

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 16 October 2019** at **7.00 p.m.** at **Bearpark Community Centre.**

Present:

Councillor M Wright in the Chair.

Councillors N Anderson, G Hendry, R Kemp, J Peart and M Wilson and P Wilson.

19/55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor D Bell and Councillor M Chard and O Edwards.

19/56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

19/57 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2019 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor G Hendry and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/58 POLICE REPORT

Representatives from the Neighbourhood Policing Team attended the meeting and provided a report. There had been occasional incidents of under-age drinking with advice given. There were no other reported problems specific to Bearpark.

19/59 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

19/60 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor M Wilson provided an update as follows:

- The County Council had received an award for the best waste prevention project to reduce the use of single use plastic;
- A Halloween Circus would be taking place at Wharton Park, Durham on Friday 1 November from 4pm-7pm;
- The County Durham Plan Examination in Public was commencing next week at the Glebe Centre, Murton. Transport would leave County Hall, Durham at 8.40 a.m. for anyone wishing to attend the hearings; and
- Tickets were on sale for the Aladdin production taking place at the Gala Theatre.

19/61 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk informed the Council that there were no new requests received.

Councillor G Hendry informed the Council that she had attended the recent 'fun day' at Beaurepaire Community Hub in response to a previous request for financial assistance by the DERIC Youth and Community Project. Cllr Hendry reported that she had been impressed by the work being carried out at the hub. A number of children were present from the village. In terms of other activities, the hub were running a luncheon club for people around Beaurepaire which was proving popular. The hub were also hoping to run courses on mental health, food hygiene and money management as well as starting up a mother and toddler group.

The Clerk informed the Council that feedback had been provided to the community project regarding the donation request. Discussions were ongoing and the offer remained for a representative from the project to attend a future meeting to explain their current work and their aims and aspirations. The Clerk would reiterate this to the representative of the project.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

19/62 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 8)	107.37
SO	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (September)	429.48
BACS	Bearpark Community Assoc	Room Hire	179.50

19/63 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk informed the Council that the following application had been withdrawn:

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

Resolved

That the withdrawal of the application be noted.

DM/19/02763/HPN Prior notification for the erection of a single storey extension projecting from the rear of the original dwelling house 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

The Council considered the application.

Resolved

There were no objections

19/64 CLERKS REPORT

(i) Chairmanship Training Course

A Chairmanship Training Course was being provided by the County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership in Peterlee Town Council Banqueting Suites on the 22 October. All current chairs (council/committee) were encouraged to attend, as well as any councillor aspiring to be a Chair in future years.

Resolved

There were no other expressions of interest.

(ii) Dog Fouling in the Dark

Research had found that the darker nights brought dark dog owner behaviour, with increased incidents of dog fouling. Under the cover of darkness, dog owners were less likely to pick up their dog mess. This often lead to increases in public complaints about the issue.

Keep Britain Tidy's 'We're watching you' had been proven to reduce dog fouling by up to 77%. Using glow-in-the-dark technology and behaviour change theory to nudge dog owners into picking up their mess. An exclusive reduced rate for parish councils started from just £250 + VAT, versus the usual price of £1,800.

Resolved

There was no expression of interest in purchasing any posters.

(iii) Planning Training Session

The County Training Partnership had commissioned a Planning Consultant to provide an overview of the Planning Process on 26 November 2019 at County Hall, Durham. The session would include details of how to respond and object to planning applications. The training course will touch on the following areas:

- A summary of the planning application process
- The role of the parish/town council
- How planning applications are assessed (including an understanding of 'material planning considerations')
- Practical advice on responding to applications (including do's and don'ts, and reference to typical application scenarios)
- How a Planning Committee works, including tips for speaking at Planning Committee

Resolved

Councillors to contact the Clerk if they wished to attend.

(iv) Climate Change

The following information had been received from Friends of the Earth.

“One year ago this week, the world’s leading climate scientists declared that, unless we all take urgent action within the next decade, we risk unavoidable and catastrophic climate change.

Since then, we have seen local authorities and town and parish councils across the country have declared climate emergencies. Communities are coming together to plan and deliver the deep changes needed at every level to reduce our climate impact.

At Friends of the Earth, we are committed to supporting local communities achieve these changes at the pace and scale demanded by the scientific evidence. As part of this support, we have launched a 20 point guide for town and parish councils on tackling climate change. This guide is packed with positive solutions on how to engage your community, how to use your buildings, land and fleet to improve your climate performance and how to exercise your powers and responsibility to cut carbon.

You can also download a report showing the scale of action required across the Durham area by simply entering your post code on our website”

Resolved

That the information be noted.

(v) Accessibility of Website

The Clerk reported that the Public Sector Bodies (Website and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 had been published. The requirements of the Act required any websites existing before September 2018 to reach accessibility standards by 2020.

Resolved

That the information be noted. The Clerk to action accordingly.

19/65 PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

The Clerk informed the Council that no progress on the action plan had been made.

19/66 VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) Christmas 2019

The Clerk informed the Council that preparations for the Christmas Tree Lights switch-on were underway. The tree and installation had been ordered. Discussions were ongoing regarding entertainment for the afternoon, which would include, refreshments, music and an appearance from Santa.

(ii) Bonfire Night

Councillor N Anderson informed the Council that the Workingmen’s Club would be hosting Bonfire Night on 5 November consisting of fireworks, bonfire, refreshments and kids disco. Some parish councillors offered to act as voluntary marshalls, if required.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

(iii) Remembrance Service

Cllr M Wilson asked if the Parish Council would be laying a wreath at the Remembrance Service which was taking place on Sunday 10 November 2019 at 10 a.m. in St. Edmund's Church.

Resolved

That a wreath be ordered to the value of £30 (which included a donation).

(iv) Village Planters

Councillor M Wilson expressed concern about the state of the planters and asked if the Parish Council would seek quotes for their upkeep and maintenance. Councillor N Anderson offered to tidy up and install some plants for the Autumn/Winter season. Councillor P Wilson informed the Council that he would repaint the planters.

Resolved

That the efforts of Councillors N Anderson and P Wilson be noted.

(v) Bearpark Community Centre

Councillors M Wright and M Wilson provided the Council with an update regarding the future of Bearpark Community Centre. The future of the centre had once again been plunged into doubt following an increasing structural refurbishment bill which had gone way beyond the initial estimate (based on a previous survey) and would leave a significant shortfall in funding. The issue had arisen following additional survey work undertaken on the building throughout 2019 and the subsequent report. The situation was extremely disappointing to note, particularly when previous discussions held earlier in year, with the existing trustees, possible new trustees and user groups had been extremely promising and offered a realistic way forward. Councillor M Wilson was due to meet again with representatives from Durham County Council. The Parish Council also discussed other possible sources of funding, however, the situation at present was solely in the hands of Durham County Council who leased the centre from CISWO.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

(vi) Tractor Run

Councillor R Kemp informed the Council that £1800 had been raised for Lukemia research from the Tractor Run held at Ushaw. Councillor Kemp had calendars for 2020 priced at £5 for anyone wishing to contribute to the fundraising effort.

19/67 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7.00 p.m. at Bearpark Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.