

**Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of Bearley Parish Council held in Bearley Village Hall at 7.00pm
Monday 17th March 2025**

Present: Guy Esnouf (GE), Councillor Nick Edden (NE), Councillor Pete Delve (PD), Councillor Ray Greening (RG), Councillor and Chair Richard Le Page (RLP)

Apologies: None

Parish Clerk: Duncan Mathison (DM)

Local Councillors: Penny-Anne O'Donnell (PAOD), Ian Shenton (IS) – both for part of meeting.

Public: 11 members of the public attended - ten for part and one for entire meeting.

1. Welcome and Apologies

No apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

RLP declared interest as a trustee of the village hall. NE declared an interest regarding Item 8 as has sites in consideration for development under South Warwickshire Local Plan. NE declared an interest regarding item 12 as has a personal and business connection with the applicant.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 3rd March 2025

Agreed to be accurate. Proposed GE, seconded RG. All present on 3rd March in favour.

4. Previous Action Points

4.1 *Drain odour on Oaktree Close* – Update given by NE and will continue to pursue.

4.2 *Barbed wire and razor wire at boundary of Bearley Park* – letter sent by Clerk but no satisfactory response yet. RG to pursue.

4.3 *Visibility when turning left out of Ash Lane* – letter sent by Clerk. Closed.

5. Updates from County and District Councillors

IS gave information/updates on various matters – report on Bearley PC website.

PAOD gave information/updates on various matters – report on Bearley PC website.

6. Councillors' and Clerk's Reports

RLP expressed thanks to Marion Mitchell for her contribution to the community as a Parish Councillor. This was echoed by the other councillors and the clerk.

RG update re Speedwatch. Wilmcote will be restarting their group and Bearley group will support. Latest Bearley group found no speeding out of 73 cars checked.

Clerk update re move to .gov.uk. In progress and current website will close at end March to avoid paying for another year of support (£270). Advised that .gov.uk emails are hosted on Spacemail which has resulted in access issues for some users.

Agreed that would proceed anyway and work out problems if/when arise.

7. Future Meeting Days and Dates

Discussion re days as Mondays often difficult for IS and PAOD. Hall availability means Monday is best day but possibility of changing point in month. Clerk to contact IS and PAOD to see if a change here would help.

8. South Warwickshire Local Plan

8.1 *Agree terms of reference* – as per email. Proposed RLP, seconded RG, agreed GE and PD. Abstained NE.

8.2 *Update from Committee* – GE advised that committee currently considering intensity level of campaign needed between now and first decision point in December.

9. Public Forum

The purpose of this forum is for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda. Maximum time 3 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes in total.

There was a discussion between members of the village hall committee, parish councillors and other residents regarding the event at the village hall on 2nd March. There were no clear resolutions or actions agreed but RG requested that the village hall committee engage more with the Parish Council and the community if any similar events are to be held in future.

10. Appoint Internal Auditor

Proposal from Clerk – intention is to use an experienced auditor who is also a parish clerk (external auditors are appointed by a government body). Cost up to £300. Proposed NE, seconded GE, all in favour.

11. Budget (email 12.03.25)

11.1 Operational budget – proposed RLP, seconded PD, all in favour.

11.2 Reserves – proposed RLP, seconded GE, all in favour.

11.3 Earmarked funds – for information.

11.4 Grants – for information.

12. Planning Matters

12.1 24/00891/VARY – agreed no representation. Proposed RLP, seconded RG, agreed GE and PD. Abstained NE.

13. Bearley Park and Other Green Spaces

13.1 Proposal regarding picnic areas – two quotes for installation of 2 x picnic bench bases. Agreed quote from ALPD Ltd for £715.00 + VAT. Proposed RG, seconded NE, all in favour.

13.2 Proposal regarding new equipment – agreed to purchase, install and secure outdoor table tennis table. Maximum cost £1100 + VAT. Proposed RG, seconded NE, all in favour.

13.3 Proposal to add maintenance of hard court and surrounding area to Thomas Fox schedule – agreed up to £300 + VAT per annum for two sprays and one machine sweep. Proposed RG, seconded RLP, all in favour.

14. Financial Matters (email 12.03.25)

14.1 Review payments and receipts since last Ordinary Meeting

14.2 Review position vs budget

14.3 Approve future payments

14.4 Approve pension contribution for Clerk – Bearley Parish Council to join the Warwick Pension Fund (part of the Local Government Pension Scheme).

All items agreed as single motion. Proposed RLP, seconded RG, all in favour.

15. Annual Assembly

Discuss format and content – agreed that would focus on open forum.

16. Items for Future Agenda

Update re wildlife monitoring by BLPG

BLPG budget proposal from GE/PD

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 21:22

18. Confidential Matters

None

Next Ordinary Meeting is currently set to be held at Bearley Village Hall at 7.00pm on Monday May 12th 2025.