

Beer Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting was held on **Wednesday 14th May 2025**, copies of minutes and reports are available on request.

Present:	Cllr T Stevens	Cllr M Shobbrook
	Cllr K Stevens	Cllr M Westlake
	Cllr S Whitelock	Cllr S Reeve
	Cllr M Shobbrook	Cllr L Reeve
	Cllr C Thompson	

Minutes were taken by the Clerk: Mrs Nicky Ingarfield

- 1. Election of the Chair as the first formal business of the meeting:** Cllr M Richards had withdrawn his resignation, Council discussed the wealth of knowledge and experience that Cllr Richards has and unanimously decided that it would be a huge loss to the Council if Cllr Richards was not re-elected as Chair – Proposed Cllr M Westlake, seconded Cllr K Stevens, resolved all in favour.
- 2. To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from the Chairman:** As Cllr Richards was unable to attend the meeting this will be carried forward to the next meeting.
- 3. Election of the Vice-Chair:** Council agreed to re-elect Cllr T Stevens as Vice-Chair, proposed Cllr K Stevens, seconded Cllr M Shobbrook, resolved all in favour.
- 4. To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from the Vice-Chair:** The document was signed by Cllr T Stevens and the Clerk.
- 5. Apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr M Richards: personal reasons, Cllr J Heath: EDDC meeting, Cllr C Thompson: Holiday.
- 6. 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 declared.
- 7. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded:** None were declared.
- 8. Public Participation:** There were no public present.
- 9. To consider and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th April 2025:** The minutes were approved and agreed.
- 10. Organisational Structure:**
 - 10.1 Committee Structure: to agree structure, Chair and membership of the Planning and Finance & General-Purpose Committees:** Cllr T Stevens to remain as Chair of Planning,

Cllr M Richards to remain as Chair of Finance and General-Purpose Committees.
Proposed Cllr K Stevens, seconded Cllr M Shobbrook, resolved all in favour.

10.2 Portfolio Structure: to agree structure, lead members and membership of the Events & Promotions, Assets & Property and Environment & Community Portfolios: Council discussed whether these portfolios were still required as all are discussed as part of the Full Council meetings where decisions are made, Cllr M Westlake proposed no longer having these as separate portfolios, this decision was seconded by Cllr K Stevens, resolved all in favour.

10.3 To review the Environment and Community Portfolio documents: no longer applicable

10.4 To adopt the Standing orders updated by DALC: Proposed Cllr S Reeve, seconded Cllr M Shobbrook, resolved all in favour.

10.5 To note the Clerks report on adopting The Power of Competence and agree whether to adopt the power: Proposed Cllr M Shobbrook, seconded Cllr C Thompson, Council resolved all in favour to adopt The Power of Competence.

11. Review of Register of Member's Interests: There were no changes declared.

12. EDDC and DCC Cllrs: to discuss reports already submitted and consider matters for the attention of EDDC/DCC Reps: There was no report from the EDDC Councillor, the report from the DCC rep was shared at the Annual Parish Meeting.

13. Police: No questions or concerns

14. Environment and Community:

14.1 To discuss the removal of the disabled parking bay opposite Woozies Deli: Clerk to contact DCC to see if this can be removed, the bay causes issues with buses and other large vehicles turning in to Dolphin Road, Council would like to request 'No Parking at anytime' signs.

14.2 To discuss whether to take the proposed road changes on Common Lane to the Community: Council discussed whether to take this to the community but as DCC have rejected the proposal and it would cost money to take it to public consultation Councillors felt it would be a waste of precept funds to do this at this stage. If DCC decide that they will look at the proposal that will be the time to take to public consultation. Cllr Thompson would like a Geological Survey to be undertaken, Cllr Shobbrook will write a letter for the Clerk to send to Clinton Estates to see if they will offer more support and, in that communication, ask if they will fund a Geological Survey.

14.3 To discuss the response to DCC's email regarding Common Lane: This was covered in 14.2 above the Council will seek support from Clintons and re-visit once the letter is agreed/sent and a response received.

14.4 To discuss the further communication regarding the Repurposing of the Old Chapel: Councillors all agreed they would like to see the building saved and will attend the upcoming meeting at the Old Chapel, the building will remain a consecrated building, it has no water, electric or drainage, but everyone agreed the Parish Council should be involved in the talks.

15. Events and Promotions

15.1 To receive an update on the first Beer Eats of the summer season: The event went very well, the weather was incredibly good, one slight problem was no vegetation option. Council still expressed concerns about the pizza oven which does not have a barrier, Clerk to follow up.

15.2 To receive an update on the VE Day celebrations: Everyone present agreed it was a brilliant day and was a great success.

16. Financial report

16.1 To approve the monthly bank reconciliations to the end of April 2025: Approved.

16.2 To receive monthly Alpha software reports for April 2025: noted with no questions.

16.3 To approve the schedule of payments for May 2025 (please note this may be subject to change up to the day of the meeting) All invoices were checked and signed by the Vice-Chair and approved for payment.

16.4 To receive an update on the year end audit and AGAR report: All reports and the internal audit will be ready for the June meeting.

16.5 To discuss and approve the purchase of road closure signs: New signs are needed, the Council will purchase these, proposed Cllr M Westlake, seconded Cllr K Stevens, resolved all in favour.

17. Correspondence – See word document for full list of correspondence.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9th July 2025

Signed

Date