

Beer Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting was held on **Wednesday 10th July 2024**, copies of minutes and reports are available on request.

Present: **Cllr M Richards** **Cllr M Shobbrook**
 Cllr T Stevens **Cllr K Stevens**
 Cllr J Heath **Cllr C Thompson**
 Cllr L Reeve

Minutes were taken by the Clerk: Mrs Nicky Ingarfield

In attendance: Angela Smith, Cllr A Singh, Chris Khan (environment agency), Helena Whitten (BERT)

- 1. Apologies and reasons for absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Westlake & Cllr S Reeve. Cllr P Anderson did not attend the meeting.
- 2. Members to declare and interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the adopted code of conduct (NB this does not preclude any later declarations). To consider dispensation requests:** None were declared.
- 3. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded.** There were no such items.
- 4. Public Participation:** There was no public participation.
- 5. Police: To receive the report:** The link to the website was shared with all Councillors prior to the meeting, Council commented on how the website is not very user friendly.
- 6. To consider and approve the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2024:** Council agreed they were an accurate record.
- 7. Presentation by Chris Khan re Community resilience and Emergency Planning and approve the Risk Assessment for BERT (Beer Emergency Response Team) training and discuss who will be the volunteer Councillor/s for an emergency situation in Beer:** Chris thanked the Council for their time and introduced himself and Helena to Councillor who may have not met them before. The presentation covered the increase in episodes of flash flooding, most occur in the Summer, June, July & August. 500 properties in Devon were flooded last year. Land management is key and a lot of funds are being directed to towns and villages looking at how the water can be slowed down e.g. storage ponds, stone dams. The environment agency has been working with Clinton Estates to find ways to do this in Beer. Over the coming years hedges will be planted and the Environment Agency will work with schools and plant more trees, to increase soil absorbency. 120 communities in Devon have emergency

plans, this was the Government's reaction to the widespread flooding in 2012. In these cases, the emergency services could be deployed elsewhere so help may not always come in the event of a flood. Helena and another resident formed BERT in 2011 but due to changes within the Council it has progressed as it was hoped. In other villages the Parish Council look after the emergency plan, Helena has nearly completed this, but it needs some input from the Parish Council it can then be shared on the website so that people know where to go and what to do in an emergency situation. The plan is not just for flooding it could be any emergency, for example a lorry crash or a large fire. Chudleigh had to use their emergency plan when there was heavy snow, people became stranded and had to be looked after in the village hall. There are currently 22 members in the BERT community, they have a WhatsApp group which is a great way of communicating. Councils can receive £1700.00 in grants to buy equipment, BERT has already received £200.00 and would receive the remaining £1500.00 once the plan is completed. Devon Communities Together give grants annually for items that Councils may need, for example BERT bought high viz waistcoats for the volunteers. The plan should be designed so that residents can help themselves and vulnerable people in the community, residents have this knowledge already. It should contain phone numbers of local volunteers, useful numbers and local resources.

Helena will share the plan with the Clerk for circulation, once completed the Clerk can return to the environment agency and ask for the remaining grant money. The agency will help with promoting the plan (letter drops) review the plan and attend meetings.

Councillors raised concerns with Chris regarding blocked drains, the culvert and the pipe that goes under the beach, which is blocked as it was cut to short. SWW are pumping lots of fresh water out at the pumping station which is making the brook run higher than it ever has. Chris said he would follow up with DCC. Bovey lane has a water leak, SWW have cleared this but said that they are not liable for it, this water has nowhere to go. Chris said that he can sample the water. The Clerk will contact SWW and ask them to attend a meeting with Councillors.

Council thanked Chris & Helena for their time.

8. EDDC and DCC Cllrs: To receive reports/consider matters for the attention of EDDC/DCC Reps: There was no report from Cllr Hartnell.

Cllr Heath had sent his report prior to the meeting: Cllr Heath has raised a complaint regarding the parking at Duckies and has also arranged a site visit with the Revd Justin and Streetscene to discuss the re-wilding of the closed cemetery. Cllr Heath has also advocated for a resident who was homeless to be given the tenancy of the unoccupied flat in Beer.

Cllr Heath is also now an advocate for Devon & Cornwall Police.

Cllr K Stevens asked about the sleeper at the end of the track matting and the broken handrail on the Jubilee. The Clerk had contacted Streetscene regarding the broken handrail, there was a staffing issue but should be dealt with soon. Cllr Heath to chase up the sleeper. Cllr K Stevens also asked Cllr Heath if something could be done about the garages as they have become a real eyesore and are in a state of disrepair, she

raised concerns over health and safety for the local children, especially as they contain asbestos. Cllr Heath will raise this with cabinet.

9. Events & Promotions:

To receive an update on July's Beer Eats Event: sadly the event was cancelled due to the bad weather. The Saturday Bingo was very successful, and the Forum will hold another in Aug/Sept.

10. Financial report

- 10.1 To approve the monthly bank reconciliation to the end of June 24: Proposed Cllr M Richards seconded Cllr Heath resolved all in favour.**
- 10.2 To receive monthly Alpha software reports:** Council had no questions.
- 10.3 To approve the schedule of payments for July 2024: Proposed Cllr K Stevens, seconded Cllr M Richards, resolved all in favour.** The schedule and the invoices were then checked and initialled by the Chair.
- 10.4 To review the quarterly budget:** The Clerk/RFO had shared the report prior to the meeting, the budget was on track.
- 10.5 To formally adopt the new financial regulations:** The Clerk/RFO explained this document had been shared by DALC and was an updated version. Proposed Cllr Shobbrook, seconded Cllr J Heath, resolved all in favour.
- 10.6 To discuss a donation to Seaton & District Youth Club:** Cllr Heath updated Councillors on the progress made in setting up the group and it's plans for the future. Seaton Town Council are going to make a donation so it would be good if the Parish Councils could also support. Council looked at the donations budget line and saw no problem with a donation, Cllr Heath will approach Council again when the group has progressed with it's plans.

11. Policies & Procedures (all documents were circulated prior to the meeting)

- 11.1 Update on the Village Design Statement:** Cllr T Stevens will set up a working group.
- 11.2 To receive an update on the Gov.uk emails for all Councillors:** Cllr A Singh had kindly helped some Cllrs with this, 4 Cllrs had set up their emails, remaining Cllrs will complete this before the next meeting. Cllr Singh to help the Clerk to set up the Clerks email.
- 11.3 To receive an update on Cllr S Reeve's visit to the workmans store:** Cllr Reeve was unable to attend the meeting but shared a report via Cllr L Reeve, the HAV's had been completed, the workman had been shown how to complete his paperwork in the recording of equipment usage. A new fist aid kit, tray for storing petrol/chemicals and ear plugs have been bought. All recommendations from Streetscene have now been completed.
- 11.4 To review the Townsend Coach Park Terms of Reference:** The document was reviewed and no changes were made.
- 11.5 To review the Meadows Parking Bays Terms of Reference:** The document was reviewed and no changes were made.

12. Environment & Community Portfolio

12.1 To note the financial reports from the Mariners Hall Committee for 2023: Documents were circulated prior to the meeting and noted by Council.

12.2 To discuss Common Land and its proximity to the cliff: Cllr M Westlake and Cllr M Shobbrook had produced a document which had been shared with Cllrs via the Clerk. Cllrs raised concerns of a cliff fall which would result in Highways closing the road which would be disastrous for Beer. Large lorries which are too heavy use the road and Cllrs are concerned about the affect this will be having on the cliff. The Cliff is owned by Clinton Estates. Cllrs agreed that this needed pursuing with Clinton Estates, EDDC and DCC. Proposed Cllr T Stevens, seconded Cllr M Richards, resolved all in favour.

12.3 To discuss concerns from the school regarding occupancy of the playpark: One of the Cllrs had been contacted by a resident over concerns at the playpark. The clerk had contacted the school and spoken to the Head who said that they did not really have any concerns, they had followed their internal safeguarding procedures and to prevent anyone from talking to the children via the small bit of exposed fence they had covered this area. The Clerk had also spoken to the police in Honiton who confirmed that there had been no illegal activity and therefore any action would be a civil matter, but as they were aware of the situation they would inform the local community police team.

13. Correspondence – There were no queries/questions.

14. To note date on next Tabletop Sales: 31st August 2024 but Cllrs would be holding a Surgery at the Regatta Coffee morning on the 10th August 2024

18. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th September 2024.

Signed: Cllr M Richards

Date: