

Bearpark Parish Council

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 16 November 2022** at **7.00 p.m.** held at **Beaurepaire Community Hub.**

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

Councillors I Cummings, R Kemp, J Peart and P Wilson.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O Edwards, J Thompson 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

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Police Report

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that she hadn't had the opportunity to attend the last PACT meeting. As far as she was aware there were no issues of significance relating to Bearpark, with most issues relating to low level neighbourhood disputes.

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:

- There was one week remaining for residents to have their say on Council budgets which were outlined in October. 70% of savings needed to be achieved;
- DCC Social Workers have been recognised in a national awards ceremony;
- The Boundary Commission for England would be publishing their proposals for Parliamentary Constituencies on 5 December. Councillors were urged to respond to the final round of consultation; and
- Lumiere would return to the County in 2023 and would run from Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th November 2023.

Councillor R Kemp passed on comments she had received regarding Lumiere. Comments received indicated that the event did not represent good value for money and caused a lot of upheaval for some local businesses in Durham City.

In response, the Clerk explained that data showed that the economic benefits alone far outweighed any disruption caused in holding the event. Lumiere was now an internationally renowned event.

7. Report of the Clerk

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

- Boundary Commission Parliamentary Boundary Review Proposals;
- Details of a briefing for Parish and Town Councillors regarding the forthcoming review of Durham County Council Boundaries taking place on 21 November 2022 at 6pm for one hour, online;
- Feedback from the Remembrance Service at the Pit Wheel and St. Edmunds Church;
- Final tree works to take place on the parish land which were due to commence. Once completed a groundwork contractor to be sought to install the flagpole purchased earlier in the year;
- Christmas Tree lights switch on date and associated event taking place at the Hub the coming weekend. The Parish Council had contributed £461.15 towards selection boxes for children and hired a facepainter; and
- Discussions held regarding a potential new play area in the village and the steps required to bring such a project to fruition

Resolved

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

8. Requests for Financial Assistance

There were no requests for financial assistance.

9. Planning Applications

DM/22/02415/FPA - Conversion of building to form two apartments at The Old Miners Hall, Colliery Road, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7AU

The Clerk shared the Conservation, Design and Archeology advice to the Council. The Council felt that the proposals would improve the area and the non-designated heritage asset. Conservation and enhancement of the area were significant.

Resolved

That the application be noted.

10. Community Emergency plan update

Councillor I Cummings updated the Council in relation to the proposed Community Emergency Plan. The Clerk had produced a revised set of slides, tailored for use at

a future community event. It was hoped to produce some slides for social media release in the New Year.

Resolved

That the update be noted along with the updated presentation.

11. Village Matters

(i) Christmas Events

Councillor R Kemp informed the Council of the Chapel Christmas Fayre dates and the 'just for women' coffee morning being supported by the soroptimists .

(ii) Domestic Abuse

Councillor R Kemp provided details of an online conversation taking place on 5 December 2022 regarding Domestic Abuse. Participants would be required to sign up for the event online.

(iii) Heritage project

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that it was hoped to invite Kieron Young to the next meeting of the Parish Council in the New Year. Keiron is a mental health advocate who has designed a walk from Bearpark to Broompark. The walk takes in focal points, wildlife and local shops/cafes along the way and aims to be interactive.

Resolved

That the details be noted.

(iv) Community Centre

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that there had been no progress.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

12. Any other items of interest

There were no additional items of interest.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18 January 2023.