

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 18 September 2019 at 7.00 p.m.** held in **Bearpark Community Centre.**

In the absence of the Chair:

Councillor M Wilson (Vice-Chair) in the Chair.

Councillors N Anderson, O Edwards, G Hendry, R Kemp, M Wilson and P Wilson.

19/42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor D Bell and Councillor M Chard, K Milburn, J Peart and M Wright.

19/43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

19/44 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor G Hendry and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/45 POLICE REPORT

There were no representatives from the Police present and no report had been provided. There was nothing significant to report from the previous PACT meeting. The next PACT meeting would take place on 19 September 2019 at Ushaw Moor.

19/46 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

19/47 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor M Wilson provided an update as follows:

- The Durham Book Festival would take place from 5th to 13 October;
- Work would soon begin on new signalised junction at Dragonville (the site of a new Lidl supermarket and The Range);
- Bearpark Primary School would hold a lantern parade on the last week of the school term; and finally
- Councillor Wilson informed the Council that she had attended a training session relating to far right extremism which had been very thought provoking and informative. Part of the session highlighted how 'far right activities' can

filter their way into schools and through social media networks and felt that the Parish Council and other local groups may be interested in attending some form of training course to raise awareness and considered that it was something that all responsible organisations and individuals should be vigilant of.

19/48 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Bearpark and District WMC Bonfire Night

The Council considered a request from Bearpark and District Workingmens Club for financial assistance towards their Annual Fireworks Display. A specific sum of money was not requested and the Parish Council were being approached to make a contribution towards the event (in principle) which was managed and organised solely by the Workingmens Club. As in previous years, the Chair of the Parish Council offered support to the event should assistance be required with marshalling arrangements.

Moved by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor O Edwards and

Resolved

That an offer of financial support be agreed in principle, subject to all the relevant health and safety permissions being met by the Club.

19/49 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.

Payment	Supplier	Description	Amount
BACS	HMRC	PAYE (Period 6)	107.37
SO	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (September)	429.48
BACS	AA Landscapes	Grasscutting 2019/20	350.00
BACS	P Wilson	AFD Event Reimbursement	31.25

19/50 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk informed the Council of the following applications.

DM/19/01470/FPA

St Edmunds Church Hall, Auton Stile, Bearpark DH7 7AA - Conversion of existing Church Hall (D1) to mixed use children's day nursery and soft play centre with ancillary cafe facility (sui-generis), and extension to front. The Clerk informed the Council that the application had been withdrawn.

DM/19/02763/HPN

The Council noted the prior notification for the erection of a single storey extension projecting from the rear of the original dwellinghouse by 4m, an overall height of 2.96m to the apex of the roof and an eaves height of 2.39m at 16 Ritson Avenue Bearpark Durham DH7 7BE

Resolved

There were no objections.

19/51 CLERKS REPORT

The Council noted a report of the Clerk which detailed the following:

(i) Durham County Council Overview and Scrutiny

Durham County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Team had published their annual report detailing the work they undertook in 2018/19 and highlighted some of the work to be undertaken in 2019/20. A copy was available online.

(ii) Thornley Parish Council – A Year in the Life of...

A video of a year in the life of Thornley Parish Council had been produced. The Clerk explained that Parish Councillors may find the video of interest as it highlighted some fine examples of the differences a well organised and motivated Parish Council could make to the local community.

(iii) Consultation on Council Tax Charges for Empty Properties

The Clerk informed the Council that Durham County Council were consulting on possible changes to their policy relating to council tax charges on empty properties. The consultation closed on 6 October 2019.

(iv) Village Survival Guide

The Guide, produced by the Prince's Countryside Trust, provided advice on village sustainability and covered the following:

- Creating a village vision - Neighbourhood Plan, clear strategic vision for your village
- Form a form to come together including parish councils, farmer, landowners, businesses to focus on one task
- Give a voice to everyone
- Find a space to meet – village hall, pub, shop etc
- Expand your connections transport digital communications etc
- Nurture a wider network – bring in experts to assist with various tasks etc
- Develop self-sufficiency take control of your own destiny for your project.
- Discover a creative spirit and take an innovative approach
- Build financial resilience
- Become a stronger community

(v) CDALC AGM

The AGM of the County Durham Association of Local Councils will be held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham at 10 a.m. on Saturday the 12 October 2019. Refreshments and breakfast sandwiches will be available from around 9:15.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

19/52 PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

The Clerk informed the Council that the action plan had not been updated since the previous meeting and very little progress had been made. No feedback had been received from any Councillors.

19/53 VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) Christmas 2019

The Clerk reported that an item of urgent additional business would follow to formally agree the purchase of a Christmas Tree for 2019. Further details of any events to coincide with Christmas would follow over the coming months.

(ii) Flass Vale Vintage Tractor Run 2019

Councillor Kemp informed the Council of the Flass Vale 2019 vintage tractor run taking place at Ushaw from 10am. Refreshments including a Hog Roast would be on offer. The event was being held to raise funds for the Bloodwise Charity on Sunday 29 September 2019.

(iii) Verge Parking

Councillor Kemp referred to the recent costs being explored in relation to verge parking and explained that there were many spaces available on the roadside without the need to spend thousands of pounds to create additional parking. Councillor Kemp felt that some form of deterrent to stop cars parking on the verge could be a better alternative. Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she would contact the relevant Highways Officers.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

19/54 ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

It was agreed that the following items of business could be considered in view that allotment rents for 2019/20 needed to be collected and any order for a village Christmas Tree needed to be placed by no later than 30 September.

(i) Allotment Rents 2019/20

In view that the Parish Council had not made much progress with the allotment review it was considered unfair to make any changes to the rents for 2019/20.

Moved by Councillor O Edwards, **Seconded** by Councillor M Wilson and

Resolved

That allotment rents be set at £25 for 2019/20.

(ii) Parish Council Christmas Tree for 2019

The Clerk informed the Council that he had been into contact with Durham County Council regarding the installation and provision of a Christmas Tree for 2019. If

agreed, the tree would be located on land opposite Bearpark Community Centre. An order for the tree would need to be made by 30 September 2019, hence the special urgency to agree the matter as an item of urgent business. Member of the Parish Council reflected on last year's tree and how much it made a difference throughout the festive period and were of the opinion that it was necessary to provide something similar for 2019.

Referring to the costs, Councillor O Edwards queried if the costs would be lower should local contractors and organisations be willing to become involved in the future. The Clerk advised that this would possibly be the case, however, no local contractors or organisations had expressed an interest in undertaking the necessary works. The Clerk explained that in other local villages, community organisations were actively involved in working with the parish council to deliver a festive event, which included assistance with purchase and installation of a Christmas Tree. At the present time, there was no desire from any group or organisation in Bearpark to become involved and there was a clear will from the Parish Council to continue with the provision of a Christmas Tree moving forward, given the capital works undertaken in 2018/19. The Clerk explained that it would be something to aspire towards in the future but sadly, there was a lack of willingness for local people and organisations to become involved.

Moved by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor O Edwards and

Resolved

That the order be confirmed at a cost of £1776.22

19/55 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 16 October 2019 at 7.00 p.m. at Bearpark Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.