

## **Beer Parish Council**

The Parish Council Meeting was held on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025**, copies of minutes and reports are available on request.

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Cllr M Richards</b>	<b>Cllr M Shobbrook</b>
	<b>Cllr T Stevens</b>	<b>Cllr M Westlake</b>
	<b>Cllr S Whitelock</b>	<b>Cllr S Reeve</b>
	<b>Cllr M Shobbrook</b>	<b>Cllr C Thompson</b>
	<b>Cllr J Heath</b>	<b>Cllr P Arnott (DCC Councillor)</b>

**Minutes were taken by the Clerk: Mrs Nicky Ingarfield**

- 1. To receive the declaration of acceptance of office and register or interests from Cllr Martin Richards to re-instate his position of Chair** – Proposed Cllr T Stevens, seconded Cllr M Shobbrook, resolved all in favour.
- 2. Apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr K Stevens & Cllr L Reeve, holiday
- 3. 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.
- 4. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded:** None were declared.
- 5. Public Participation:** There were no public present.
- 6. Police:** Cllrs have previously been sent the link to the police website, no questions.
- 7. To consider and approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council Annual Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025:** Both sets of minutes were approved and agreed.
- 8. EDDC and DCC Cllrs: to discuss reports already submitted and consider matters for the attention of EDDC/DCC Reps:** Cllr Heath has contacted EDDC regarding the empty houses at West Underleys, both have subsidence but have been sent for tender to be renovated. A family house in Branscombe has also become available and Cllr Heath is advocating for a local family to be give priority. Cllr Heath has put in a Freedom of Information request regarding Peazen Flats so hopes to have more of an idea of the situation at the next meeting. A sink hole has appeared in Branscombe, as buses cannot reach residents DCC are paying for taxis to enable residents to get to appointments etc. There is an extraordinary cabinet meeting next week regarding the project to protect Seaton Hole from further coastal erosion. Cllr Arnott is meeting with the Primary School next week and an officer who is charge of the scheme to install parking restrictions to try and move this forward. Cllr Arnott has joined the cabinet for Local Government re-organisation, this will involve attending meetings in London, where discussions around SWW will take place, SWW need to be held

accountable for the issues in the area. They are the only water companies who were not told to give bonuses this year, one of the issues with SWW is that they work on a 5 year investment plan, this means that some works take years to be considered, they need to have reactive planning and be allowed to make plans annually not in a 5 year cycle . There was a forum which was running before COVID and this needs to be re-activated. Cllr Arnott's aim is to reduce pollution; this will tie in with devolution as issues must be resolved before a handover. The Secretary of State needs to step in with this issue. Cllrs raised the poor state of the road at Court Barton, Cllr Arnott asked the Clerk to send him any information on this and he will follow up.

## **9. Financial Reports**

**9.1: To approve the monthly bank reconciliations to the end of May 2025:** Approved

**9.2: To receive monthly Alpha software reports for May 2025:** There were no questions.

**9.3: To approve the schedule of payments for June 2025 (please note this may be subject to change up to the day of the meeting). Where the certification of invoices is done as a batch, this shall include a statement by the RFO that all invoices listed have been 'examined, verified and certified' by the RFO. All invoices to be checked and initialled by the Chairman:** Payments were approved and each invoice checked and initialled by the Chair.

**9.4: To note the provision of the exercise of public rights:** Noted.

**9.5: To note the internal auditors report:** Noted, there were no questions on the report.

**9.6: To approve and sign the Annual Return Form for submission to the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn:** Approved Cllr M Shobbrook, seconded Cllr Heath, resolved all in favour, the AGAR was signed by the Chair and RO.

**9.7: To note the explanation of differences and bank reconciliation pro-forma for submission to PKF Littlejohn:** Noted no questions.

## **10. Environment and Community:**

**10.1: To receive an update on the Common Lane Pedestrianisation, and agree on the communication to be sent to Clinton Estates:** Cllr Whitelock has joined Cllrs Westlake and Shobbrook in looking at this issue, he has been looking into the geology of the area and will write up his investigations and share with Cllrs. A draft letter for Clinton Estates was shared with Council prior to the meeting, Cllrs agreed to send the letter to Clintons asking for their input and support.

**10.2: To receive an update from Cllr Heath on the Coach Tourism:** Cllr Heath will contact Dale and get an update as the coach firms are saying that the square is too small for coaches to turn around, they would have to drop at the coach park, this makes it unlikely that Beer would receive Coach Friendly Status.

**10.3: To agree a response to the email regarding Broadband:** The closing date was the Friday prior to this meeting therefore the Clerk responded by stating that broadband was still on copper from the box and therefore coverage was not great in the village.

**10.4: To receive an update on the Old Chapel, Beer:** Cllr Whitelock has taken on the role of Project Manager, he has produced a plan which will be shared at the next Old Chapel meeting. Concerns are around the roof, he is looking for a team who would be willing to work on a temporary repair, he will be contacting scaffolding firms to see if they would put scaffold up for free. Cllr Whitelock is also looking into ways of creating funds.

**10.5: To discuss the electricity substation fence at Townsend Coachpark:** Council asked the Clerk to enquire at the Land Registry to confirm ownership.

**10.6: To discuss the village website:** The village website is dated and not user friendly, Council agreed that it needs updating, Clerk to look at alternatives. Proposed Cllr M

Shobbrook, seconded Cllr C Thompson, resolved all in favour.

**10.7: To discuss the Devon Communities Together email re affordable housing:** Council asked the Clerk to pass the email to Beer CLT.

**11.BERT: To discuss and agree the Beer Emergency Plan and proposed expenditure:** Cllr Thompson has received feedback with some small comments and changes which have now been added to the document, Council discussed the possibility of having a specific mobile phone, but after discussion it was felt people would call 999 so it was not required. Cllrs agreed that the final plan should now be submitted.

**12.To produce a rota for Councillors to attend the Horticultural Tabletop Sale:** Cllrs agreed to attend every other month from 9.30am to 11am, the dates of the Council Surgeries will be shared on Facebook, Cllr Heath will attend on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August and Cllrs Westlake and Whitelock will attend the one on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

**13.To receive an update on the Mariners Hall delegation of authority:** Two Cllrs will meet with several of the members of the Committee and work on the delegation in small chunks. Cllr Stevens has raised a concern that as Trustees of The Mariners, they can only attend meetings as observers.

It was clarified again that the Bar is a separate entity to the Mariners Hall, as it is a business, not a charity. The Mariners Hall will have a page under the new Village Website, once it is up and running, the GDPR documents are already in place so they can be uploaded on their page.

**14.To receive an update on the Asset Transfer if any response received:** No updates.

**15. Correspondence** – There were no questions.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Signed .....**

**Date .....**