

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Bearley Parish Council held in Bearley Village Hall at 7.00pm
Monday 12th May 2025**

Present: Guy Esnouf (GE), Councillor Nick Edden (NE), Councillor Ray Greening (RG), Councillor and Chair Richard Le Page (RLP)
Apologies: Councillor Peter Delve (PD)
Parish Clerk: Duncan Mathison (DM)
Local Councillors: Ian Shenton (IS)
Public: 4 members of the public attended plus Sarah Brooke-Taylor (SBT)

Note abbreviations generally used: South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP), Stratford District Council (SDC), Warwickshire County Council (WCC), Parish Council (PC).

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

RLP was elected as Chair and GE was elected as Vice-Chair: both unanimously. The Chair signed an Acceptance of Office form.

2. Welcome and Apologies

PD was unable to attend owing to a work commitment.

3. Declarations of Interest

RLP declared a potential interest as a member of the Village Hall Committee. NE declared an interest as has sites under consideration for development as part of the SWLP.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th March 2025. Resolved unanimously and signed by the Chair.

5. Previous Action Points

5.1 *Drain odour on Oaktree Close.* NE gave update: actions underway to potentially resolve.

5.2 *Barbed wire and razor wire at boundary of Bearley Park.* Razor wire now removed and discussion re suitable gates ongoing. See item 13.1.

6. Councillors' and Clerk's Reports

RG gave update re Speedwatch activity: regular activity appears to be having a positive impact in reducing speeding through the village.

RG gave update re recent activity in Bearley Park: installation of table tennis table and bases for picnic tables.

RG gave update re various maintenance items being dealt with by Ash Lane Property Developments: bus shelter has been repaired, security bar in park to be looked at, MUGA fence assessment to be done.

RLP gave update re village hall: healthy financial position will enable further discounting of rate for residents.

7. South Warwickshire Local Plan

7.1 *Update from Committee.* GE advised that now awaiting response from local authorities in December. This will outline the next stage of the proposed plan. Actions required will be determined by whether or not (and to what extent) Bearley is included.

7.2 *Itemized budget proposal.* GE presented potential costs for various scenarios: for information only at this point. Clerk reiterated that £1000 has been budgeted for this year and that any expenditure should be agreed by the committee and must be approved by the Clerk.

8. Housing Needs Survey

Sarah Brooke-Taylor shared the following information: Survey identified need for 2 x 2 bedroom houses to rent and 2 x 2 bedroom bungalows to buy. There are 28 people with Bearley addresses on SDC housing waiting list. There is one overlap between the housing survey need and the waiting list. SBT to perform an initial site scoping exercise regarding meeting the survey need and report back to the PC. Resolved unanimously.

9. Updates from County and District Councillors

IS gave update. Report was loaded to website during meeting.

10. Public Forum

Three issues were raised:

Two benches (Snitterfield Road and School Lane) are in need of repair or replacement.

Use of land on School Lane. RLP advised that has been raised with SDC Enforcement by local resident(s) and the PC.

Car sales on Countrywide site. RLP advised that has been raised with SDC Enforcement by local resident(s).

11. Audit

11.1 *Review and approve internal audit report FY25.* Resolved unanimously.

11.2 *Review and approve Annual Governance Statement FY25.* Resolved unanimously and form signed by Clerk and Chair.

11.3 *Review and approve Accounting Statements FY25.* Resolved unanimously and form signed by Clerk and Chair.

12. Planning Matters

12.1 *25/00936/LBC.* Support. Resolved unanimously.

12.2 *24/03291/FUL.* No objection. Resolved unanimously

12.3 *Updates on Old Vicarage and Golden Cross.* RLP gave updates regarding activity on sites and interactions with SDC Enforcement Team.

13. Bearley Park and Other Green Spaces

13.1 *Proposed new gates between Bearley Park and "Half Acre".* After discussion it was agreed that the proposed gates with spikes would not be acceptable under the access agreement. Round top version of the same would be acceptable. Clerk to respond to owner of the land. Resolved.

13.2 *Feedback regarding proposed new equipment for main play area and final decision.* Strong positive feedback received again so project to proceed as planned. Resolved unanimously.

13.3 *Ongoing support and feedback regarding Bearley Park.* General discussion and no formal actions regarding this at present. Also RG to approach member(s) of now defunct group Friends of Bearley Park regarding use of funds (£450) transferred to the PC.

13.4 *Purchase of table tennis bats and balls.* Approved up to £100 if a local resident would be prepared to hold a stock to be given out on request and collected.

14. Highways Community Action Fund

Councillors are aware of this but no actions at present.

15. Financial Matters

15.1 *Review payments and receipts FY to date.* For information.

15.2 *Review position vs budget.* For information.

15.3 *Approve future payments.* None requiring approval at this point.

15.4 *Approve cost of separate mobile number for Clerk.* Clerk monthly homeworking/admin allowance to be increased from £21.66 to £26.00 to cover this. Resolved unanimously.

16. Training

16.1 *Clerk to attain Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).* Course run by WALC costs £390 and starts in September 2025. Resolved unanimously.

17. Items for Future Agenda

Review policies and procedures

Move bank and update banking processes

Social media policy: Clerk to provide proposal for discussion.

Next Ordinary Meeting is currently set to be held at Bearley Village Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 21st July 2025.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20:45

Signed:

Date: