

Bearpark Parish Council

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting of Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 26 May 2021** at **7.00 p.m.**

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

Councillors N Anderson, O Edwards, J Peart and J Thompson.

There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Kemp.

2. Declarations of interest

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

3. Election of Chair

Nominations were sought for the election of a chair for the ensuing year. It was **Moved** by Cllr O Edwards, **Seconded** by Cllr J Peart; and

Resolved

That Cllr M Wilson be elected Chair for the ensuing year. Councillor M Wilson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. Election of Vice-Chair

Nominations were sought for a Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing year. It was **Moved** by Cllr M Wilson, **Seconded** by Cllr N Anderson; and

Resolved

That Cllr O Edwards be elected Vice-Chair for the ensuing year. Councillor O Edwards signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. Minutes

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

6. Parish Council Cooption's

The Clerk informed the Council that there were six vacancies on the parish council following the recent uncontested elections. The vacancies had been advertised in the week after the election. Several expressions of interest had been received. Over and above the eligibility criteria, Councillor Edwards suggested that the Council set three questions for those interested in the vacancies.

Resolved

- (i) That the parish council set three questions; and
- (ii) That the clerk informed the council that the those interested be invited to the next meeting of the parish council.

7. Police Report

There was no report from the police.

8. Representations from the Public

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

9. County Council Report

Councillor M Wilson provided her report to the Council as follows:

- 58 new Councillors had been elected to Durham County Council following the recent elections;
- The annual meeting of the Council had seen Councillor Amanda Hopgood made Leader of the Council. Councillor Hopgood had announced her Deputy Leader and the make-up of her Cabinet;
- Councillor Watts Stelling had been elected as Chair of the Council and Councillor Beaty Bainbridge had been elected Vice-Chair of the Council;
- New Elvet Bridge was scheduled to reopen in October 2021; and
- cases of coronavirus in the Deerness Electoral Division had currently been suppressed, although there was concern over other variants that had been reported in the North East media.

10. Finance Report

The Clerk provided a copy of the latest accounting records which included all payments for approval, payments made since the last meeting and a bank reconciliation.

Resolved

That the accounting statements be agreed.

11. Request for Financial assistance

The Clerk informed the Council that a request had been received from Bearpark Methodist Church for a contribution towards knitting the easter bunnies and poppies.

Resolved

That the Council agree a donation of £100

12. Planning Applications

The Council considered the following planning applications:

- i. **Ref. No: DM/21/01394/LB - The Granary, 3 Lodge Farm, Bearpark Durham DH7 7EA - First Floor Extension**

Resolved

There were no objections.

- ii. **Ref. No: DM/21/01393/FPA - Land to the South of Lodge Farm, Bearpark - First Floor Extension**

Resolved

There were no objections.

- iii. **Ref. No: DM/21/01235/FPA - Land To the South of Lodge Farm, Bearpark, DH7 7EA - Change of use of the land for the keeping of horses to include the construction of a stable block together with the siting of 2no. storage containers and caravan (part retrospective)**

Resolved

There were no objections.

- iv. **Ref. No: DM/21/00711/FPA - Land North and East of Station House Bearpark DH7 7BN - Retention of timber dog training structure (Retrospective)**

Resolved

The Council noted the updated comments from statutory consultees. There were no objections. However, the Council would seek assurances that the facility was secured to ensure that no dogs escape.

- v. **DM/21/01842/FPA - Change of use from C3 (dwellinghouse) to C2 (care home) for three children aged 8-18 years old - The Cooperage 19 George Terrace, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7AQ**

Resolved

The Council had no objections to the application but would make reference to vehicular parking on the C17, similar to what had previously occurred at nearby Station House.

13. Report of the Clerk

The Clerk provided the Council with an update regarding correspondence received which included:

- Training courses from the County Durham Association of Local Councils which had been email to Councillors
- Awareness of the priority service register for vulnerable individuals
- Parish council vacancy on Durham Area Action Partnership; and
- Update regarding remote meetings and expiration of legislation
- Request for estimate for village Christmas tree 2021

Resolved

That the update be noted.

14. Village Matters

- (i) Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that a planning application would soon be submitted to Durham County Council by Gleeson Homes.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 16 June 2021, with the venue to be confirmed.