

## **Bearpark Parish Council**

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Friday 28 July 2023** at **5:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.

**Present:** Cllr M Wilson (Chair)      Cllr N Anderson      Cllr I Cummings  
                 Cllr John Peart                      Cllr J Thompson      Cllr Paul Wilson

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

Apologies were received from: Cllr O Edwards and Cllr R Kemp

### **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 21 June 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Flagpole**

The Clerk had contacted Harrison Flagpoles EDS Creative (original suppliers of the flagpole) for advice and a quote for installation but had not yet received this. Clerk would also seek advice and a quote from DCC.

#### **Resolved**

To be discussed at a future meeting once all advice and quotes had been received.

### **4. Police Report**

Cllr Marion Wilson advised there had been a few reports of youth nuisance near the ruins. Police had attended and found that the area had been cleared.

#### **Resolved**

That the information be noted

### **5. Representations from the Public**

Complaint received regarding the height of the planters at the chicane as it obstructs view of drivers.

#### **Resolved**

That the Clerk arrange for the shrub to be removed and have flowers instead.

Query regarding the management of allotments including the rent charges and waiting list.

### **Resolved**

That the rent be set to £35 for each plot (rent for previous year to be waived and begin a new agreement).

That a new waiting list be drawn up by the Clerk.

That the Clerk find a template tenancy agreement and seek advice from NSALG about how to implement.

## **6. County Councillors Report**

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

- Seaham Food Festival will bring delicious food and drink stalls and cookery demonstrations from celebrity chefs to the town's sea front on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 August.
- Killhope Lead Mining Museum has announced its programme of events for the summer holidays. All information is available on the Museum's website.
- Durham Brass Festival has been hailed a success once again as more than 30,000 people attended events across the county between Sunday 9 and Sunday 16 July, in a week packed with spectacular performances, new commissions, free concerts, community activities, and lively street bands.

### **Resolved**

That the information be noted

## **7. Report of the Clerk**

The Clerk provided the Council with an update as follows:

- NALC had advertised a training opportunity entitled "Engaging with Local Communities Through Digital Engagement". This would take place on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023.
- The Clerk had attended an introduction to CiLCA but had decided not to start the qualification yet and may consider this in the future once she had gained some more experience.
- The clerk had attended a webinar entitled "How to Clerk SMARTer not harder" on 25<sup>th</sup> July. This was a free session delivered by Scribe.
- CDALC had advertised a training session for new clerks at a cost of £10. This would take place on 12<sup>th</sup> September. The Clerk sought approval for the cost of this.
- The authorisation form which would allow the new Clerk to access online banking for the Council's account had been returned due to two of the signatures not matching. This would therefore need to be resubmitted.
- Some members of the Facebook page had been warned about inappropriate posts. The posts had been removed and a reminder post had advised members to be respectful of one another and not to use foul language. This would be monitored closely going forward by the Clerk.

- DCC had notified the Clerk of a consultation regarding the LCTRS grant commencing on 12 July 2023. The letter sets out two options but also states that DCC would consider other proposed options. The Clerk advised she would circulate the letter via email and add to agenda for September's meeting.
- Approval was sought for the cost of some emergency repairs which were needed for the seats on the land by Aldin Grange Terrace. The total for this would be £500.
- The website had been updated recently with news items including the Emergency Plan meetings and Banner Group meetings.
- The clerk requested authorisation for a corporate credit card to make small purchases such as prizes or gifts for children at Christmas and Easter.

### **Resolved**

That the information be noted, requests authorised and relevant action taken by the Clerk.

## **8. Finance Report**

The Clerk circulated a report which detailed all recent and upcoming expenditure.

### **Resolved**

That all payments be approved.

## **9. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to consider, however details of some delegated applications were circulated for information.

### **Resolved**

To note the delegated applications

## **10. Requests for Financial Assistance**

Keiron Young attended the meeting to explain the current position of the Heritage 100 Walk project as follows:

- The route had been confirmed with a few minor adjustments.
- Keiron had met with the Deputy Head Teacher of the local primary school who were keen to be involved in the project.
- Posts were ready and as soon as Keiron received approval from DCC these would be installed at the community garden, next to the school. Keiron would update the council on this. Keiron was concerned this may happen during school holidays. Cllr M Wilson to contact caretaker of the school to allow access if this was the case. DCC would oversee install. Clerk to assist with contacting DCC if needed.
- Funding was still being sought for the story but once this was complete, this would be shared with the Council.

### **Resolved**

That the information be noted and relevant action taken by the Clerk

## **11. Village Matters**

- Cllr M Wilson advised that the Council were leading on the Banner Group meetings initially until they form an established group.

### **Resolved**

That the Council fund the room hire costs for initial Banner Group meetings.

- Cllr M Wilson advised that the Parish Noticeboard had been damaged. The Clerk had received a quote for its repair to the amount of £160.

### **Resolved**

That further quotes be sought by the Clerk but that if nothing found to be less expensive, to proceed with the repair at the above cost.

- Cllr I Cummings reported overgrown vegetation on private land, at the junction of Woodland Road and Cook Avenue. This was causing an obstruction of the view of drivers.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk report to DCC for enforcement action.

- Cllr N Anderson advised that he had received a few complaints about motorbikes/quadbikes on the former colliery site. This was causing damage to the footpaths and making them unpassable for pedestrians.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk report to DCC and request an extra stone at one of the entrance points to prevent access.

- Cllr N Anderson advised that the gate at one of the access points to the former colliery site was damaged.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk report to DCC.

## **12. Eastside Avenue Linked Footpath**

Cllr M Wilson provided costings for the project as follows: total cost would be £11,301.45. Contribution required from Parish Council would be £5,650.72 (50%).

### **Resolved**

That the Parish Council fund 50% of the project at a cost of £5,650.72

## **13. Remembering Bearpark**

Cllr M Wilson advised that she had received the quote for the interpretation boards which was £2988. This funding had already been approved at a past meeting. The cost of a coal tub would be required to add on to this which Cllr M Wilson was still

looking into but the funding which had already been agreed would likely more than cover the cost.

### **Resolved**

That the information be noted and Cllr M Wilson to contact the relevant officer to proceed with the project.

### **14. Christmas 2023**

Cllr M Wilson reported that a quote had been received from DCC to the amount of £2,287.82. This would cover supply and dressing/undressing of the tree and disposal.

The Colliery Band had been booked for 26 November 2023 and would play at St Edmund's Church between 2:30pm and 3:30pm.

### **Resolved**

That the quote from DCC be approved, relevant arrangements made by the Clerk and to be kept on agenda for future meetings to discuss arrangements.

### **15. Any Other Business**

- Cllr M Wilson advised that the anniversary of the closing of the colliery would fall in April 2024 and this should be marked in some way.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk contact the Colliery Band to ask if available to play on Sunday 7 April 2024.

That this be added to the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

- A discussion was held regarding development of a new play park.

### **Resolved**

That Cllr M Wilson discuss with James Young from DCC and report back at a future meeting.

That the Clerk add to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

- A discussion was held regarding the Section 106 money which would be available as a result of the new housing development "The Woodlands".

### **Resolved**

That Cllr M Wilson find out when the money will be available.

That this be added to a future agenda for further discussions.

### **16. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place on **Wednesday 20 September, 7:00pm** at **Beaurepaire Community Hub**.