

Beer Parish Council Annual Report 2020/2021

Beer PC has 11 councillors, the council meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise announced, with the exception of August when the council does not meet.

The council includes 3 committees, Finance and General Purposes, Planning and CCT. In addition, the council has two responsible portfolios, Community and Environment and Property and Assets, which report and make recommendations to the council.

The Council is responsible for managing the “business” of Beer. It owns and maintains a number of land and building assets and supports and undertakes projects on behalf of the village. The PC is not responsible for highways but promotes projects and works to Devon County Council and Highways. The District Council EDDC, is responsible for the beach, car parks, litter and street cleaning within the village.

The planning committee meets when required depending on the number of applications. The Planning committee takes positions and makes recommendations direct to the District Council. The PC is a statutory consultee, it makes recommendations, but does not make the planning decision. The planning committee has considered approximately 25 applications.

Councillors are elected for 4 years and where councillors have to leave or when fewer than 11 put themselves up for election, we are able to co-opt members.

Co-opted members are people who have responded to the advertisement for councillors. If there are more applications than positions the sitting councillors have a ballot to select a councillor.

The current Council.

Chair	Geoff Pook
Vice Chair	Louise Vine
	Mandy Graham
	Rick Dormor
	Lee Reeve
	Andy Cobbold
	Jess Boulton
	Darren Clinch

We currently have 3 vacancies following the resignations of Mo Westlake, Martin Richards and Wendy Dodd – 2 vacancies are due to be filled at our April 21 council meeting and the third will be formally advertised by EDDC.

Basic Finance

The council has a basic income of approximately £41000 excluding additional grants and donations, to cover workman, clerk, maintenance and repairs and small projects. The basic expenditure including small projects is in the region of £40000 enabling the council to run a balanced budget with a small surplus. The council carries reserves of approximately £60000 to cover exceptional expense and approved projects.

The council also received a small grant to cover the Fore St pedestrian scheme over the summer and CCT project funding.

The council receives 50% of its income from the Village Precept (approx 1.7% of total council tax). The balance of income is a direct contribution to the village workman's pay plus parking income from the car park areas owned by the parish.

Work and Projects

The impact of Covid has inevitably impacted on how the council has worked and operated over the past year. Since March 2020 there have been no face-to-face meetings with all business conducted using Zoom with the live feed via Facebook. While there are many disadvantages with "no contact" in some ways the live feed has promoted additional interest and attention to the council's activities. Accepting that it has been inevitable and there is a general preference for "live" meetings I do not think that the lack of "live" has inhibited the council or depreciated its output.

The CCT funding will end this year however we have earmarked reserves all aimed at supporting the village and enhancing the viability of its businesses. Following the last year, work in this area is going to be more important than ever to support business for the future, retaining the character and encouraging the sustainability of the village.

The imminent transfer of assets from EDDC to the Parish has been subject to much debate and discussion during the year however the council has undertaken and initiated numerous small jobs and projects over the period.

Other projects:

- Ash Hill Play Park new equipment (s106 funding)
- Pedestrianisation of Fore St scheme
- One-way on Berry Hill
- Kayak store on the beach
- Memorial Ave of trees (PC support led by Richard Scott)
- Foot path signage
- Additional public seats