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Emergency and Resilience Plan

We have agreed on an objective to prepare and launch an Emergency and Resilience Plan (“ERP”) by 31 March 2027. This paper proposes an approach which, if agreed, can be implemented immediately.

Background and proposal

Recent local incidents, including wildfires, have highlighted the importance of clear, practical arrangements to help the parish prepare for, respond to and recover from an emergency.

A parish plan would complement—not replace—the responsibilities of the emergency services and principal authorities. It would identify local risks and vulnerabilities, available people and resources, communication arrangements, and the support residents may need, with particular attention to those who may be especially vulnerable in an emergency.

It is proposed to establish an **ERP Steering Group** comprising a small number of parish councillors, one of whom would chair it; a representative of the Beaulieu Estate (Rachel Pearson has confirmed that she is willing to serve); and a suggested two parishioners interested in supporting the project.

The Council would delegate responsibility for preparing the ERP to the Steering Group, within the approach set out below, with brief monthly progress reports to the Council and the completed plan being submitted to the Council for formal adoption.

Proposed process

The Steering Group would determine the detailed work programme, which is expected to follow these broad stages:

Stage 1 — Define and agree the specification

Agree the purpose, scope, required outputs and working arrangements.

Stage 2 — Risk and vulnerability assessment

Consult with the community to identify the principal local risks, vulnerable locations and people, and existing capabilities and gaps.

Stage 3 — Develop the plan

Prepare practical response arrangements, contacts, communications and resource information.

Stage 4 — Consultation and validation

Test the draft with relevant organisations, resource holders and neighbouring parish councils as required.

Stage 5 — Finalisation and adoption

Incorporate agreed changes and submit the completed ERP to the Council for formal adoption.

Timetable and reporting

The objective is to have an agreed ERP in place by **31 March 2027**. The Steering Group would provide a brief progress update at each monthly Council meeting.

Council decisions required

The Council is asked to consider and, if agreed, to:

1. **approve** the proposed approach and the target date of 31 March 2027;
2. **nominate** parish council members to serve on the Steering Group, including its Chair; and
3. **delegate** responsibility for preparing the ERP to the Steering Group in accordance with the approach set out in this paper, with monthly progress reports to the Council and the final ERP being submitted to the Council for formal adoption.