

## Beer Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting was held on **Tuesday 1 October 2019** at the Mariners' Hall. Copies of minutes and reports are available on request.

**Present:** Cllr. W Dodd            Cllr. R Dormor            Cllr. H Follett            Cllr. M Graham  
              Cllr. G Pook (Chair) Cllr. M Richards            Cllr. L Vine            Cllr. M Westlake            Cllr. T Wood

**In attendance:** A Dallaway (Clerk), DCC Cllr Martin Shaw, 2 members of the public

### **GUEST SPEAKER: CLARE JAMES, ESTATES SURVEYOR, CLINTON DEVON ESTATES**

Clare James provided an update on Clinton Devon Estates activities in Beer:

- The 'Bat friendly Beer project' has been a great success and CDE is also promoting the Blue Heart scheme 'rewilding' gardens.
- Couchill Farm has now been taken on by Gatcombe Farm.
- Work is in hand to create a permissive path at Couchill and CDE is also working with the Parish Council to create a short permissive path from Quarry Lane to Beer Quarry Caves. Clare thanked Mike Green for providing some excellent signposting.
- Hanson's lease at the Quarry is coming to an end and CDE is open to discussion regarding future use of the site.
- CDE is keen to promote the Environmental Land Management Scheme and a pilot scheme has been introduced in Beer, working in partnership with local organisations to manage the land for the benefit of the wildlife and the public.
- Outline planning permission has been given for the development at Short Furlong but there remains a lot of habitat mitigation work to carry out.
- Ash dieback has had a huge impact on the estate and clearance of diseased trees is beginning on high access routes. CDE is considering replanting options.

Cllr Pook thanked Clare for her update and commended Clinton Devon Estates for working so proactively with the Parish Council.

**1. Apologies accepted by the Council:** Cllr. D Clinch (holiday)

**2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Vine declared an interest in agenda item 24, Beach Court Car Park as her parents own a property in Beach Court.

**3. Items to be dealt with after the public, including the press have been excluded:** Council agreed that agenda item 24, Beach Court Car Park would be a Part B item as negotiations include discussion about access rights over private property.

### **4. Public participation**

There were two members of public in attendance at the meeting. Mrs Russell, Chairman of Beach Court Flats, Beer Ltd spoke on behalf of residents and highlighted resident concerns about proposals for the car park. Mrs Russell asked that the Council keeps residents fully informed throughout the negotiation process.

**5. Police report:** There were no members of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary in attendance at the meeting and no monthly report received.

*The two members of the public left the meeting.*

### **6. Approval of minutes:**

**The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3 September 2019 were approved and signed as a true record, subject to the following points of clarification raised by Councillors.**

Cllr Westlake wished to raise a point of clarification regarding the minutes, agenda item 15, Parish Council leaflet – Cllr Westlake was not concerned with the amount of email correspondence which this matter generated prior to the meeting but was concerned that Council did not always follow procedure and allow members to have a formal vote on issues at meetings.

Cllr Vine wished to raise a further point of clarification regarding the minutes, agenda item 12, s106 sport funding – Cllr Vine advised that all proposed sport projects (Ash Hill football provision/kayak storage on the beach/bike storage in the Square) were deemed eligible for funding and research was on-going to confirm which of the projects would be feasible to install.

Matters arising:

**3/9/2019/6 Recycling bins on beach** – Cllr Pook reported that EDDC had ordered the recycling bins for cardboard, foil and plastic. A separate arrangement will need to be made for the collection of glass.

**3/9/2019/6 Workman employment contract** – the Clerk has identified supporting guidance and policies for the employment contract and has forwarded to Cllr Follett for review. This will be an agenda item for the November/December meeting. **ACTION: CLLR FOLLETT**

**3/9/2019/6 Blocked drains** – Cllr Pook had previously contacted DCC Cllr Stuart Hughes, Cabinet Member for Highways Management to highlight the blocked drains in the village and express the Council's frustration with the maintenance programme. No response has been received from Cllr Hughes as yet. Cllr Shaw will follow up. Cllr Westlake reported that a recent tour of the village had highlighted three blocked drains. The gully in New Road also still requires clearance.

**3/9/2019/15 Parish Council information leaflet** – it was agreed to review this matter once the asset transfer has taken place as this will change the remit and responsibilities of the Parish Council.

## **7. EDDC and DCC Cllrs** – to receive reports previously circulated

Cllr Pook, EDDC – report noted.

- The draft EDDC Council Plan is currently going through the committee process and will be presented to EDDC Full Council in December.
- The Beer Asset Devolution Pilot Project Report was debated at the EDDC Asset Management Forum on 2 September and will be debated by Cabinet in October. Subject to the recommendation from AMF and the decision of Cabinet the proposal will be put to EDDC Full Council in December. Alongside the Beer Pilot report will be a report on Community Asset Transfer policy and procedure across the district.

Cllr Shaw, DCC – report noted.

- Cllr Shaw has been contacted by local residents concerned about retaining the turning circle in Barline. The Parish Council noted that the turning circle is private property but that the current disruption is temporary due to building works at Seddul Bahr.
- The Highways department is currently developing a new system to monitor work programmes which will enable all parties, including the public to track the progress of jobs.

*Cllr Shaw left the meeting*

## **8. Financial report:**

### **8.1 To approve the bank reconciliation to the end August 2019**

**THE COUNCIL RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION TO END AUGUST 2019**

**8.2 To approve the schedule of payments for October 2019 in accordance with Appendix A** Total payments of £5361.37 approved and signed by the Chairman. Additional payment approved for £38 Terry Hoare (Ash Hill grass cutting).

**THE COUNCIL RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPENDIX A AND THE ADDITIONAL PAYMENT**

## **9. Axe Valley Ring & Ride – to consider request for donation to AVR&R transport scheme**

Councillors noted that there were 141 users of the service in Beer in 2018 and 84 people had used the service up to the end of June 2019.

## **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED TO APPROVE A DONATION OF £75 TOWARDS THE AXE VALLEY RING & RIDE TRANSPORT SCHEME**

### **10. Asset Review – distribute annual review forms**

The Clerk circulated the Asset Review Forms as part of the Annual Risk Management process.

### **11. General Power of Competence – to receive an update**

The Clerk is continuing to explore the option of adopting this power which is intended to give local authorities wider powers to deliver more for their communities.

*A member of the public arrived and presented the Council with further ideas and design proposals regarding the Memorial Play Area renovations, including a request for toddler swings.*

### **12. Memorial Play Park – to receive an update**

James Absalom has produced revised plans for the play park and will now liaise with the Play Inspector to ensure that the revised plans are fully compliant with Health & Safety legislation before the community consultation is carried out.

### **13. s106 play and sport funding allocation – to receive a verbal update from the Working Group Play funding**

EDDC will schedule further public consultation with local children to decide on play equipment for the lower part of Ash Hill play area.

#### **Sport funding**

Ash Hill football provision and kayak storage on the beach have been confirmed as eligible and feasible sports projects. EDDC has yet to confirm whether the bike storage in the Square is also a feasible sports project.

### **14. Climate Change – to discuss and agree way forward**

A preliminary discussion took place regarding the development of a Parish Council Climate Change Policy. It was agreed that the Environment Portfolio would set up a working group to explore this matter further and report back to the December meeting. Non-Councillors may be included in the working group as appropriate. **ACTION: CLLRS DODD/WESTLAKE**

### **15. Parish Council surgery – to receive report**

A Parish Council surgery took place on 21 Sept 2019 and a local resident queried the repairs to the stone wall on the hairpin bend (The Causeway) which feature a domed top rather than crenellations. The Planning Officer has advised that the repairs did not require planning permission and therefore the Planning Authority could not impose a condition as to how the wall should be repaired.

### **16. Review of democratic process and voting procedures at meetings**

Discussion took place regarding the need for clearer decision making at meetings and formal votes on resolutions. It was agreed that when a formal vote on a resolution occurs, it is not necessary to record in the minutes who proposes or seconds but to record the outcome of the vote – numbers for, against, abstain. The record of the vote will not include Councillor names unless a Councillor requests their individual vote to be recorded.

### **17. Environment & Community Portfolio Report – to receive the report (previously circulated)**

The Parish Council noted the report. Cllr Westlake also reported that she had met with Carole Arnold to discuss the planting of crocuses in the village to raise awareness of the polio crisis. The Parish Council expressed support for this initiative.

### **18. Assets & Property Portfolio Report – to receive the report (previously circulated)**

The Parish Council noted the report. Matters for debate:

**Bottle recycling on the beach** – it was agreed to defer this until the Spring and consider the financial implications when the budget is set for 2020/21.

### **Proposed works at the Depot, Clapps Lane:**

The Council resolved the following expenditure (from CCT capital):

£200 for clearance of scrub to create storage space in yard

£150 for the installation of shelving in the garage to create storage for CCT equipment

Repairs to the garage doors are still under consideration.

**THE COUNCIL RESOLVED THE EXPENDITURE FOR THE DEPOT AS DETAILED ABOVE. ALL IN FAVOUR. ACTION: CLLR DORMOR**

*Cllr Pook declared an interest in the next agenda item as he is Chairman of the Beer CLT who are proposing development of the old Social Club site.*

### **19. Berry Hill – to consider proposal for one-way traffic**

Cllr Westlake asked the Council to consider an application for a traffic order for Berry Hill to introduce one-way traffic down the hill. Cllr Westlake expressed concern about the traffic confusion which occurs at the bottom of the hill and the potential for an accident. The traffic situation is likely to be exacerbated in the future with the development of the old Social Club in Berry Hill.

**THE COUNCIL RESOLVED TO REQUEST A TRAFFIC ORDER TO MAKE BERRY HILL ONE WAY TRAFFIC. ALL IN FAVOUR. ACTION: CLERK**

### **20. EDDC asset transfer – to receive an update**

The Beer Asset Devolution Pilot Project Report was debated at the EDDC Asset Management Forum on 2 September and will be debated by Cabinet in October. Subject to the recommendation from AMF and the decision of Cabinet the proposal will be put to EDDC Full Council in December.

### **21. Beer Coastal Community Team – to receive the reports (previously circulated)**

21.1 September CCT Committee meeting minutes - noted.

21.2 CCT Chair and Village Manager reports - noted.

21.3 *Beer Bites* proposed dates for 2020, 23 May & 12 Sept – noted.

21.4 Sea Hill rope handrail – to agree provision of written indemnity absolving Beer Men's Shed of any liability following installation.

**RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR. ACTION: CLERK**

21.5 Collection buckets for firework events – to approve purchase of up to 10 buckets £110.

**RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR.**

21.6 Peco Shop – preliminary discussions have taken place with Peco regarding the use of the shop as an information centre. Although supportive of the idea in principle, the Parish Council is not in a position to commit any funding or resources to this initiative.

**ACTION: CLLR FOLLET** will draft a letter to Peco.

### **22. Planning consultation responses 3 September**

The Parish Council noted the planning consultation responses from the Planning Meeting on 3 September.

### **23. Correspondence/Literature: As on Appendix B.**

#### *PART B*

*Under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Local Government Act 1972, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.*

*The member of the public left the meeting.*

*Cllr Vine declared an interest in this agenda item as her parents own a property in Beach Court. Cllr Vine left the meeting.*

### **24. Beach Court Car Park – to consider proposals for the car park and approve correspondence to the property owners who share the rights of access over the driveway beside Beach Court**

Correspondence has been received from property owners expressing concern about proposals for the car park which may impact upon rights of access over the driveway beside Beach Court. Cllr Pook had previously circulated a draft response on behalf of the Parish Council.

**THE COUNCIL RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE DRAFT RESPONSE. ALL IN FAVOUR.**

**ACTION: CLERK** to send letter.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 5 November 2019

Date: .....

Chairman: .....