

**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Bearley Parish Council held in Bearley Village Hall at 7.00pm
Monday 20th January 2025**

Present: Councillor Guy Esnouf (GE), Councillor Pete Delve (PD), Councillor Ray Greening (RG), Councillor and Chair Richard Le Page (RLP), County Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell (PAOD) for part.
Apologies: District Councillor Ian Shenton (IS), Councillor Nick Edden (NE)
Parish Clerk: Duncan Mathison (DM)
Public: 7 members of the public attended

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from IS and NE

2. Declarations of Interest

RLP declared an interest for any discussions regarding the Village Hall.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

For Ordinary Meeting held on 18th November 2024 – proposed RG, seconded RLP, all in favour.

For the Extraordinary Meeting held on 2nd December 2024 – proposed GE, seconded PD, all in favour.

Copies of both sets of minutes were signed by the Chair.

4. Previous Action Points

4.1 Drain odour on Oaktree Close – NE gave update via email. Still chasing for actions.

4.2 Ownership of ash tree on Old Snitterfield Road – WCC have accepted ownership.

4.3 Barbed wire and razor wire at boundary of Bearley Park – no response to letter sent. Clerk to write again with timescale for resolution.

5. Councillor Areas of Individual Responsibility

All councillors review planning applications and may get involved in various issues. Specific areas of responsibility are:

GE – Local Plan Committee, fundraising

NE - TBC

PD – Local Plan Committee, Bearley Beacon, Link Magazine

RG – Bearley Park, Speedwatch, liaison with Highways Team

RLP – VH committee, planning responses

6. Public Forum

There were a number of questions and comments regarding the South Warwickshire Local Plan. All questioners were referred to the public meeting to be held regarding this on Saturday 25th January 2025.

One resident raised the issue of a hedge blocking the view when turning left out of Ash Lane on to Old Snitterfield Road. This sort of issue would normally be raised directly with Highways Team at Warwickshire County Council but it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the landowner.

More than one resident raised the issue of use of land on School Lane and they were advised that this matter had been raised with Stratford District Council Enforcement Team.

One resident asked if declarations of interest for councillors were recorded and available for view. They were advised that records were kept and a response regarding viewing would follow.

7. Updates from County and District Councillors

PAOD spoke regarding: National Government plans regarding tiers of Local Government; South Warwickshire Local Plan; report from Director of Public Health. Full update to be sent by PAOD to Clerk for publishing on website.

8. Councillors' and Clerk's Reports

RLP advised that the Village Hall is in a good financial position and will be investing in replacing the carpets and reupholstering the chairs.

RG raised repair of bus shelter and it was agreed that Clerk would seek more detail regarding the quote received.

RG advised that Highways will be replacing the white line on the Snitterfield Road and cleaning all the road signs.

RG and PAOD discussed the need for new mobile speed camera signs. RG will arrange and PAOD will fund.

9. Budget and Precept

- 9.1 Operational budget and precept – precept to be held flat and operational budget agreed as per email 09.01.24. Proposed RLP, seconded GE, all in favour.
- 9.2 Reserves – postponed until next ordinary meeting
- 9.3 Earmarked funds – postponed until next ordinary meeting
- 9.4 Grants – postponed until next ordinary meeting

10. South Warwickshire Local Plan

- 10.1 Statement of Parish Council Approach - RLP advised that the starting position was to be neutral and guided by the views of the community.
- 10.2 Update regarding formation of advisory group – RLP advised that this would be formed at the public meeting to be held on 25th January 2025.

11. Housing Needs Survey

Noted as received and accepted as accurate. Proposed RLP, seconded PD, all in favour.

12. Planning Matters

- 25/00049/FUL The Bank Cottage – No objection. Proposed RLP, seconded GE, all in favour.
- 25/00036/TREE Trade Winds – No objection. Proposed RLP, seconded RG, all in favour.
- 24/02916/VARY Old Vicarage – raise objection but do not force to go to committee. As Planning Officer had already indicated that there were no grounds for objection it was agreed not to waste the time of Council employees by having them prepare for a committee meeting with no realistic prospect of a change of decision. Clerk to make appropriate response. Proposed RLP, seconded GE, all in favour.

13. Bearley Park and Other Green Spaces

- 13.1 Proposal regarding new equipment (emails 13.01.25) – agreed to progress with quote from Creative Play for removal of old equipment and replacement with new in main play area. Application to be made to National Lottery for £13,200 with remainder of £5,795 to be covered by CIL monies. Intention also to cover additional costs such as safety surface filler from CIL monies. Up to £2000 additional cost agreed. GE to write application and DM to promote on Facebook to gather expressions of support and feedback. Proposed RG, seconded GE, all in favour.
- 13.2 Safety checks – now being done fortnightly by volunteers with RG taking ownership.

14. Financial Matters (email 14.01.25)

- 14.1 Review payments and receipts since last meeting - done
- 14.2 Review position vs budget - done
- 14.3 Approve future payments – proposed RG, seconded GE, all in favour.
- 14.4 Bank mandate – to remove former Councillors and Clerk and to add DM, GE, PD and RG. NE and RLP already on mandate. Proposed RLP, seconded PD, all in favour.

15. .gov.uk Update

Clerk advised that still in progress with Thomas Fox. Also reiterated that the website would be clearly branded as a Parish Council website rather than a village website. However, current links and content would still be posted.

16. Items for Future Agenda

Discuss possible change of day to enable more frequent attendance by IS and PAOD

17. To Consider Closure of the Meeting to the Public and the Press

Chair closed the meeting at 20:28

18. Confidential Matters

None

Next Ordinary Meeting is currently set to be held at Bearley Village Hall at 7.00pm on Monday March 17th 2025.

Signed:

Date: