

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 19 July 2017 at 7.00 p.m.**

Present:

Councillor R Kemp in the Chair.

Councillors N Anderson, M Chard, E Hull, J Peart, E Wilding, T Wilson and M Wright.

17/37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

17/38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Anderson declared an interest that would be considered under Item 17/50 regarding Bearpark Parish Allotments.

17/39 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

17/40 POLICE REPORT

There were no police in attendance, however a report had been provided as follows:

- 1 theft – relating to a disputed taxi fare; and
- 3 issues of anti-social behaviour

17/41 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor M Wilson provided a general update from Durham County Council since the last meeting, as follows:

- Trading standards officers in County Durham had investigated almost 200 scams during the first half of 2017. Fake lotteries and prize draws along with fraudsters imitating government and local authority services were the most common scams to be reported to the council since January;
- People across the county were being encouraged to cut down on sugar and raise awareness about its impact on health as part of a new initiative. This was part of SUGARSMART Durham which aimed to help change food habits. Organisations, businesses and individuals across the county are being asked to join the campaign by taking actions to help make it easier for people to reduce their sugar consumption;
- Northumbria In Bloom judges had been assessing Durham and Chester-le-Street as part of the 2017 awards;

- Councillors had received a security briefing from Durham Constabulary. Members of the public could expect to see more visible police presence at events across County Durham and the threat level for the UK remained 'Severe';

Councillor M Wilson then provided an update on those issues relating to Bearpark as follows:

- There had been numerous complaints relating to dog fouling at Kingston Avenue which had been passed onto Neighbourhood Wardens. Patrols had been undertaken and signage was to be placed in the area. Of the patrols that had been carried out, no fouling had been observed;
- St. Aidan's was changing its service provision to become a more specialised unit for patients suffering from dementia. Care package costs were being increased which would regrettably mean that some residents would have to be relocated. Discussions were ongoing with the care provider, Durham County Council and the families affected; and
- Since the last meeting in June, further representations had been made with Durham County Council's Community Engagement Team regarding the possibility of Bearpark being transferred to the Mid-Durham Area Action Partnership area. The final decision had yet to be made, however, the latest indications were that the transfer would be agreeable. A final decision would likely to be made in August 2017. Should the transfer be agreed, the Area Action Partnership Coordinator for the Mid-Durham Area would attend the meeting of the Parish Council in September.

Councillor Hull thanked Councillor Wilson for all her hard work to date.

17/42 MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017 were **Moved** by Councillor L Hull, **Seconded** by Councillor T Wilson and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- (b) A list of action points from issues determined at previous meetings was noted (for copy see file of minutes).

17/43 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There were no requests for financial assistance.

17/44 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Parish Representation on Durham AAP

The Clerk informed the Council that he had emailed Durham Area Action Partnership regarding Councillor M Wilson's nomination as a Parish Council representative on Durham Area Action Partnership with a view to it being withdrawn, following the discussions held earlier in the meeting regarding AAP boards.

17/45 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

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Amount
100575	HMRC	PAYE (Period 4)	95.80
100576	Mr M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (July)	383.21
100577	Carnival Funfairs	Village Fayre Rides	300.00

Receipts

None

17/46 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications for consideration.

17/47 COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

The Clerk informed the Council that the views of the Parish Council were supplied to relevant parties following the last meeting. Regrettably, it appeared that the request for information regarding the pricing structure of room hire and rates had been construed in some way, that the Parish Council were concerned about the amount they were being charged for the hire of the centre. The Clerk advised that this was categorically, not the case and would ensure that this was reflected in future dialogue. The Clerk also expressed his unhappiness that the correspondence had been taken out of context in this way. The Clerk had received a summary of the current room hire charges applicable from 1 May 2016 and were informed that the hire fees were under review. Further information would be passed onto the Parish Council in due course.

Resolved

That the Council note the information provided.

17/48 VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) World War I Centenary - 2018

Councillor M Wilson had been researching information relating to Bearpark and had learned that 53 men who lived in Bearpark had served in WWI. Councillor Wilson explained that she would like to carry out some further work on this project and asked the Parish Council if they would like to be involved in the project. Initial discussions had been held with the County Archivist and they were keen to be involved. Bearpark Primary School were also interested in the project and the Bearpark Artists Cooperative would potentially be interested in doing some portraits of the men involved.

Councillor Hull queried if the project could incorporate war memorials and Councillor Chard mentioned that there could be war graves in St. Edmund's Church. Councillor

Hull also explained that the local history group may also be interested in assisting with the project.

Councillor Wilson explained that the war memorial and war graves may be incorporated into the project, especially with the uncertainty regarding the future of St. Edmund's Church, which may be closing and did contain a war memorial.

Resolved

The Council agreed that the project would be worthwhile and was something they were interested in being involved with. Councillor Wilson would lead on the project and keep the Council updated.

17/49 ALLOTMENT RENTS 2017/18

Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor N Anderson left the meeting.

The Clerk informed the Council that it was usual that the Parish Council review the Allotment rents each year and decide on the fee. The current fee was £22.50. No increase had been levied for a considerable period of time and the allotment site had been earmarked for some works to the access road because of its poor condition. Those works had not been carried out due to the unreliability of the contractor chosen to do the works.

The Clerk advised the Council that the allotment site was an area that had not been subject to scrutiny for some time, although Councillors and the Clerk had visited the site on a number of occasions last year and felt that it was in relatively good order and well kept. It was important that the Council review the site and the tenancy agreements, rules etc to ensure that they were fit for purpose and took into account new legislation etc.

Two proposals were duly moved and seconded.

Proposal One – To make an inflationary increase in allotment fees

Proposal Two – To ascertain more detailed information about the sites, tenancy agreements etc and delay a decision until all the facts could be considered.

Both proposals received an equal amount of votes. The Chair used her casting vote.

Resolved

That the Council defer a decision regarding the site fees until the next meeting of the Council to allow for time to assess the site and its workings.

17/50 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.