

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on **Wednesday 18 October 2017** at **7.00 p.m.**

Present:

Councillors N Anderson, M Chard, O Edwards, R Kemp, J Peart, E Wilding, M Wilson and M Wright.

17/65 ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Clerk sought nominations for the position of Chair of the Council, following Councillor Kemp's decision to vacate the role.

The nomination of Councillor M Wright was **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor O Edwards

Resolved

That Councillor M Wright be elected Chair of the Council for the remainder of the 2016/17.

Councillor Wright signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor M Wright in the Chair

17/66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Hull, T Wilson and County Councillor D Bell.

17/67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

17/68 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from the public.

17/69 POLICE REPORT

The Clerk informed the Council that he had followed up concerns expressed at the previous meeting regarding police presence at meetings and the absence of a police report. A position statement had been circulated to all Councillors via the Clerk, from the Chief Inspector for the area following the representations. The Parish Council expressed their disappointment with the stance that had been taken, particularly with regards to the provision of a report and felt that the issue should be escalated further to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

By way of a general update. One of the local PCSO's had informed the Clerk that a large amount of proactive work had been carried out in the area following a recent spate of thefts. Police had been working with the County Durham Housing Group regarding a number of issues related to one house in the area.

The Police continued to hold PACT meetings at Bearpark Community Centre. There were four PACT meetings held per month held at Bearpark, Esh Winning, Brancepeth Village and Brandon. These meetings were grouped to ensure that resources were available to deal with any issues in the community. The grouped meetings covered the 10 local villages (Broompark, Bearpark, Ushaw Moor, Esh Winning, New Brancepeth, Brandon, Meadowfield, Langley Moor, Browney and Brancepeth Village).

PACT meetings had recently moved from Ushaw Moor to Bearpark to allow the village an equal opportunity to attend should they wish to do so. Surrounding villages were welcome to discuss any issues they had too. The Clerk would be discussing the issue of holding an alternating evening PACT meeting in the future.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

17/70 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

- J The Teaching Assistants dispute had been settled following a further round of balloting by the Trade Union, UNISON;
- J the refreshing of road markings at Colliery Road was due to be carried out in October/November;
- J a site visit with representatives from Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary had been arranged to discuss speeding in the village following complaints from local residents;
- J recent concerns about the school crossing patrol at Ushaw Moor had been discussed. Resources were an issue, as was recruitment; and
- J further discussions had been held regarding the future of St. Edmunds Church. The future remained very uncertain and there remained a strong possibility that the church may close in 2018. Councillors Edwards and Wilson would keep the Council updated.

17/71 MINUTES

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2017 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor R Kemp and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

- (b) A list of action points was noted and updated (for copy see file of minutes).

17/72 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

(i) Learning Library

The Clerk updated the Council with regard to a request deferred at the previous meeting from the Learning Library, Spennymoor. At the meeting, Councillors requested further information in terms of their specific contribution to users from Bearpark.

The Clerk had contacted the Learning Library who had provided some further detailed information to the Council concerning its activities within Bearpark and its users. In addition to this, Councillor Edwards had also provided some further information regarding the Learning Library, how it had previously been funded, its staffing structure and how it had utilised previous funding.

Moved by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor R Kemp and:

Resolved

That the Parish Council make a donation of £200 towards the Learning Library towards the purchase of equipment and users in Bearpark.

17/73 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) CDALC AGM

The Clerk reminded the Council that the County Durham Association of Local Councils would meet on Saturday 21 October 2017 at 10 a.m. in the Council Chamber, County Hall Durham. The Chair would attend the event.

17/74 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
	1st Bearpark BP Scout Group	Donation	500.00
	HMRC	PAYE	95.80
	Mr M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (September)	383.21

Receipts

None

17/75 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (i) **DM/17/02788/TPO - Lilburn House, 6 Woodland Close, Bearpark, DH7 7EB**
Tree works to 2no. trees

The Clerk informed the Council that the application had been withdrawn since the previous meeting.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

(ii) **DRC/17/00383 – Whitehouse Farm, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7DW**

Resolved

That the Council note the latest update in relation to the discharge of planning conditions

(iii) **Possible Development by Taylor Wimpey at Colliery Road**

The Clerk informed the Council that he had met with Planning Services at Durham County Council along with County Councillor M Wilson regarding possible development at Colliery Road by Taylor Wimpey. Officials had confirmed that Taylor Wimpey had been engaged with planning officers. No formal application had yet been submitted. It was understood that representative from Taylor Wimpey were keen to display their plans to the public over the coming months.

Resolved

That the Clerk and Councillor M Wilson continue to monitor the situation.

17/76 EVENTS WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Clerk informed the Council that the Working Group had met on 4 October. The group had discussed learning outcomes from the village fair and had held further discussions about Christmas. A draft events programme for the first part of 2018 was also discussed, ideas included:

-) Easter bake-off style event;
-) Folk night;
-) Traveling Band at Bearpark Club;
-) Eve of Gala; and
-) Centenary event (to coincide with Councillor M Wilson's project).

The Clerk advised the Council that time was too short to arrange Christmas tree and decoration type events for Christmas, however, there were events being arranged in the village by the Community Association. The Clerk reiterated that any future planning regarding a village Christmas tree needed to commence in the New Year and planned well in advance, i.e. at least 6-8 months.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

17/77 VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) Speeding Complaints at Cook Avenue

Councillor Peart informed County Councillor M Wilson that he had received complaints from residents regarding speeding at Cook Avenue and the amount of cars that were being double-parked.

Resolved

That Councillor M Wilson refer the issue to relevant officers.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

- (ii) Councillor Wilson informed the Council that letters had been sent to Kingston Avenue, Cook Avenue and Taylor Avenue to gauge interest for people to set-up a scheme. This had followed on from an initial meeting held with representatives from Durham Constabulary, Councillor M Wilson and the Parish Clerk.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

Allotments Update

- (iii) The Clerk advised the Council that the allotments inspection would take some time to undertake, he advised the Council that the rents for 2016/17 should be held at the same rate as the previous year and that a review of the fees should take place once the inspections had taken place.

Resolved

The Council agreed the course of action.

17/78 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 15 November 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.