

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on Wednesday 19 April 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in Bearpark Community Centre.

Present:

Councillor M Wilson in the Chair

Councillors N Anderson, G Hull and R Kemp.

16/52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors

16/53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

16/54 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from the public.

16/55 POLICE REPORT

- One incident of theft from the Co-operative store;
- No incidents of burglary, criminal damage; and
- three incidents of anti-social behaviour involving one disturbance at a property and two incidents involving motorbikes)

The police warned that anti-social behaviour would potentially rise as the nights get lighter and the weather improves.

It was hoped that some community speedwatch initiatives would be taking place in Bearpark over the coming months.

16/56 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Bell informed that there was very little to report due to the forthcoming local elections and due to purdah. One item that could potentially affect the area, but was located outside of the Parish area was a planning proposal for a piggery at New Brancepeth which would see the intensive farming of upto 4000 pigs. There had already been much opposition to the application and a public meeting had been arranged for 26 April at 7 p.m. in New Brancepeth. It was hoped that a officers from planning, environmental health, highways and the agent of the applicant would be in attendance. Councillor Bell had asked the County Council for the matter to be heard by a Planning Committee.

16/57 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on March 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16/58 MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Councillor Hull placed on record his sincere thanks to the Parish Council for their kind donation to Bearpark Community Partnership.

Councillor Hull also reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Community Association would take place next Wednesday at 6 p.m.

16/60 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.

Mr M Turnbull	Clerks Salary	368.58
HMRC	PAYE	92.14
Bearpark Community Partnership	Donation	500.00
Durham County Council	Printing	8.34

16/61 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There were no requests for financial assistance.

16/62 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications for consideration.

16/63 COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

There was no update to provide.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

There was no update to provide.

16/65 VILLAGE MATTERS

- (i) Councillor Kemp informed the Council that the Happy Bears playgroup at Bearpark Primary School would continue under new management.
- (ii) Councillor Hull informed the Council that there was a real possibility that St. Edmunds Church could close after Christmas 2017 due to a number of factors, however, the congregation had decreased to almost single figures. Discussions would be taking place over the coming months within the Church, however, the future of the Church was very uncertain. The Council discussed the potential closure and were extremely concerned about the loss of the building and

queried whether the churchyard would remain open or closed and who would be responsible thereafter. Questions were also raised about the war memorial inside the church. The Clerk advised the Council that there was provision for the Parish Council to nominate buildings or land as assets of community value.

An asset could be listed if its use furthers (or had recently furthered) the community's social well-being or social interests (which include cultural, sporting or recreational interests) and would likely to do so in the future. Whilst the full detail of registering community asset would need to be looked into, the Clerk understood that when a listed asset comes to be sold, a moratorium on the sale (of up to six months) may be invoked, providing local community groups with a better chance to raise finance, develop a business and to make a bid to buy the asset on the open market.

Resolved

That the Council note the information and that the Clerk seek further guidance in terms of registering an asset and what would be required.

16/66 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 17 May 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.