

## **BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL**

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 7.00 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor M Wright** in the Chair.

Councillors N Anderson, O Edwards, R Kemp, M Wilson and P Wilson.

### **18/118 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor D Bell and Councillors M Chard and T Wilson.

### **18/119 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **18/120 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2019 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor O Edwards and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **18/121 POLICE REPORT**

There were no representatives from the Police present and no report had been provided.

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she had attended the previous PACT meeting where it was noted that Bearpark had been very quiet in terms of any issues, with only very minor issues being reported. Media coverage relating to the theft of bins and their linkage with drug use had been referred to, however there was no evidence to suggest that any incidents had occurred in Bearpark.

### **18/122 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

### **18/123 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

County Councillor M Wilson provided an update as follows:

- The popular Bishop Auckland Food Festival would take place on 13 and 14 April 2019;
- Durham County Council as well as partners from Durham University, Durham Constabulary, Beamish Museum, The Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water, Durham Heritage Coast Partnership, County Durham and Darlington

Fire and Rescue Service, Durham BID, County Durham Housing Group, OASES, Durham Community Action and the North East England Nature Partnership had all signed up to the single-use plastic pledge. The agreement commits all signatories to significantly reduce, and work towards ultimately removing, the use of unnecessary single use plastics from their operations. More organisations across County Durham were being invited to join up to add momentum to the campaign;

- Durham County Council were undertaking a consultation on polling districts and polling places; and
- A series of art exhibitions were set to run throughout 2019 (from 6 April) to mark the centenary of the birth of Norman Cornish.

#### **18/124 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

There were no requests for financial assistance.

#### **18/125 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>Payment</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
BACS	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (March)	403.62
BACS	HMRC	PAYE	100.91
BACS	Bearpark Community Assoc	Room Hire (Jan-March)	37.50
BACS	Npower	Electricity Bill	57.81
BACS	HMRC	PAYE (Period 6)	79.51

#### **18/126 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no planning applications for consideration. There was an update to the following application:

**DM/18/00129/FPA - Development of 170 residential dwellings, including 34 no. affordable dwellings (Amended 9th October 2018) on land to the rear of the Old Chapel, Colliery Road, Bearpark, DH7 7AU**

The Chair informed the Council that discussions remained ongoing regarding a piece of land at Cook Avenue between the County Durham Housing Group, Taylor Wimpey and the Parish Council were ongoing. There had been no further indications of a consideration date, with the last reported date being Tuesday 2 April 2019.

#### **18/115 PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN**

The Clerk informed the Council that the action plan had been partially updated since the previous meeting. A revised copy was circulated. Any updates were highlighted in yellow.

The Clerk informed the Council that a decision had yet to be made regarding individual budgets for Councillors and litter picking equipment and sought a decision on the outstanding matters.

In terms of individual budgets, the Chair explained that the principal idea was for a relatively nominal amount of £200 be allocated to each Councillor. The rules around spend and payments, quotations for works would be in-line with the Council's Financial Standing Orders. £200 per councillor would give Councillors a degree of autonomy and would enable them to take ownership of specific matters, become more involved, and bring their own ideas to the fore.

Councillor Kemp was unsure of the idea but expressed a willingness to try it on a trial basis. The Clerk reassured Councillor Kemp that the budget would still be maintained, controlled and agreed by the Council, in line with Council rules and procedures.

Councillor O Edwards felt that the idea would add accountability. The budget was in essence, the Council's responsibility and was to ensure the best use of public money for the benefit of Bearpark. The budget would be used to positively support projects.

The Chair asked the Clerk if sub-categories could be created on the action plan for reference.

#### **Resolved**

- (i) That individual budgets of £200 per Councillor be agreed with a suggested policy note;
- (ii) That the Clerk purchase litter picking equipment outlined in the plan; and
- (iii) That the action plan be updated; and
- (iv) That other updates in the plan be noted.

### **18/116 VILLAGE MATTERS**

#### **Brick bus shelter at Aldin Grange**

Councillor M Wright informed the Council that a number of complaints had been received regarding the the brick bus shelter at Aldin Grange and queried why the shelter had not been replaced as others had throughout the village. It had been commented upon that there was no seat at the shelter and visibility was poor for older residents who were unable to see whether buses were approaching the shelter.

#### **Resolved**

That the Clerk make enquiries with Public Transport.

#### **Parish land at Aldin Grange**

Councillor M Wilson had ordered and would be purchasing two replacement seats on the piece of parish council owned land at Aldin Grange. The seats were priced at £500 per seat. A plaque on one of the seats would need to be relocated and Councillor Wilson was making enquiries if this could be done.

**VELO North at Bearpark Primary School**

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that to coincide with VELO North, Bearpark Primary School would be holding a 3-week cycling event. The event, arranged by Councillor M Wilson in conjunction with VELO North and Bike Generation would be open to the community, staff and children who would be simulating a cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats. A turbo training bike was also being set-up for personal challenges to cycle 50 or 100k over a period of days. School children would be asked to map out routes for the distances travelled. In addition to this, children would learn map reading skills and bike maintenance. There would be balance bikes and a bicycle course in school field. The Chair of the Parish would be invited to the launch day on Monday 1 July 2019 at 2pm.

**Resolved**

That the information be noted.

**Street Lighting**

The Chair reported that lamppost no. 47 was not currently working.

**Resolved**

That the Clerk report the faulty light.

**18/117 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

**The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.**