

BEARPARK PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Bearpark Parish Council held on Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor M Wright in the Chair.

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

18/130 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor D Bell and Councillors O Edwards, R Kemp and T Wilson.

18/131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

18/132 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2019 were **Moved** by Councillor M Wilson, **Seconded** by Councillor G Hendry and agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18/133 COOPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Clerk welcomed Mrs K Milburn to the meeting and informed the Council that Mrs Milburn had expressed an interest in being a parish councillor following dialogue with the Clerk regarding a vacancy on the Parish Council. Mrs Milburn provided the parish council with a summary of her motivations for being a parish councillor and her background experience. The Clerk confirmed that Mrs Milburn was eligible to stand as a parish council and met the qualification criteria.

Councillor M Wilson **Moved** the nomination of Mrs K Milburn. The nomination was **Seconded** by Councillor G Hendry and

Resolved

That Mrs K Milburn be co-opted as a Councillor on Bearpark Parish Council.

Mrs Milburn signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk to the Council as Proper Officer.

18/134 POLICE REPORT

There were no representatives from the Police present and no report had been provided.

18/135 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

18/136 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor M Wilson provided an update as follows:

- Easter themed events, including Easter egg hunts were taking place at Wharton Park, Durham City and at Hardwick Park, Sedgefield;
- Durham County Council had donated more than 500 Easter eggs which would be distributed through County Durham's Area Action Partnerships to a range of local community groups, children's charities and families in need;
- A recent fly tipping case had been to court which resulted in the individual being fined. The case had been brought about following evidence captured on covert cameras; and
- Healthwatch were conducting a survey regarding health needs and the NHS. Councillor M Wilson would circulate the survey by email should anyone wish to complete the survey.

18/137 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There were no requests for financial assistance.

18/138 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.

The Clerk informed the Council that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had agreed the new pay scales for 2019-2020 to be implemented from 1 April 2019. The Clerk was now at SCP 25 of a revised salary band and paid in accordance with the national rates.

Payments

Payment	Supplier	Description	Amount
DD	Unity Trust	Service Charge	18.00
BACS	M Turnbull	Clerks Salary (April)	429.48
BACS	HMRC	PAYE (Period 1)	107.37
BACS	CDALC	Subscription	267.08
BACS	Durham County Council	Xmas Tree (2018)	8284.32
BACS	Riverdale Recycling	PAYE (Period 6)	36.00

18/139 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications for consideration. In terms of the potential development of 170 residential dwellings, on land to the rear of the Old Chapel, Colliery Road, Bearpark, the Parish Council had been notified by email from representatives of Taylor Wimpey that they were to withdraw their interest in the site

claiming the site was no longer a viable option for them. The Parish Council would wait official confirmation from Durham County Council.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

18/140 LAND AT COOK AVENUE

The Chair explained to the Council that the land at Colliery Road had been allocated for housing in the County Durham Plan and believed that a developer would return with a proposal to build houses on the land, sometime in the future.

The Chair felt that the Parish Council had been very accommodating to the previous developer throughout their negotiations but felt that the Parish Council could better its position, in the event of further interest in development of the Colliery Road site, by continuing with the purchase of land at Cook Avenue.

The associated costs would be around £2000 (£1000 for the purchase and £1000 legal fees). The Parish Council would have to meet the ongoing cost of grass cutting in the intervening period which could be for several years.

Resolved

That the Council agree for the Chair of the Council to resume dialogue with the County Durham Housing Group (now Believe Housing) regarding the purchase of land.

18/141 PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

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

Resolved

That the update be noted.

18/142 VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) Bearpark Primary School Litterpick

Councillor M Wilson reminded the Council, that further to the email from the Clerk that Bearpark Primary School were holding their litter pick on 24 April 2019 at 1 p.m. They would be litter picking the Colliery Road Play Area having identified it as a problem area. Councillors were welcome to attend.

(ii) Bearpark Walking Group

The first thrive walking group would be commencing on 30 April 2019 at 9.45 a.m. from Bearpark Community Centre. Posters had been placed in all of the village noticeboards and the Clerk had posted updates through social media channels.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

18/143 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.