

**Minutes of the Bearley Annual Parish Assembly held in Bearley Village Hall at 7.00pm
Monday 15 April 2024**

Present: Parish Councillors – Councillor R Le Page (Chairman Bearley Parish Council), Councillor N Edden, County Councillor Mrs P-A O'Donnell, District Councillor Mr I Shenton.

Apologies: Councillor Marion Mitchell, Councillor Ray Greening.

Parish Clerk: Karen Mason.

Public: 7 present for all or part of the meeting.

1. Welcome

Councillor Richard Le Page, Chairman Bearley Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting, gave some general information about annual Parish Assemblies and summarised the agenda order for the evening. A point was made on welcoming suggestions from the floor on how to engage more residents at future Parish Assemblies. A reminder was noted that the next official Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 20 May 2024, all welcome.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 April 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes

None.

4. Bearley Parish Council Chairman's Report –Councillor R Le Page

Councillor Le Page highlighted the make-up of the Parish Council currently:-

The Parish Council are permitted up to 7 councillors and they must have at least 3 to make decisions
Currently there are 4 councillors, all re-elected unopposed in May 2023:-

Cllr Richard Le Page

Cllr Nick Edden

Cllr Marion Mitchell

Cllr Ray Greening

Karen Mason is Parish Clerk and has been since 2020.

A special mention was made and an acknowledgement of thanks to Arslan Erinmez who resigned from the Parish Council in December. Dr Erinmez was instrumental in the development of the Bearley Neighbourhood Plan and served as Parish Councillor and Chairman for several years, making valuable contributions.

Census data for Bearley from the National Census in 2021 was shared, an opportunity to reflect on the makeup of the village. Highlights from the charts; Bearley has a population of 680 people, 300 households, the age profile shows a higher than average range of people 55+ compared to the England average and 20.1% of people are living with a disability.

Annual Accounts 2023_24

Councillor Le Page presented the accounts. It should be noted that previous accounts and audit statements can be found at <https://www.bearley.org/important-documents/>

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
Precept 2023-2024	£22,873
Other income (Burials, VAT, other)	£1,212
Total Income 2023-2024	£24,085
Bank Balance Brought Forward 2023-2024	£34,998
Total Expenditure 2023-2024	£31,493
Balance Carried Forward	£27,739

Note: Balance carried forward includes as yet unpresented cheques of £2024 and expected VAT return.
In line with statutory requirements, the Accounts will undertake an Internal and External Audit from April – July 2024.

Last year the Parish Council delivered on a number of items, including; maintaining and keeping safe the 5 green spaces, Lopped, trimmed and made safe 141 trees, maintained 20 street lights, kept the book/seed exchange in order, updated Policies and Procedures, submitted responses to all planning applications, improved the safety of Snitterfield Road near to the church and operated the village “Community Speed watch” along Snitterfield Road.

Councillor Le Page continued with a number of updates on Parish priorities including; Flood prevention, Planning Housing and development and Traffic Management initiatives including community speed watch. For flooding, priorities areas are the culverts on Snitterfield road and the playing fields. In respect of housing 23/24 has seen a high number of planning applications to respond to. Current and proposed developments include; Golden Cross, 16 Grange Road, Old Vicarage, Old Sidings (aka Scrapyard) and the old Countrywide site.

Next year the Parish Council aims to focus on; Conversion of streetlights to LED, Improvements to Bearley Park and green spaces, the recruitment of more Parish Councillors, continue to challenge inappropriate development, return of the Bearley Beacon, reduction of speeding through the village, Neighbourhood Plan update and an updated Housing Needs Survey.

5. Updates from Warwickshire County Council and Stratford on Avon District Council.

Report from County Councillor – Councillor Penny-Anne O’Donnell

The County Council report focused on support for Bearley including the flooding issues on Snitterfield Road, the financing of the improvements on the Church Bend and Speed Survey (results due April 2024).

Wider updates include; Warwickshire County Council currently green rated as being financially stable and working closely with Warwickshire Police on support for the rural crime team, a reminder for local people to raise intelligence around Anti-Social Behaviours and car crime. High level population estimates for Warwickshire can be summarised as 579,000 people in the County with 70+ increasing by 14%, 85+ increasing by 22% by 2025. Warm hubs and addressing loneliness continues to be a priority along with addressing local skills gaps for industry and supporting apprenticeships in the local car industry.

Report from Stratford District Councillor – Councillor Ian Shenton

The District Council report focused on support for Bearley including planning applications.

Wider updates can be summarised as the following;

Stratford is the 5th best area in England for recycling, council tax reduction scheme for eligible residents, Grants available to the local community via Climate and UK Shared Prosperity funds. Finally, Councillor Shenton noted that the District Council is financially sound for the next 5 years.

6. Reports from Community Groups Organisations

Reports were provided by the following village community groups, full detail on these can be found in the presentation viewed here <https://www.bearley.org/parish-council/minutes-agendas/minutes/>

- Bearley Village Hall Trust – Charlotte Petitt
- Bearley Village Hall community groups including Snipes Short Mat bowls, Envolv and Waggie Walkers – updates read out by Karen Mason

- Ladies Table Tennis (Jo Le Page) and Bearley Badders
- Bearley United FC – report provided by Ed Foster and read out by Karen Mason
- Friends of Bearley Village (FOBV) – Suzanne Hotten, Chair.
- St Mary the Virgin– Vice Chairman David Harrison
- Heart of England Forest – provided by Ros Anscombe and read out by Karen Mason
- Friends of Bearley Park – update read out by Karen Mason

7. Issues of General Concern and Interest raised by residents

A number of items were discussed .

8. The Chairman finished by thanking all groups and parties for their contributions.

The Meeting closed at 20:56

Accepted as a true and accurate record.

Signed:

14.04.25