

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7.00 p.m. at Bearpark Community Centre.**

Present:

Councillor M Wright in the Chair.

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

19/68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Chard and O Edwards.

19/69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

19/70 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2019 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor G Hendry and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/71 POLICE REPORT

Representatives from the Neighbourhood Policing Team attended the meeting and provided a report. An assault had taken place on a member of staff in a local shop following an incident of shoplifting. Representations had been made to the relevant agencies.

19/72 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Clerk reported that there had been one representation received from the public concerning the lack of allotment sites within the village. The Clerk gave the Parish Council a brief reminder of the negotiations made with Durham County Council to try and secure an additional site a number of years ago, however, the prohibitive costs relating to the proposed purchase and acquisition of the land resulted in the Parish Council not pursuing purchase of an additional site, having considered that a second proposal to lease an additional site was not a viable option at the time.

The Clerk also reminded the Parish Council that a number of issues remained with the current allotment site and whilst an exercise had started earlier in the year, there was still much work to do, including measuring of the plots and reviewing the waiting lists. In the meantime, Councillor M Wilson would contact Durham County Council to seek land availability and perhaps revisit the status of the previous site the Parish Council enquired about many years ago.

19/73 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor M Wilson provided an update as follows:

- Lumiere had once again taken place in Durham. Despite extremely poor weather for much of the event, an estimated 105,000 visitors had attended to view the various lighting installations, including an installation by local artist, Mick Stephenson;
- The 3G pitch at the Bobby Robson Centre had been resurfaced and officially opened;
- The school would be working in the Community Garden in the New Year with plans to cultivate a section of land to grow vegetables, grow flowers and install a mole camera;
- Two new seats had been installed on the land next to Aldin Grange Terrace, with the previous seats being relocated to Moorsley Bank Farm and the bus stop near to Aldin Grange Farm;
- The phone box located on land near to Wayside Court had been removed by BT through lack of use;
- The County Council had 42,000 tonnes of salt stored for Winter;
- 'Slow' road markings, had been painted onto the road surface at the entrance to George Terrace;
- The County Council had settled an outstanding debt relating to Bearpark Community Centre, after successful representations by Councillor M Wilson. Representatives from the County Council would be meeting with CISWO at some point in 2020. The future of the Centre remained uncertain and the position reported at the Council meeting in October had not changed.

19/74 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk informed the Council that further documentation had been provided by the DERIC project regarding their recent request for financial assistance which had been held over pending further information. A representative from the group had been invited to attend the meeting once again, however, due to unforeseen circumstances they could no longer attend. The Clerk summarised the information provided which comprised an application form for funding to Durham Area Action Partnership.

Councillors discussed the application further and whilst a level of support was expressed by some Councillors present, it was felt more appropriate that a representative attend the meeting to speak to the application, given that the application form produced sought £1000 from the Parish Council. Other forms of funding had been sought, from the AAP and the Neighbourhood Budget of Councillor M Wilson which was pleasing to note.

Resolved

That the further information be noted, however, the Parish Council wished for a representative of the group to attend a meeting. The Clerk would reiterate this to the representative of the project.

19/75 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 in November and December.

Payment	Supplier	Description	Amount
BACS	HMRC	PAYE (November)	107.37
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SO	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (November)	429.48
SO	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (December)	429.48
BACS	Npower	Electricity	38.92
BACS	Dusk Til Dawn Entertainment	Event Package	575.00
BACS	N Anderson	Village planters	96.00

19/76 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk informed the Council

19/77 CLERK REPORT

(i) Smaller Councils Forum

The next meeting would be held at 14:00 on the 21 November and was being hosted by Horden Parish Council, at the Welfare Hall, Seventh Street, Horden, Peterlee, County Durham SR8 4LX.

19/78 PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

The Clerk informed the Council that the plan needed to be updated and would be prepared for the meeting in January.

19/79 VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) Christmas 2019

The Clerk confirmed that preparations for the Christmas Tree Light switch-on were almost finalised. The tree had been installed and would be dressed over the coming days. An entertainment package had been secured from Dusk Til Dawn Entertainment at a cost of £575. The Clerk sought agreement for purchase of refreshments, catering and selection boxes.

Resolved

That the Council agree to the expenditure outlined and that the Clerk be reimbursed for refreshment, catering and expenses following their purchase.

(ii) Cancellation of Bonfire Night Event at Bearpark Workingmen's Club

Councillor N Anderson informed the Council that the proposed Fireworks and Bonfire Night event at the Workingmen's Club had to be cancelled due to the cost associated with insurance. The kids disco went ahead as planned. A Christmas

Party was being organised for December. Under the circumstances, Councillors were of the opinion that it would offer a donation towards the Workingmen's Club Christmas event.

Resolved

That the Council support the Christmas event up to a maximum of £150.

(iii) Crown Prosecution Service Scrutiny Panels

Councillor R Kemp informed the Council that the Crown Prosecution Service were currently looking to recruit scrutiny panel members from the wider community who have some knowledge in the areas of domestic abuse, hate and sexual crimes. The CPS were aiming to improve their performance by critically examining past cases.

Resolved

That the information be noted. Any expressions of interest could be made to Cllr Kemp.

19/80 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 15 January 2020 at 7.00 p.m. at Bearpark Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.