related to ecology.

The Chair also informed the Council that discussions remained ongoing regarding a piece of land at Cook Avenue between the County Durham Housing Group, Taylor Wimpey and the Parish Council. The Chair was awaiting a response from the Housing Group and would follow this matter up.

In response to a question from Councillor Edwards regarding the contribution to Bearpark Primary School, Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that Taylor Wimpey had agreed the commitment with Durham County Council, although they had been reluctant to do so.

The Parish Council would await to see a copy of the report to the Committee prior to making any decision on whether to speak on the matter.

18/114 COUNTY DURHAM PLAN

The Clerk informed the Council that the deadline for responses to the County Durham Plan pre-submission draft consultation was 4.30 p.m. on Friday 8 March and sought direction from the Parish Council as to whether they wished to make any formal response to the latest round of consultation which would be the Parish Council's last opportunity to do so, prior to any form of public inquiry.

The Chair informed the Council that he had attended a recent consultation event. The main concerns for Bearpark related to housing allocation, employment land and the proposed Western Relief Road (WRR).

Councillor M Chard felt that the noise impact from the proposed Western Relief Road, across the Browney Valley could not be underestimated and that the Council needed to improve how people accessed the City Centre. Councillor Edwards felt that constructing relief roads were not historically proven to deal with long term traffic.

The Chair explained that he had asked what the benefits of the WRR were to Bearpark. One response suggested that less traffic would come through the village travelling to Ushaw Moor. The Chair personally felt that this would not be the case as many parents dropped children off at Toll House Road for school. Councillor Edwards agreed and felt that traffic would still continue to use Bearpark for this purpose and to travel to Ushaw Moor.

Resolved

That the Chair circulate any draft response by 1 March for comments.

18/115 PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

The Clerk informed the Council that the action plan had not been updated any further since the previous meeting given. The document would be finalised for the meeting in March and would hopefully be used to monitor and chart progress of the direction of travel and better understand what the parish council would do over the next 4-5 years. The action plan was a 'live' document could be added to at any time. The Chair informed the Council that the next logical step would be to allocate some budget costs against each action.

Resolved

That progress be noted.

18/116 VILLAGE MATTERS

Bearpark Primary School Litterpick

Councillor M Wilson had met with the School Council recently and would be looking to arrange some activities around litter, including a litter pick with the parish council and a visit by the Civic Pride Team to the Primary School.