

BEER PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held on **Wednesday 13th April, 7.30pm** at the Mariners' Hall. Copies of minutes and reports are available on request.

PRESENT: Cllr. G Pook (Chairman) Cllr. A Adkin Cllr. A Brewer
 Cllr. R Dormor Cllr. S Greig Cllr. T Stevens
 Cllr. E Molony Cllr. M Graham

IN ATTENDANCE: Annie Dallaway (Clerk), Jakki Henderson (Clerk in training),
 Kayleigh Westlake (Events Coordinator)

The Chairman reminded everyone the meeting would be recorded for reasons of accuracy and that recordings taken by members of the public were permitted, but requested the Council be notified in advance, as a courtesy.

- 1. Apologies accepted by the Council:** Cllr. L Vine, Cllr. D Clinch and Cllr. M Hartnell (DCC). At this time, the Council had not heard from Cllr. J Green.
- 2. Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items:**
None, except Cllr Pook declared his normal position as EDDC Cllr.
- 3. Items to be dealt with after the public, including the press have been excluded:** There were no items.
- 4. Public participation:** There were 15 members of the public in attendance at the meeting with one who wished to speak in the public session.

SPEAKER: Objected to Transfer of Assets proposal and asked for a binding referendum to decide the matter. Gave notice to Beer PC and EDDC of intention to challenge for a referendum and has parishioner support, by way of a signed petition to back this up. Expressed unhappiness that Beer PC are the ultimate decision makers in this process, rather than the outcome of a parish poll/secret ballot. Lastly, requested that Beer PC will agree to be bound by the results of a parish poll.

The Chair thanked the speaker.

- 5. Police - to receive report:** None received. Clerk noted the Police website had not been updated with March stats. ACTION: Clerk to circulate once available.
- 6. To consider and approve:**
 - (1) Approval of minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9th March 2022:** Approved and signed as an accurate record. **PROPOSED BY CLLR R DORMER; SECONDED BY CLLR A BREWER. RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR.**
 - (2) Approval of minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 30th March, 2022:** Approved and signed as an accurate record. **PROPOSED BY CLLR E MOLONY; SECONDED CLLR M GRAHAM. RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR.**
 - (3) Approval of the minutes of the Finance & GP Committee meeting held on 30th March, 2022:** Approved and signed as an accurate record. **PROPOSED CLLR DORMOR; SECONDED CLLR GREIG. RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR.**

7. EDDC and DCC Cllr reports:

DCC (report previously circulated) No questions were raised.

EDDC, Cllr. Pook gave a verbal report: (i) Parking - increases now approved by EDDC, (ii) Concern regarding levels of maintenance and EDDC contractors for council housing - advised Cllrs to encourage any Beer council tenants with concerns, to go direct to EDDC (iii) Vote in May regarding EDDC returning to full-time face to face meetings, or maintain current situation with delegated authority and Zoom meetings or some other hybrid options.

8. Beer Community & Tourism Committee - to receive report:

No CTT report as Cllr Clinch not present.

(1) To receive report from Event Coordinator: Events Coordinator, Kayleigh Westlake reported on a Ukraine Brunch event which was very successful with 152 brunches, raising £2334.46 for the Ukraine Crisis.

Jubilee Weekend - no grant from Arts Council, however confident this will have little impact (was to be used for filming/DVD). Road closure applications have gone in and now moving forward with plans. Kayleigh will write up an agenda detailing events/what's on for Jubilee week and forward to Sam Parfitt (Devon & Cornwall Police). Kayleigh proposed a working group for CTT on 27th April and will send invites out on 22nd. Kayleigh has a planned meeting with Eleanor Carr (FIZZ Proposal) on 25th April. On-going negotiations regarding VW Buggy event in May.

Chair thanked Kayleigh Westlake for her report.

Chair noted omission of welcoming new Clerk and did so at this point.

(2) To receive an update re Vision Survey by Hemingway Design:

The Clerk reported 215 responses to the survey had been received, which runs until end of Easter hols. and can be extended as required. The Chair explained the importance of receiving a wide gamut of responses from young/old and tourists. Signs had also gone up today. Cllr Stevens raised a matter relating to Starre Bank and why Hemingway had not included it in the survey. The Chair advised Starre Bank had been identified as a land asset, but not included in the survey area for Hemingway, as has no real potential. Chair reiterated the need for a full gamut of responses to the survey.

9. Financial report: (all documents previously circulated)

(1) To approve the bank reconciliation to the end March 2022 and receive Alpha software reports:

Clerk reported year-end balances: Operating Income (Receipts) £83,284.22; Running Costs (Payments) £94,024.60; Closing Balance £65,786 with general reserves £54,583.

**PROPOSED BY CLLR M GRAHAM; SECONDED BY CLLR E MOLONY.
RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR**

(2) To approve the schedule of payments for April 2022 in accordance with Appendix A:

The Clerk reported additional payments to go on for approval - £86.40 R&H signs, A2 survey posters; £30.80 Seaton Print cost of printing posters; £120 Ashill inspection fee.

**PROPOSED BY CLLR E MOLONY; SECONDED BY CLLR M GRAHAM.
RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR**

**(3) To approve additional 12 hours for Clerk for March £161.64 (April payroll):
PROPOSED BY CLLR G POOK; SECONDED BY CLLR M GRAHAM. RESOLVED.
ALL IN FAVOUR**

(4) To provide an update regarding the internal and external audits:

Clerk provided point of information on auditing process, advising internal auditor currently is Trudy Jenkins and external auditor is PKF Littlejohn. Documents to be approved at May's meeting in time for the deadline of July 1st.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for her good work.

(5) To review wording of 14.3 of Financial Regs (disposal of assets and consultation with electorate):

The Finance Committee has reviewed the current wording and taken advice from DALC and EDDC Solicitor. The current wording is from the NALC model Financial Regulations. Council agreed no amendments to the wording.

PROPOSED BY CLLR G POOK; SECONDED BY CLLR T STEVENS. RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR

(6) To consider donation request from Beer Horticultural Society:

Clerk read out parts of letter received from the Society. Previous cost for planting/displays was £1700+ and last year the PC donated £250. Chair reminded everyone there was a total of just £650 in the budget for grants. Cllr E Molony proposed a donation of £300 to help with the funding of plants.

PROPOSED BY CLLR E MOLONY; SECONDED BY CLLR R DORMOR. RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR

10. Provision for Statutory meetings - Clerk to update re Annual Meeting and Parish Meeting: Clerk explained the Annual Parish Meeting (for the electorate) will precede the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 11th May 2022 and another Parish Meeting to facilitate the parish poll about the asset transfer, will be held later in the year.

11. CIL - to receive an update re electrical installation on Jubilee: Cllr Pook informed the specification for the work is now available and quotes will be obtained in line with the council's financial regulations.

12. Parish Council Surgery - to receive an update: Cllr Stevens reported that he had received some enquiries/concerns regarding the 20mph speed limit and transfer of assets, when he attended the Surgery at the Beer Horticultural Society, Table Top Sale, on 12th March. Cllr M Graham hoped to attend this Good Friday. The next Surgery will be on 7th May. It was noted that although the Surgery is informal, comments received from members of the public can be recorded and acted upon.

13. Parish Council website - new site launched: The Clerk reported the site was now live and requested feedback, along with photo's to keep the site looking fresh.

14. Environment and Community Portfolio report - to receive report:
(report previously circulated)

Cllr Molony summarised that a productive site meeting was had with the new EDDC Horticultural Technical Officer - Paul Fealey. Short term improvements can be made with planting, re-wilding, existing beds, weeds, dead grass from strimming etc. Paul Fealey also offered help to train some volunteers in horticulture. Long term plans will include trees. Very positive meeting. Next meeting scheduled for on 29th April.

(1) Traffic/parking survey - to receive notes from working group/agree proposals/next steps: Cllr M Graham reported on the meeting of the working group. Been in touch with consultants who did the survey to get costings on proposals and invite them to present their ideas.

(2) 20mph speed limit - to receive an update: The proposal for a village wide 20mph speed limit has been submitted to DCC.

Matters arising from report:

■ BERT meeting (Beer Emergency Response Team) - Cllr Graham and Kayleigh Westlake attended with Chris Khan from Environment Agency. Looking to revive BERT. Next meeting on 25th April at the Football club.

■ Several commemorative trees have now been planted, one at Pigs Path by a local resident and EDDC tree planted at Ash Hill.

15. Assets & Property Portfolio report - to receive report:

(1) Ash Hill annual inspection - to receive report: Cllr Dormor reported that the inspection for Ash Hill had been completed with minor things to be addressed. Requires Council to agree to go ahead with minor costs. Do Not Climb sign to be erected on the MUGA (Multi Use Game Area). Any rotten wood to be removed. Council agreed for Cllr Dormor to go ahead with minor items to be improved.

16. EDDC Asset Transfer - to receive report and update:

(report previously circulated)

(1) To review the revised scope and tendering proposals for the proposed viability study: Preliminary feedback from one of the property consultants has indicated that it will be difficult and expensive for one consultant to fulfil all elements of the initial scope document. Cllr Pook proposes that the workload is split with different elements carried out by Property & Estates consultant, BPC auditors and by BPC councillors/Clerk.

Cllr Stevens questioned the lack of figures for a business plan. The Chair said some were already in and others would be due in shortly and will be there for the public meeting to be held later in the year. The Chair questioned the cost to the parish of *Not owning these assets*, and that any opposer to the plan, should address this question. Council agreed the revised scope for the viability study and for the relevant quotes to be obtained.

PROPOSED BY CLLR G POOK; SECONDED BY CLLR E MOLONY. RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR. Cllr Stevens asked if a proposal could be included on the May agenda for the Parish Council to abide by the decision of the Parish Poll regarding the asset transfer. The Chair will ask the Monitoring Officer again, to clarify on the legalities surrounding the Parish Poll.

(2) Cllr Pook had previously circulated a report detailing amended toilet proposals for the asset transfer, specifically i) to include a capital refurbishment grant or ii) remove the toilets from the asset transfer altogether. Cllr Pook will present the proposed amendments to EDDC to ascertain which option EDDC will support. **PROPOSED BY CLLR M GRAHAM; SECONDED BY CLLR R DORMOR. RESOLVED. ALL IN FAVOUR.** The Chair will now put this to EDDC.

(3) RBL terms for Memorial Ave: The Clerk received a letter from RBL in February. Council had replied, but not heard back as yet.

17. Planning - the Parish Council noted the consultation responses from the Planning Committee meeting on 9 March 2022

18. Correspondence - See Appendix B for full list of correspondence received: Clerk reported that an additional letter had been received from EDDC regarding the proposed new car parking amendment order to include the addition of electric charging points.

19. Date of next meetings:

Community & Tourism Committee Meeting Wednesday 4th May 2022, 7.30pm
Mariners' Hall
Annual Parish Meeting, followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Wednesday 11th May 2022, 7.30pm Mariners' Hall
Asset Transfer Parish Meeting date tbc.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed

Meeting closed at 8.52pm

DATE:.....

CHAIRMAN:.....

DRAFT