

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a remote meeting of **Bearpark Parish Council** held on **Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 7.00 p.m.**

Present:

Councillor R Briggs in the Chair.

Councillors R Kemp, M Wilson and P Wilson.

20/41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr M Wright.

20/42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

20/43 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

20/44 POLICE REPORT

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that there were no issues to report.

20/45 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from the public.

20/46 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor M Wilson provided an update as follows:

- There was still time to sign up for the County Councils Garden Waste Collection (priced at £35) which residents could sign up for online;
- One hundred businesses in County Durham had been awarded grants to help make their businesses more energy efficient;
- Demolition of Durham Bus Station had commenced. Bus Stands had been relocated to North Road;
- Kingston Avenue in Bearpark had experienced many problems with cars being parked on pavements. Following representations by Cllr M Wilson, Believe Housing were to install some drive-ins on their housing stock which should alleviate some of the issues being experienced.

20/47 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.

20/48 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following planning applications:

Ref. No: DM/21/00350/OUT

New residential dwelling to accommodate an essential farm worker at Aldin Grange Farm, including the demolition of a semi-derelict array of semi-modern farm buildings, and replacement with a smaller dwelling unit. Open for comment icon Nampara Bearpark Durham DH7 7AR

Ref. No: DM/21/00274/FPA

Change of use of first floor from residential flat to beauty salon separate from ground floor Living Accommodation 1 South View Terrace Bearpark Durham DH7 7DE

Resolved

That the applications be noted. There were no matters raised.

20/49 CLERKS REPORT

(i) Bearpark Colliery Interpretation Boards

Since the last meeting, the Clerk reported that images for approval had been received to check.

Resolved

That the information be noted

(ii) Remote meetings

The Clerk informed the Council that the current use of remote meetings was due to cease on 6 May unless further legislation/guidance/information was forthcoming from the Government to enable its continuation. The National Association of Councillors was making preparations for the provision of guidance and information to councils should there be a return to face to face meetings in May. This would of course be dependent on vaccinations, future mutations of the virus etc so it was by no means certain. The County Durham Association of Local Council's met with five of the County MP's in early February and discussed the issue with them. All MP's appeared to be supportive of the continuation of remote meetings and some indicated it had actually made it easier for them to attend meetings from their London HQ's. Some councils had also reported increased interest from local communities and electorate in attending remote meetings. Remote meetings obviously reduced transport, fuel costs and cut carbon emissions. The Clerk advised that the situation would need to be monitored.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

20/50 VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) **Business Units at Beapark**

Cllr M Wilson had made representations to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder at Durham County Council regarding the loss of industrial units that were once located in the former Council depot. Land close to the Allotment site had been originally earmarked for units many years ago but the status of the land had changed over the years. Councillor C Marshall had contacted Business Durham with regard to the matter raised and information would be fed back in due course.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

(ii) **Winter Maintenance**

The Chair discussed the potential to provide an enhanced service for winter maintenance in future years. The Clerk advised a potential way forward that would complement the Priority 1 and 2 routes serviced by Durham County Council. Councillors felt that there was a specific additional route that could be salted which would help to keep the village moving in times of extreme winter weather.

Resolved

That any potential opportunities be explored for future years in order that any expenditure could be built into the Council's budget.

(iii) **Dog Bins**

The Chair provided details to Councillor M Wilson of a dog bin, recently installed which was overflowing. Councillor Wilson would ask for the bin to be emptied. The Chair also put forward another area in which he would like to see a bin installed, although the location could be problematic for the collection service.

Resolved

That Councillor M Wilson would action with DCC.

(iv) **Highway Verges**

Councillor R Kemp queried why the proposed scheme to install bollards at Bearpark had not proceeded. The Clerk advised that a scheme had been devised, however, Durham County Council had not consulted on the scheme and residents had submitted objections. Under the circumstances, the scheme could not progress, and the money allocated was spent elsewhere. Councillor R Kemp expressed her disappointment given the state of the verge. Councillor M Wilson explained that the scheme would not be resurrected given that local residents had objected to the bollards being installed. Councillor Kemp felt that the situation was far from satisfactory.

Resolved

That the situation be noted.

20/51 ANY ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

There were no additional items of interest raised.

20/52 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place remotely on Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.