

BEER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on **Wednesday 11th MAY, 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), Marcus Hartnoll (DCC) and 19 members of the public.

- 1. Apologies accepted by the Council:** Cllr. J Green (family commitments)
- 2. Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman of the Council:** Cllr Pook, the Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining the purpose of the meeting.
- 3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6 April 2021:** Minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2021 were approved.
- 4. Open Forum:** There were 3 members of the public who wished to speak.

A member of the public asked if the design poster, displayed on the Jubilee that featured new layouts for the play park and other areas, was already agreed or proposed and if it was still possible to contact the consultants with further ideas. The Chair informed it was intended to initiate ideas, interest and response and that although the cut-off for returning online consultation forms had past, they could always email the consultants (Hemmingway Design), who were currently at the analysing process. Next stage, the consultants will give a presentation of the results to a PC meeting, at which the public are always welcome to attend.

A member of the local branch of the Royal British Legion wished to respond in relation to the Memorial Avenue (Asset Transfer lease issue) and alert the PC of their intention to seek national legal representation to gain answers to their questions relating to the 'peppercorn rent', which they will then bring forward to the PC and/or EDDC (adding they have not been in touch with EDDC, contrary to the Chairman's letter). Additionally, they requested to liaise with Cllr M Graham over the tree planting in order to sort the plaque. The Chair accepted the misunderstanding that it was in fact the 2014 group that had been in touch with EDDC over this matter. He clarified that if Memorial Ave stays with EDDC then they will make arrangements for the RBL to take it on, but if it goes to the PC, then the lease requires that it's let to the RBL at a peppercorn rent, which used to be a pepper corn. The RBL would like a figure on this.

A member of the public asked about the alterations to the toilets and whether they would be made bigger or smaller, as he felt they were not adequate now. The Chair stated that if EDDC keep the toilets, they have identified them as category A and although nothing set in stone, they will be altered to make them easier to maintain and more efficient use of space. If it becomes a PC responsibility, for any renovation work, they will go out to design with proper assessments carried out. Either way, the toilets will be improved.

5. Reports:

Police - The Clerk reported on the latest figures available (March 2022) from police.uk as being 15 reported crimes for Seaton rural and 12 for Seaton itself. Of these figures, just 1 report of crime came from Beer.

Parish Council - report previously circulated to Cllrs. and included the following:

The Chair thanked the following councillors who resigned during the year, for their work: *Andy Cobbold, Jess Boulton, Poppy Greig and Lee Reeve.*

The Parish Council has expenses of approx. £42,000 per annum with income of approx. £42,000, thus running a balanced budget. In addition, the council can receive grants, S106/CIL for projects. Current precept is £25,335 (2022/23) an increase of 5% (£38.04 per band D household). There are reserves of £65,000 and the Council employs three staff: the Clerk @ 12hrs per wk (budgeted for up to 15hrs); Events Coordinator @ 5hrs per wk; Village Workman @ 37.5hrs per wk.

Ongoing projects include: Traffic and transportation study, Kayak store on the beach, Footpath signage, Additional public seats and the Asset Transfer.

Lastly, Annie Dallaway, Beer's Clerk for the last twelve years, marking the end of an era with her departure. The Chair thanked Annie for all her hard work over the years and the fantastic work she has done of keeping the PC on the straight and narrow.

The Chair welcomed the new Clerk and thanked current staff and councillors for their work.

Devon County Council - report previously circulated to Cllrs. Cllr M Hartnoll was present at the meeting and willing to take any questions on his report. There were none.

East Devon County Council - report previously circulated to Cllrs. The Chair reported that Covid continued to have a great impact on EDDC. They were still conducting meetings remotely and at a recent meeting, it was voted that this should continue, with powers being delegated to a senior officer to carry out Cllrs recommendations from these consultative meetings. He added it was unlikely this would change for the foreseeable.

EDDC expenditure is approx. £16.5million per annum, with council tax set at £156 for a Band D property. They have also been administering Covid grants with some £80million having been processed to date (business and direct grants).

EDDC has one of the best waste services in the country, but recent problems have been down to staff shortages, in part due to Covid. EDDC are also pursuing a greener agenda, with much work going into environmental projects.

6. Annual report and Treasurer’s report from Mariner’s Hall Committee:
- report previously circulated to Cllrs. The Clerk read the report and highlights include completion of internal refurbishment and redecoration of the hall, new low energy lighting and an Audio-Visual system to compliment the new large size screen and digital projector for presentations and Film Clubs.

For the year Jan-Dec 2021, finances stood at: Total Income £12,774.33; Total Expense £20,267.20; Total other income (grants etc) £16,097.00 with a Profit for the Year of £8,108.13.

7. Annual report and accounts from Baroness Rolle Welfare Trust: Copies of the accounts for year ending 31 December 2021 circulated. The Baroness Rolle Welfare Trust exists to support those in need in the Parish. Accounts indicate payments totalling £1,210.24 made during that year. The PC will nominate a representative for the Baroness Rolle Welfare Trust.

Before closing the meeting, Cllr Pook announced his intention to resign as Chair due to leaving the village in the summer. Although he will stay on as Cllr, he took this opportunity to address everyone for the last time in his current capacity. He went on to outline his reasons for becoming a Councillor commencing 2011 and the desire to make a difference to Beer, creating a positive impact. He was proud to have played apart in encouraging younger people to join a more responsible and proactive Council. With regards to the Asset Transfer proposal and the benefits this potentially will bring to the community, he hoped that by stepping back from direct negotiations, the tensions between both sides can improve and progress can be made in a more positive and collaborative way. The Chair expressed his dismay at the lack of support in him personally by some quarters, and emphasised that his intentions have only ever been to get the best possible outcome for Beer, both as EDDC councillor and Chair of the PC.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.05pm.
The Annual Parish Meeting was followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

DATE:.....

CHAIRMAN:.....