

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 17 July 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in Ushaw, Durham.**

Present:

Councillor M Wright in the Chair.

Councillors N Anderson, M Chard, G Hendry, J Peart and M Wilson and P Wilson.

19/29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor D Bell and Councillor O Edwards, R Kemp and K Milburn.

19/30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

19/31 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2019 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor G Hendry and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/32 POLICE REPORT

There were no representatives from the Police present and no report had been provided. Councillor M Wilson reported that the mobile PACT meetings were underway. The police had compiled a new community newsletter. Copies had been placed in the village noticeboards. The new style newsletters were compiled by beat areas.

19/33 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

19/34 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor M Wilson provided an update as follows:

- The Durham City Run Festival would take place on 25 July;
- The Velo North Cycle Event had been cancelled by the event organisers;
- Community Groups were being encouraged to submit schemes for the County Durham Environmental Awards; and
- Durham County Council had passed a resolution to work towards a carbon neutral future.

19/35 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council considered a request from the DERIC project which sought funding to continue youth provision in Bearpark. The project was now based in Beaurepaire having relocated from Bearpark Community Centre from April 2019. The funding would be used to employ two qualified youth workers.

Councillors discussed the request at length and noted that a donation was made in the previous financial year towards one of their projects. It was unclear as to how many children from Bearpark utilised the service, although it was noted that the young people attend from other surrounding villages. It was also unclear what work the youth workers would be undertaking, what measurable activities would take place and the longevity of the service. Councillors also felt that a copy of the accounts could have been provided.

The Parish Council felt that it was not possible to offer a donation to the organisation at the present time.

Resolved

That the donation request be refused at this stage.

19/36 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.

Payment	Supplier	Description	Amount
BACS	HMRC	PAYE (Period 3)	107.37
SO	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (June)	429.48
BACS	Viking Direct	Office Supplies	143.36
BACS	Rock-it	AFD Attractions	1200.00
BACS	Bearpark Primary School	Donation (Cycle Event)	60.00
SO	A Stewart	Flyer Distribution	50.00
BACS	L Young	Facepainting (4 hours)	100.00
BACS	M Turnbull (reimbursement)	Midland Flags – Bunting	124.98
BACS	AA Landscapes	Community Centre Works	80.00

19/37 CLERKS REPORT

The Council noted a report of the Clerk which detailed the following:

(i) Review of Polling Districts and Polling Place

The Clerk informed the Council that the review was a statutory exercise carried out by Durham County Council and reviewed polling districts and venues for use during elections. No representations had been made in relation to Bearpark as there had been no issues.

(ii) Smaller Councils Forum

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Forum would take place on 25 July 2019, 2 p.m at Spennymoor Town Hall.

(iii) **Citizens Advice County Durham**

Information had been received from the organisation that Neil Bradbury had left the organisation following 10 years of service to Citizens Advice.

(iv) **Parish Councils – Use of Secret Ballots**

The Clerk referred to guidance issued by the National Association of Local Councils concerning the use of secret ballots in decision making. The Clerk confirmed that there was no provision in the standing orders of Bearpark Parish Council to hold a secret ballot for any purpose. The Clerk was of the view that the current 'show of hands' in the event of a vote was clear, open and transparent and was in line with guidance issued by NALC. It was very difficult to envisage any circumstances that would warrant the use of a secret ballot.

(v) **Guidance for Councillors on handling intimidation**

The Clerk informed the Council that the Local Government Association had released details of a toolkit which provided advice to Councillors to help keep them safe, both physically and mentally from the risks of harassment, intimidation and abuse in both the real world and online. The link to the toolkit had been provided to all Councillors for information.

19/38 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (i) **DM/19/01470/FPA** - St Edmunds Church Hall, Auton Stile, Bearpark DH7 7AA - Conversion of existing Church Hall (D1) to mixed use children's day nursery and soft play centre with ancillary cafe facility (sui-generis), and extension to front

Councillor M Wilson informed the Council that Highways were currently not in agreement with regarding to the road and parking arrangements relating to the proposed expansion of Busy Bears.

- (ii) **DM/19/02113/TPO** - Works to 3 no. Oak trees (T1-T3) - Woodland Croft, 7 Woodland Close, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7EB

Resolved

There were no objections

19/39 PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

The Clerk informed the Council that the action plan had been updated since the previous meeting and summarised the updates which included:

Ref	Notes
ENV 4	No further progress had been regarding the allotment site. The Chair had agreed to measure the plot sizes. Once carried out it was proposed to convene a meeting to discuss the next steps
ENV 5	The Clerk had met with the Headteacher of Bearpark Primary School on 1 July to discuss ideas for the community garden area. The school were interested in using it as a wildlife area in Spring 2020.

- ENV 7 The Chair was currently in discussion with the landowner and awaiting the outcome of resident consultation
- HWB 2 The Dementia Friends awareness session had been held prior to the meeting. Councillor Milburn had expressed an interest in working towards making Bearpark a Dementia Friendly village.
- EV 1 An update was provided in relation to the Armed Forces Day Funday which was held on 6 July 2019.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

19/40 VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) Christmas 2019

The Council discussed holding a Christmas themed event on Sunday 1 December 2019. A report would be brought to the meeting in September.

(ii) Brass 2020

Councillor Wilson asked the Parish Council to give consideration in taking part in the Brass Festival in 2020, with a possible visit to the village by the Brass Bus.

(iii) Armed Forces Day Funday

The Clerk reported that the funday had proved to be extremely popular event which was enjoyed by many people from the village.

(iv) Heritage Miners Lamps

Councillor M Wilson had requested if one of the miners lamps placed on Leazes Bowl roundabout in Durham could be relocated to Bearpark once the display in Durham had finished for the season.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

19/41 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 18 September 2019 at 7.00 p.m. at Bearpark Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.