

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bearley Parish Council held in the Village Hall at 7.00pm on 18 July 2016**

**Present:** Cllr Arslan Erinmez (Chair); Cllr Richard Le Page; Cllr Andrew Spiller; and WCC Cllr John Horner and SDC Cllr S Lawton (for part of meeting)

**Parish Clerk:** Mrs Jennifer Bendall

**Public:** 1 member of the public was in attendance

**Apologies:** None

### **1. Chairman's notice regarding the recording and filming of the meeting**

The Chairman's notice regarding the recording and filming of meetings was read out.

### **2. Record of Members Present**

Noted.

### **3. Apologies and Acceptance of Reasons for Absence**

None.

### **4. Declaration of Interest (existence and nature) on Items on the Agenda**

None.

### **5. Public Forum (subject to a time limit of 15 minutes)**

A brief discussion took place concerning a caravan parked on a drive in Oak Tree Close that is overhanging the pavement. It was noted that the Faccenda hedge needs cutting back, and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the agents to arrange.

### **6. To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 31 May 2016**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 31 May 2016 were taken as read, approved and signed.

### **7. To provisionally approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 25 April 2016**

The Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 25 April 2016 were taken as read, approved and provisionally signed. The Clerk advised that they would be formally signed at the Parish Assembly in 2017.

### **8. County and District Council Liaison**

SDC Cllr Lawton reported that things had been quiet over the past 2-3 months, with Stratford District Council geared up to the completion of its Core Strategy, which is now done. He advised that Bearley, protected by Green Belt, would not really be affected by new housing, and that the decision now would be whether or not to proceed with a neighbourhood plan.

WCC Cllr Horner also reported a quieter spell with Warwickshire County Council, with work carrying on as usual. He talked briefly about the West Midlands Combined Authority, which Warwickshire had joined in a non-constituent capacity, and advised that Warwickshire had been given the finance portfolio for the Combined Authority.

The Chairman requested that the road survey carried out on the Birmingham Road be forwarded to the Parish Council, and Cllr Horner agreed to organise although he advised that it was unlikely that anything would be done due to the low number of pedestrians crossing that road.

The Chairman also enquired about "New Speed Limit" signs which Cllr Horner agreed to investigate.

There were also brief discussions about speed guns, the Gliding Club gliders, and housing within the parish.

#### **9. To Receive an Update from Bearley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Ms S Hawkins had previously advised BPC that there was little to report in terms of the NPSG. The next NPSG meeting is dependent on the timings of the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Plan, and at present activity is limited to monitoring progress of these documents. She advised that in this respect, the latest position is:

Core Strategy: This, with Main Modifications, was adopted by the District Council on 11 July. The final document is now being prepared for publication by end of July.

Site Allocations Plan: Still no notification of when the draft for consultation will be available.

#### **10. To Review BPC Standing Orders**

Discussion took place regarding changes to the Standing Orders following updates from the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils Model Standing Orders and to incorporate current practices. It was unanimously agreed to accept these changes.

#### **11. To Consider Quotes for Clearance Works on Bearley Green**

The Clerk advised that she had sought three quotes for clearance works on Bearley Green, but that only two had been received. Following in-depth consideration it was agreed that Mr P Wall's quotes for clearing the fallen tree and clearing the path of weeds would be accepted. The Clerk to notify all concerned.

#### **12. Bearley Park**

12.1 Ms K Warner provided the Meeting with an update on recent activity by the Friends of Bearley Park. She advised that 3 toddlers' springers had been purchased and installed and that maintenance of the Park was ongoing. Ms Warner reported that the Friends of Bearley Park had received a request for the gates to the park to be locked during the night. Guidance had been sought from RoSPA who advised that the gates should be left open because locking them restricted access by the emergency services in case of accidents. Following discussion it was agreed that the RoSPA guidance would be followed.

12.2 Discussion took place concerning the recent standard of grass cutting within Bearley Park. Ms Warner advised that the edges of the site had now been strimmed. She advised that the Friends of Bearley Park had suggested that its volunteers take on the grass cutting and the Parish Council make a donation to the Park rather than pay a contractor to carry out the work. The Parish Council confirmed that the current grass cutting contract was due to run until the end of the year, and that quotes for carrying out the work in 2017 would be sought in November / December prior to the budget setting in January 2017. If the Friends of Bearley Park wish to be considered, a business plan will need to be submitted to the Clerk by the end of the year.

12.3 The Friends of Bearley Park have asked BPC to fund some essential repairs, including replacement ropes. Cllr Spiller advised that the original ropes could be repaired and can be reused in the future, and on this basis recommended that the Parish Council meet the costs at this stage. Unanimously agreed. Thanks were given to the Friends of Bearley Park volunteers for their hard work in ensuring the safety of the play area.

### **13. To Receive an Update on Flood Prevention Measures**

Cllr Le Page advised that there was not much to report and that a response was still awaited from WCC following communication sent to them earlier in the year. WCC Cllr Horner agreed to chase. It was noted that flooding on the road by the Village Hall had been looked into, and that blocked ditches were the most likely cause of the flooding. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the County Surveyor at WCC to request that the ditches be dug out and any drains be jetted.

### **14. Finance Report**

(Circulated to Members prior to meeting)

- 14.1 Payments made since last meeting - noted
- 14.2 Payments received since last meeting - noted
- 14.3 Income/expenditure year to date - noted
- 14.4 Invoices received for payment - approved
- 14.5 The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016 had been submitted.
- 14.6 A letter instructing the bank to increase the Clerk's salary in line with the pay rise agreed in May 2016 was signed.
- 14.7 It was agreed that a donation would be made to the Bearley Gardeners to cover the cost of purchasing plants for display throughout the village. The Clerk to advise that future requests for a donation must be received prior to the January Parish Council budget setting for the forthcoming year.

### **15. Planning Matters**

- 15.1 To Note and Comment on Planning Applications Received  
None.
- 15.2 To Note Planning Applications Received and Actioned Under Delegated Powers  
None.
- 15.3 To Note Notices of Decisions Received  
Tudor Cottage (16/00854/LBC) – consent granted with conditions – noted  
Tudor Cottage (16/00853/FUL) – permission with conditions – noted

### **16. Correspondence and Communications Report**

(Circulated to Members prior to meeting)

Noted.

### **17. Date of Next Meeting**

19 September 2016 - Ordinary Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.