

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **21 June 2023** at **7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

Present:

Councillor M Wilson in the Chair

Councillors J Peart, J Thompson, P Wilson, R Kemp, I Cummings,

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O Edwards

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that he had fed back to the resident of Hedley Court regarding the overgrown shrubs and trees. The resident was advised that the vegetation was on private land and therefore not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

The Clerk had contacted the contractor regarding the overgrown planters on the chicane. These have been cut back to improve visibility for drivers. The contractor had advised that it appeared some bedding plants had been stolen from the planter and so these have been replaced.

In relation to the Eastside Avenue Linked Footpath, Cllr M Wilson reported a plan and more accurate costings should be available by July.

Cllr R Kemp advised that the Chapel Quiz Night raised over £400 for Christian Aid.

Resolved

That the information be noted and that Eastside Avenue Linked Footpath be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Police Report

Cllr M Wilson advised that there had been a couple of minor incidents involving youth nuisance but nothing major to report.

Resolved

That the information be noted

5. Representations from the Public

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

6. County Councillors Report

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

- Cllr Joan Nicholson was appointed as Chair for the forthcoming year. Her chosen charities are Durham Association of Boys and Girls Clubs and The Alzheimer's Society.
- Durham Brass Festival is set to return from Sunday 9 to Sunday 16 July. On Saturday 15 July a free party will be held in Wharton Park from 5:30pm.
- £2.64m has been awarded by the Department of Transport for the repair and prevention of potholes across the county. This is in addition to the almost £13m that has already been committed to improving the condition of the road network.
- The Sunday bus service which had previously ceased is set to be reinstated as it was (or as close to as possible). It is to be funded by Durham County Council on a yearly basis subject to available budget.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

7. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided the Council with an update as follows:

- The next two meetings of CDALC will take place on 20 July at Shildon and 23 November at Great Aycliffe. Clerk to circulate details.
- The data protection register entry has been renewed with the ICO.
- An emergency planning meeting will be held on Monday 26 June, 6pm, Beaufort Community Hub. A representative from Alderson's (Funeral Director) will be in attendance.
- An email has been received from CDALC to advise that 6 June 2024 will be the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Council to consider a potential event to mark the occasion.
- The following training courses are available via CDALC:
 - New Councillor training - Wednesday 5 July 2023, 6-8pm

- An Introduction to CiLCA - Tuesday 11 July 2023, 6-7pm
- An email was received regarding a number of fires at the colliery woods. The fire service had been called. Cllr M Wilson advised that she had contacted Durham County Council regarding the brash as a potential fire hazard. The response received suggested that the brash was not the issue.
- Both benches which had previously been taken away by Durham County Council following damage have now been returned.
- Durham County Council grass cutting services has improved which has been well received.
- A finance report was circulated and all payments were agreed.
- Council agreed the following purchases for the new Clerk
 - new laptop up to the value of £500
 - mobile phone contract up to £10 per month
 - printing costs of up to £10 per month
 - mileage allowance
 - broadband allowance

Resolved

That the Clerks report be noted and actions agreed where appropriate

8. Planning Applications

DM/23/01450/FPA – 3 Hartside View, Bearpark, DH7 7TE

(Proposed two storey and single storey rear extension)

Resolved

To note the above application

DM/23/01573/NMA - 2 Auton Field Terrace Bearpark Durham DH7 7AS

(Non-Material Amendment pursuant to planning permission DM/22/01280/FPA to reduce the of height of proposed dwelling)

Resolved

Clerk to find out further information regarding this application and report back at a future meeting.

9. Request for Financial Assistance

Heritage 100 Walk – Accompanying Story

Unfortunately, the Project Leader was unable to attend the meeting but has advised he will attend at a future date.

Resolved

Clerk to send dates of future meetings to Project Leader.

10. Village Matters

Flag Pole

A suitable site is still to be agreed. Clerk to speak to DCC/Company who supplied the pole and report back.

Interpretation Boards

Cllr M Wilson to contact designer and report back.

Remembrance Event

Cllr I Cummings to check the state of the poppy decoration used for the previous two years and advise if repairs are needed. Cllr M Wilson to contact Community Hub Manager to ask if the craft club would be able to help with any repairs.

Cllr M Wilson advised she would like a portable PA system to be available as last year it was difficult to hear due to traffic. Clerk to investigate. Clerk also to source recording of The Last Post. To be discussed at future meeting.

Play Park

Cllr R Kemp enquired as to whether damage to the play park had been fixed to which Cllr M Wilson advised that it had.

Housing Development

Cllr R Kemp advised that there were a number of occasions recently where work on the development site had begun earlier on the morning than stipulated in planning regulations. Cllr R Kemp to make the developer aware.

Dangerous Trees

Cllr M Wilson advised that DCC have issued an enforcement warning regarding the dangerous, overhanging trees.

Stone Valley Festival

Cllr M Wilson advised that a letter would soon go out to residents who would potentially be affected by the noise, traffic etc from the festival. The letter contained contact information for anyone who had concerns or queries and also advised that there would be 24-hour security on site throughout the weekend. Cllr M Wilson would post the letter on the Facebook page.

Litter Pick

The next litter pick would take place on Sunday 2 July. Children from a local children's home have been invited to partake.

Football Club Fun Day

The football club are hoping to host another funday and have asked for support from the Council. To be discussed at a future meeting.

11. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business

There were no additional items of business to discuss.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 19 July 2023, 7pm, Beaurepaire Community Hub.