

## Beer Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting was held on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023** Copies of minutes and reports are available on request.

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr R Dormor (Exiting Chair)	Cllr A Brewer
	Cllr T Stevens	Cllr S Greig
	Cllr M Richards (New Chair)	Cllr M Shobbrook
	Cllr J Green	Cllr J Heath
	Cllr B Potter	Cllr P Anderson
	Cllr M Westlake	

Minutes were taken by: Nicky Ingarfield – Clerk

In attendance: Members of the public

**1. Election of Chair** – Cllr R Dormor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Dormor paid his respects to Mike Green who had sadly passed away at the weekend. Mike had done a tremendous amount for the village and will be greatly missed. Cllr Dormor also commented on the Jubilee Celebrations that were held in the village the previous weekend, the sun shone, and it was well attended by a lovely mix of ages from the village, although it had been challenging to arrange Tracey & Leona did an outstanding job. Cllr Heath also commented on the Beer Albion result and congratulated the team, Cllr Heath then extended his thanks to everyone who had voted for him as District Councillor. Cllr Dormor congratulated Cllr Heath on his win and commented that it is good to have someone from the village in the role.

Cllr Dormor confirmed that he had agreed to complete a year as Chair to mainly help with the transition the Council had found itself in, but, although he had put a lot of effort in this year, he did not feel that he had quite achieved this goal. He had hoped to leave after helping to form a settled Council that would be encouraged to help shape the village for the future but this has not happened and he does not feel that his views are aligned with the new direction the Council appears to be taking, Cllr Dormor felt that it was not correct for him to stay on as Chair and be a 'front man' for decisions that he did not necessarily agree with, this decision was only decided today, and although he has enjoyed the role despite it being time consuming, and feels guilty leaving the new Clerk, who he respects and has enjoyed working with, Cllr Dormor felt his principals would be compromised if he was fronting a Council on decisions he did not agree with, Cllr Dormor wished the new Council every success in the future and stated that he would be happy to answer any questions or queries if needed to help with the transition, but he would not be signing the acceptance of office and was standing down with immediate effect.

Cllr Heath thanked Cllr Dormor for all his hard work as Chair.

A member of the public said she was very disappointed that Cllr Dormor was standing down, she felt he had done a brilliant job, with humour and that he

has a great way about him, she also appreciated it was a hard job, but he had done brilliantly. Cllr Dormor thanked her for her kind comments.

**Cllr Dormor left the meeting at 7.40pm.**

Cllr Sean Grieg then spoke to inform everyone that he was very busy at work, and that he did not agree with some of the emails that had been sent around in the last few days, Cllr Grieg echoed what Rick had said and therefore felt that he could no longer stand on the Council and that he would not be signing the acceptance of office paperwork and would also be standing down with immediate effect, Cllr Grieg wished the Council well for the future.

**Cllr Greig left the meeting at 7.45pm.**

Cllr J Green then confirmed that this was also the decision he had come to, he did not have a lot to add on what Cllr Greig & Cllr Dormor had said but over the last few months he felt that he had struggled to carry out his role as a Councillor at his preferred level with time pressures of a young family and work. To gather the necessary energy to carry on Cllr Green felt that he would need to feel the support and enthusiasm of his fellow Councillors but unfortunately recent correspondence within the Council has convinced him that, this will not be forthcoming sufficiently enough for him to continue. Cllr Green wished the new council all the best in their endeavours to deliver their promises, Cllr Green also reassured Councillors that if they need any information or if he could be of any help to contact him on his email and thanked everyone, he had worked with over the last 18 months.

**Cllr Green left the meeting at 7.50pm.**

**Cllr M Richards was proposed as Chair by Cllr Heath, seconded by Cllr Westlake, resolved all in favour.**

2. **Declaration off acceptance of Office- signed** by Cllr Richards and witnessed by the Clerk.
- 3 **Election of Vice-Chair - Cllr T Stevens was proposed as vice chair by Cllr B Potter, seconded by Mo Westlake, resolved all in favour.**
- 4 **All Councillors present to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as a Parish Councillor** – Signed by remaining Councillors and witnessed by the Clerk.
- 5 **Apologies and reasons for absence** – There were none.
6. **Public Participation** - A member of the public commented that the Council had lost three very good people this evening, she was distressed to hear why the Councillors had left the Council due to correspondence, she felt that it was very sad

for Beer. She would support the Council as they had put themselves up for office, but she hoped that a line would be drawn under any inappropriate emails and that the Councillors would move forward. She felt very sad about the whole situation.

Cllr Heath commented that he had picked up from Cllr Dormor about the aggressive stance towards EDDC, although not having witnessed this himself he told the council that he would be working collaboratively with the Council and the District Council with no aggression.

Cllr Richards informed all Councillors that any correspondence with EDDC as councillors must go through either Cllr Heath or the Clerk.

Cllr Heath commented that as there was a 'Hung Council' he had been offered various alliances he had decided to join the Democratic Alliance, he has been assured that he will not be pressurised into making any votes on behalf of the group, it will be his own vote. This will enable him to get on Committees and have influence with key players in the Council, which is very important, then hopefully he can begin to build those bridges. Cllr Heath said he will try and keep everyone informed, including parishioners.

**Cllr Potter asked who was part of the alliance?** It is a combination of Liberal Democrats and Independents, there has to be macro decision making for it to work in terms of the ward. For each vote Cllrs will be able to vote for how they feel, it will be on a majority vote for most items on the agenda.

**7. Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the adopted Code of Conduct. (N.B. this does not preclude any later declarations). To consider dispensation requests – None were declared.**

**8. Items to be dealt with after the public, including the press have been excluded. Agenda Item 21 is a Part B item.**

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 for item 4, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

**9. To consider and approve the of minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

Cllr M Westlake questioned why the draft minutes were not published on the website, as she felt it was good practice to do this. The Clerk explained that the draft minutes were shared with Councillors asap and then published when approved at the next Council meeting as the Council meets monthly, they were published within the time frame required.

**Proposed Cllr A Brewer, seconded Cllr Heath, proposed all in favour.**

**10. To receive the Police report – there were no crimes recorded.**

- 11. To receive EDDC and DCC Cllrs reports** – Cllr Pook had sent his final report prior to the meeting which had been circulated to all Councillors. There was no DCC report for this meeting.
- 12. Approve the calendar of meeting dates for the upcoming year** – Council approved the dates.
- 13. To discuss and approve the Councils organisational structure and note all their Terms of Reference:**  
Agree Chair and membership of the following: Planning Committee, Financial & General Purpose Committee, Staff Committee, Staffing Sub Committee, Environment & Community Portfolio, Events & Promotions Portfolio, Assets & Property Portfolio, maintenance/checking of Defibrillator, road closures, potholes.

Planning Committee – Cllr T Stevens Chair & all other Councillors  
Finance & General Purpose – 5 members needed.

Cllr Brewer explained that he felt that he should not stand on any Committees as he is not going to stay on the Council, he had signed his acceptance of office as he knew there was a planning meeting and as 3 Councillors had stood down, he felt he should stay for that meeting and to also complete a handover.

Cllr Potter & Cllr Shobbrook to stand on Finance & General Purpose with Cllr Richards as Chair.

Staffing Committee – Cllr J Heath & Cllr Westlake.

**There were no other offers to join committees or portfolios so all other committees and portfolios to be revisited and structured when the Casual Vacancy process completed.**

#### **14 Financial report**

14.1. To approve the monthly bank reconciliation to the end of April 2023

**Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr Heath, proposed all in favour.**

14.2. To receive monthly Alpha software reports.

**All received, Clerk explained the different reports and what they show.**

14.3. To approve the schedule of payments for May 2023.

**Approved, no comments.**

14.4. To approve the charges for the Jubilee to be charges out for ½ a day and a full day.

**Proposed Cllr Heath, seconded by Cllr Brewer, proposed all in favour.**

14.5. To propose and approve an additional charge for electricity usage on the Jubilee.

**Clerk to contact EDDC to confirm whether Council can charge and if so costs.**

14.6. To approve Clerk submitting an expression of interest form for CILCA training of £300 + VAT (document circulated prior to meeting)

**Proposed Cllr Potter, seconded by Cllr Heath, proposed all in favour.**

14.7. To receive and approve the Annual Internal Audit 2022/23

Clerk explained that there was an error with the VAT on last year's income, Rialtas to

correct. The locum Clerk had discovered a batch of missing invoices, this was noted by the Internal Auditor, Clerk now has the list and will ask suppliers of copies so that Council has a complete set of accounts.

**Proposed Cllr Richards, seconded Cllr Brewer, proposed all in favour.**

14.6 To receive and approve the Annual Accounts for 2022/23

**Proposed & signed by Cllr Richards, seconded Cllr Brewer, proposed all in favour.**

14.7 To receive and approve the External Audit Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23

**Proposed Cllr Heath, seconded Cllr Brewer, proposed all in favour.**

14.8 To receive and approve the External Audit Accounting Statements 2022/23

**14.9 Proposed Cllr Heath, seconded Cllr Brewer, proposed all in favour.**

14.10 To review the Council's expenditure under section s.137.

**Reviewed no comments.**

14.11 To review the asset register.

**Reviewed no comments.**

14.12 To review the insurance documents.

**Reviewed no comments.**

14.13 To review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

**Reviewed no comments.**

**15. To receive Parish Council Surgery report & note date of next meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

## **16. Environment & Community Portfolio**

16.1 To receive an update on Traffic Survey and set a date for meeting with rep from the school.

Clerk advised that a Councillor needed to take on this responsibility, Cllr Stevens, and Cllr Westlake agreed to take this on.

Clerk and Cllr Brewer to meet with the school rep to arrange a meeting.

16.2 To receive an update on The Jubilee

Lots of emails have been sent around regarding the Jubilee, Cllr Heath is to meet with Councillors from EDDC, he is advocating a complete cut back to the mown area that it was before, he will know who the Portfolio holder at EDDC will be next week.

16.3 To receive an update on Peazen Plats

Cllr Heath has spoken to Environmental Protection who are going to look at the rat infestation and produce a Risk Analysis.

Discussion was held around the Health & Safety due to the steep bank; a method statement needs to be found for that area.

#### **16.4 To discuss new more robust matting on the beach.**

Bins have been removed from the Beech and are on the hardstanding, this was because the bin men were struggling to move the bins across the Beech, there is one small bin.

Clerk to contact Seaton Council to see where they got their matting and the cost and contact Streetscene for a solution to the overflowing bin.

### **17 EDDC Asset Transfer**

#### **17.1 To approve a second Parish Meeting to call a Parish Poll on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Cllr Brewer said that a lot of work has been done and it is in the range of being viable, but we need to go back to EDDC and go back through the process, Council knows the risks and the financial viability of the separate assets.

Cllr Heath asked Councillors whether they felt that it was worth him seeing if he could join the asset transfer committee at EDDC so that he could update Councillors on this, it was felt that this was a good idea.

Cllr Richards said that the Standing Orders now show that with the asset transfer you have one asset that makes a profit and one that is not profitable to balance each other out, previously they had stated that a negative Standing Order could not be taken on.

Cllr Potter commented that the Council has a duty to the electorate to thoroughly investigate the assets transfer, there are merits in taking over parts of it as long as it can be financed properly, the Council are not against the assets transfer, but they feel that they need go into it with eyes open.

Cllr Brewer interjected that it's not necessarily just about that, it's about having ownership and being able to do what the village wants with them. There is a subjective value in the control, and the Council should not be afraid to take these assets on.

Cllr Potter would like to discuss the Standing Order point regarding the Council being able to take on a negative asset at the Finance & General Purpose Meeting and possibly change.

The Parish Poll will not be approved for the 17<sup>th</sup> of June.

17.2 To approve the AT working groups request to buy two footfall counters.

**Proposed Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr M Shobbrook propped all in favour.**

### **18.Assets & Property Portfolio**

18.6 To review and approve quote for lineage at Townsend Coach Park

**Quote from Acculine proposed by Cllr Richards, seconded by Cllr Brewer, resolved all in favour.**

18.7 To discuss the wall at Townsend Coach Park and seek approval of obtaining quotes for repair.

**Clerk to obtain 3 quotes.**

**18.8** To receive an update on Ashill Playpark following the items raised on the report. **Clerk to speak to Cllr Dormor/Workman to see if small jobs completed.**

**19 In light of new councillors to review the following documents:** Terms of Reference for all Committees and Portfolios.

**Reviewed, no comments.**

**20 Events and promotions**

**Kayleigh not in attendance, to follow up at next meeting.**

**21 Correspondence – noted.**

**22 Update on Insurance Claim.**

All Councillors had seen the report, it was felt that this was not a part II item, as Council could not do anything with the information and it was decided that the Clerk forwards the report to the PC insurers.

**23 Date of next meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

