

## **BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL**

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 15 November 2017 at 7.00 p.m.**

### **Present:**

Councillors N Anderson, M Chard, O Edwards, R Kemp, J Peart, E Wilding, M Wilson and M Wright.

### **17/79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O Edwards, T Wilson and County Council D Bell.

### **17/80 PRESENTATION BY CRAIG MORGAN, DURHAM AAP**

The Chair welcomed the new AAP Coordinator for Durham, Craig Morgan. Craig had been invited by the Clerk following discussions with County Councillor M Wilson. Craig informed the Parish Council of his background and experience and the need to balance AAP resources across the villages that made up Durham AAP. An insight was given into the various funding streams available through the AAP. Craig explained that the AAP had two key areas (children and young people and older people). In terms of older people there was a focus on reducing social isolation and exploring and potentially filling gaps by way of befriending services. Focus on children and young people related to bringing youth provision into area from ages 0-19. Over and above these key priorities, the AAP was involved in welfare and welfare reform (foodbanks, credit unions etc) and targeting people who may need to utilise those services the most.

Craig discussed the possibility of undertaking a village action plan for the area which would involve getting local people to participate and identify areas that were of concern to them. The AAP would hold some sessions to bring people together and build upon the current strengths in the area. These sessions would benefit both the AAP and the Parish Council in raising the profile of both organisations. Help from other agencies would also be sought for the sessions including Police, Fire Brigade and Public Health. It was hoped that work on this new project could start in the new year.

Members asked Craig what types of projects could be funded. In response Craig cited an example of safe spaces for older people with mental health who experienced issues of loneliness, to help bring people out of their homes to something like a drop-in café. Once initial contact was made then future sessions focussed on how to develop the relations to reduce social isolation. The AAP could not fund curriculum based work covered by schools.

The Chair explained that Cllr Peart ran a local football team and asked if there was some desire to set up a youth team. Craig explained that the AAP were always keen to see groups grow and expand and initiatives as described would be welcomed by the AAP.

The Chair and the Parish Councillors thanked Craig for attending the meeting and would look forward to working with the AAP in the future.

#### **17/81 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors R Kemp and M Wilson declared an interest in Item No. (request for financial assistance from Bearpark Primary School, in their capacity as school governors).

#### **17/82 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no representations from the public. The Clerk advised the Council that he had received a letter signed by local residents regarding the activities near Whitehouse Wood, the intimidation and threatening behaviour they had experienced around bonfire night. The Clerk advised that the issues experienced were issues for the County Council to address (including the made-up bonfire and use of potential illegal fireworks). A copy of the letter had also been sent to the County Council. The Parish Council would monitor the area. Signs of any potential build up of materials for fires would be reported for removal as soon as possible.

#### **17/83 POLICE REPORT**

There were no representatives from the police present.

#### **17/84 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Wilson provided a general update from Durham County Council since the last meeting, as follows:

- J It was hoped to secure the services of the DERIC youth project at Bearpark Community Centre. The project was currently based at Langley Park Institute but were on the lookout for new premises. Discussions were ongoing but early indications were promising;
- J the refreshing of road markings at Colliery Road had now been carried out. Verge works had also taken place in the area as requested;
- J a student had contacted Councillor Wilson regarding the potential for a community project at the Beaurepaire ruins, initially to tidy and undertake works to improve the area. The student was hoping to set up a charity to fund the works, however, Councillor Wilson explained that more information was required before anything could be agreed. Councillors pointed out that both Durham County Council and English Heritage would both need to agree any project;

## **17/85 MINUTES**

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2017 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor R Kemp and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- (b) A list of action points was noted and updated

## **17/86 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

*Councillors Kemp and M Wilson left the meeting*

### **(i) Bearpark Primary School**

The Clerk informed the Council that a request had been received from Bearpark Primary School who were seeking a contribution to be able to take the children to a pantomime at Durham Gala Theatre. Both tickets and transport costs total just over £1000 and it had been necessary to request a contribution of £10 per child from parents. The Primary School asked if the parish council might consider making a donation towards the cost again this year to enable all children in the school to have this fantastic opportunity and experience.

#### **Resolved**

That the Parish Council make a donation of £200.

*Councillors Kemp and M Wilson rejoined the meeting*

### **Bearpark Brownies**

- (ii) The Clerk informed the Council that the Unit Leader of Bearpark Brownies had submitted a request for financial assistance for the purchase of some stacking storage boxes for their resources so that their resources could be kept separate from other groups using their current based so that they are available for every meeting and could be moved to another venue should it become necessary. The Brownies were a small unit at the moment with just 6 girls and 3 volunteers, though they are hoping to increase their numbers. Five of the girls have attended for over a year and all Brownies are residents of Bearpark for at least part of the week. They currently meet in St Edmunds Church Hall having moved there from the Beaurepaire Community Room, which had become too small for the number of girls.

#### **Resolved**

That the Council make a donation of £50 towards the Brownies for storage stacking boxes.

## **17/87 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **(i) General Data Protection Regulations**

The Clerk provided further information on the General Data Protection Regulations which were due to come into force in 2018 and reported on a recent event he had attended at Spennymoor Town Council Offices. Many queries had been raised and many companies, parish councils, community organisations and charities were still trying to get to grips on the new legislation. More information would be forthcoming for the Parish Council sector in due course and there would likely to be cost

implication for compliance as the Clerk to the Council could not act as the Data Protection Officer as it would be deemed as a conflict of interest.

**Resolved**

That the information be noted

**Grasscutting/School Cut**

- (ii) The Clerk advised the Council that Mr K Chicken had given notice that he would be unable to carry out the maintenance works to the school cut and the land owned by the parish council due to work commitments. The Parish Council would need to find an alternative contractor to undertake the works in the future.

**Resolved**

That the Council note the position and consider the issue in the new year.

**17/88 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**

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
100593	Bearpark Community Assoc	Room Hire/Halloween Disco	140.00
100594	Bearpark Brownies	Donation	50.00
100595	Mr K Chicken	Gardening Works	600.00
100596	Bearpark WMC	Bonfire Night Contribution	244.60
100597	Bearpark Primary School	Donation	200.00
100598	Mr M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (November)	383.21
100599	HMRC	PAYE	95.80
100600	Learning Library	Donation	200.00

**Receipts**

None

**17/89 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**DM/17/03420/FPA - 5 Hollyside Close, Bearpark, Durham, DH7 7TB - Erection of carport to front of integral garage**

**Resolved**

That the application be noted.

**17/90 EVENTS WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

The Clerk advised the Council that once the Ceilidh had taken place, the Council needed to reconsider how it delivered its Events programme, as there had been a number of issues that had arisen throughout the course of the year that were cause for concern. The Clerk explained that the organisation of events took up a large proportion of time and it was not unusual for a raft of paperwork and risk

assessments that had to be completed for each event, as well as applications for licences. The Council were also struggling to attract volunteers for events and it was completely unfair that all issues were being left for one person to deal with. The Council had tried different ways to seek volunteers and ideas which had showed initial promise. However, over time, volunteers drifted away and interest had waned.

**Resolved**

That the Council note the advice issued by the Clerk and consideration be given as to how events be delivered in the future be made at a future meeting.

**17/91 VILLAGE MATTERS**

There were no matters to raise.

**17/92 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 17 January 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

**The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.**