

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 15 February 2023** at **7.00 p.m.** held at **Beaurepaire Community Hub.**

Present: **Councillor M Wilson in the Chair**

Councillors I Cummings, O Edwards, R Kemp and P Wilson

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Peart and County Councillor D Nicholls.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes

Matters arising

Councillor I Cummings walked the Heritage 100 walk with Kieron. Potential difficulties navigating through the wood and one difficult section where a stile had collapsed but all in all a good walk. Councillor Cummings considered it to be a good idea and one that the Parish Council should fully support.

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Police Report

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that there was no report this time around and Bearpark had been relatively quiet. It was hoped to arranged a PACT meeting in the area soon.

5. Representations from the Public

There were no representations from the public.

6. County Council Report

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

- Consultation on Devolution was underway and would give residents across the region a chance to understand how the proposed devolution deal from government could be implemented and have their say. The consultation considers the proposed scheme - the document that sets out how devolution would be implemented - and will run until Thursday 23 March;

- County Durham Trailblazer scheme - County Durham has been selected to trailblaze a new government scheme which will provide integrated support to children and families. Durham was one of 75 local authorities to have had an application accepted to be part of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme. The Council would receive additional funding to fast-track the delivery of the new service which would transform the county's current One Point family centres into Family Hubs, a one-stop shop providing services to families from pregnancy through a child's early years until they reach the age of 19. This would include mental health support, help with breastfeeding, health appointments, life skills such as budgeting, relationship or parenting support, and children's learning and development, among other services on offer; and
- Fly tipping reduction - New measures to tackle fly-tipping have been praised, as figures show a record low in the number of reported incidents across County Durham.

7. Coronation Event

Councillor M Wilson had been in discussion with Beaufort Community Hub about staging a Coronation themed event at the Hub on Bank Holiday Monday 8 May. This would be planned in conjunction with the Parish Council, with financial contributions from the Parish Council for the Facepainter and other attractions such as the tea cups, laser tag, game of cones, if available.

Resolved

That the Parish Council provide financial assistance towards the attractions for the event. Noting that the Hub would arrange for catering, refreshments, volunteers and other smaller activities.

8. Request for Financial Assistance

Prior to consideration of the Item, Councillor M Wilson declared an interest as a School Governor of Bearpark Primary School and withdrew during the consideration of the item.

Councillor R Kemp also declared an interest as School Governor of Bearpark Primary School. Councillor Kemp provided the background to the Financial Assistance request and then withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor R Kemp referred to the work of the soroptimists around domestic violence and abuse and explained that good relationships started at an early age and it was recognised that children benefitted from building healthy relationships, showing respect and learning about bullying. This tied in with work undertaken by the Primary School in promoting healthy relationships. One side of the bookmark showed what made a good friend and the other side showed what doesn't and how friendships develop into relationships later in life. The project would link in with school work around, health and relationships. The bookmarks would cost around £80 or within reason.

Resolved

The Parish Council agreed to support the initiative and pay the reasonable printing costs.

9. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided the Council with an update, which included:

- Launch of the Big Spring Clean
- Launch of the Devolution consultation

Resolved

That the Clerks report be noted and actions agreed, where appropriate.

It was agreed to hold the first litterpick of the Spring on Sunday 2 April at 10.30 a.m. Participants to meet at Beaurepaire Community Hub. Information on Devolution to be sent to all Councillors and also published on the website and social media.

10. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for consideration.

Resolved

That the application be noted.

11. Community Emergency plan update

The Clerk informed the Council that it had been difficult to pin down a date to present proposals to the wider community. Councillor M Wilson suggested that a drop-in styled event be held with a tentative day of 20 March between 5pm and 7pm.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

12. Village Matters

(i) New Group to Launch

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that a new group 'Swap Shop' was due to launch at St. Edmunds Church.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

(ii) Events

The Clerk informed the Council that following on from last month Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band had been approached to hold a Christmas concert at St. Edmunds once again. The Clerk explained that the installation date of the Christmas Tree would depend on the supplier and availability of resources at the time. The Council had asked if the Colliery Band could provide a bugler for the Remembrance Event at the pit wheel on 9 November 2023, however, this was doubtful due to work commitments. The Clerk advised that the use of a PA System may be the better

alternative where recorded music could be played and the system utilised for the service.

Resolved

Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band had been booked in to perform on Sunday 26 November at St. Edmunds Church. Arrangements for the village Christmas Tree order and installation were being made. It was not definite at this stage as to whether the tree would be installed in time for the concert at St. Edmunds.

13. Any other items of interest

Resignation of the Parish Clerk

The Clerk informed the Council that it was his intention to resign from his post with effect from 30 April 2023.

Resolved

That the Council appoint an appointments panel comprising the Councillors M Wilson, O Edwards and P Wilson to review the terms and conditions of the post.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 15 March 2023.