

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 20th January 2014

1581 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr. C Dale, Mr. A Davies, Mr. G Harvey, Mrs. S Prideaux, Mr. A Reed, Ms J Wright

Public: Cllr. Steele (SSDC), Cllr Yeomans (SCC), one parishioner

Apologies: Mr. B Burrough

In the absence of Mr. Burrough, Mr. Harvey chaired the meeting.

1582 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

1583 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 18th November 2013 were approved and signed.

1584 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- **Parish Domesday Book**

Mr Davies reported that the project should be completed shortly.

1585 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

The matter of Planning Application 14/00106/FUL was raised. The parishioner was advised that a meeting would be arranged to discuss the application at which parishioners would be welcome to comment on the proposed plans. Comments could also be forwarded to Mr Davies prior to the meeting. The parishioner was also encouraged to submit comments directly to the Planning Officer.

1586 MATTERS OF REPORT

- **Footpaths**

Following concern over the bridge on Footpath L5/1, the Rights of Way Officer will make a visit to assess the state of the bridge and discuss the matter with the landowner if it has deteriorated.

Mr Harvey reported that a parishioner had reported a problem with gates not shutting properly on Footpath L5/16 and after consultation with Les Braunton, this problem has now been rectified.

- **Highway matters**

The culvert at the end of Broadmead needs clearing and although Mr McWilliams (Highways engineer) is aware of the problem there are no funds available until 1st April. Mr Harvey will update the Parish Council at its next meeting.

A large pothole has appeared at Radigan Ford, exposing reinforcement rods. This defect has been reported and will be repaired within the next month.

Mr Davies reported that 5 large logs were impeding the flow of water at the southern arc of Broad Bridge. Mr Dale will remove these once the water levels have subsided.

1587 TO AGREE BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2014/15

Following a meeting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk, a proposed budget was presented to the meeting.

Expenditure of £1135 was forecast for 2014/15 and it was proposed that a precept of £1150 be levied. In addition the Parish Council will receive a Council Tax Support grant of £50.00.

Mr Dale proposed that the Parish Council approve this budget and the proposal was seconded by Mr Davies.

All councillors present were in favour, and it was therefore **resolved to** levy a precept of **£1150 for 2014/15**.

1588 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

a.	Clerk's salary	£ 88.34
b.	CMBCVH – Insurance grant	£100.00
c.	Beercrocombe PCC	£100.00
d.	Curry Mallet PC- Contribution to Beer & Curry printing costs	£ 32.15

The Parish Council approved these payments

1589 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- **Invitation from Hatch Beauchamp PC to attend presentation by Sue Mountstevens, Police & Crime Commissioner.**

Hatch Beauchamp PC has arranged for Sue Mountstevens Police & Crime Commissioner to give a presentation on Wednesday 26th March at Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall, commencing at 7pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

1590 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 17th March 2014 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 17th March 2014

1591 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr. B. Burrough, Mr. C Dale, Mr. A Davies, Mr. G Harvey, Mrs. S Prideaux, Mr. A Reed,

Public: Cllr. Steele (SSDC), Cllr Yeomans (SCC), PCSO Ross

Apologies: Ms. J Wright.

1592 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

1593 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 20th January 2014 were approved and signed.

1594 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- **Parish Doomsday Book**

Mr Davies reported that the project will be completed shortly and should be ready for the next meeting

1595 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

PCSO Ross reported that the area remained relatively crime free and that any rural crime occurring tended to be thefts from outbuildings. He reminded parishioners to regularly check (at least weekly) their outbuildings so that any thefts may be swiftly reported.

There were no other matters raised.

1596 MATTERS OF REPORT

- **Footpaths**

Following concern over the bridge on Footpath L5/1, the Rights of Way Officer has not yet visited due to problems with flooding taking priority, but hopes to do so shortly.

A gate post on Footpath L5/16 has collapsed and Les Braunton has been notified.

- **Highway matters**

The culvert at the end of Broadmead has been partially cleared by a contractor and as a result is running at about 25% capacity. The culvert still requires jetting by Highways and it is hoped that this will be carried out in due course.

The logs impeding the flow of water at Broad Bridge have been cleared.

The development at Manor Farm is due to be completed by the end of April and the developer will contact Highways with regard to the repair of the verge.

Mrs Prideaux reported that the hedge bordering the piece of former Glebe Land has become very overgrown and needs cutting.

- **Planning**

Planning permission has been granted for Application 14/00106/FUL, Erection of an agricultural building for machinery and storage of dry fodder at Manor Farm.

One of the conditions attached to the permission is that the building shall not be used to accommodate or hold livestock.

The Parish Council had supported this application.

1597 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

e.	Clerk's salary	£ 88.34
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The Parish Council approved this payment.

1598 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- **SALC Area Meeting – 31st March 2014**

The next area meeting of SALC will take place on 31st March 2014 at West Camel Village Hall. No Councillor is able to attend.

- **Data Protection training session**

The Clerk reported that a free training session on Data Protection has been arranged by South Somerset District Council that she will be attending.

1599 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 19th May 2014.

The Annual Parish Meeting will also be on that date.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish held at Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 19th May 2014

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr. C Dale, Mr. A Davies, Mr. G Harvey, Mr. A Reed, Ms. J. Wright.

Public: Cllr. Steele (SSDC),

Apologies: Mr. B Burrough, Mrs. S Prideaux, Cllr Yeomans (SCC)

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2013 were received and approved.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

In the absence of Mr. Burrough, the Chairman, Mr. Harvey read the attached report.

REPORTS FROM PARISH INTEREST GROUPS

Police

Unfortunately the PCSO was unable to attend but Cllr Steele reported to the meeting that she had met the new Beat Sergeant, Dean Hamilton, at Somerton Police station. She also informed the meeting that it is likely that the Police station at Somerton will be closing and that the police presence will be based at Edgar Hall.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr. Reed had little to report, being a reflection on the low levels of crime in the area. However there had been 2 incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour, where the telephone lines to a property had been cut on two occasions. There has been no repeat of this instance.

The shed at the rear of the church has also been broken into, but no items were taken. It is believed that the culprits were looking for power tools and electrical items.

Roads and Footpaths

Mr Harvey delivered his report on roads and footpaths, which is attached.

Beer & Curry Takeaway

Ms Wright reported that this publication continues to be well received and thanked the Parish Council for its support with the printing costs. There has been a change of personnel on the committee and a slight change in publication dates. The magazine will in future be produced in September, December, March and June.

Village Hall Report

The Village Hall has had another successful year and is running at almost maximum capacity. The refurbishment programme continues and has included the replacement of the round window and repairs to the car park. The Village Hall committee organized two musical events, both of which were sold out, and the annual summer fete will be held on Saturday 12th July.

Village Trust

Mr. Davies gave a report on the Village Trust. The accounts to the year ended 23/12/2013 show a surplus of £859 for the year, as a result of income of £1514 and expenditure of only £655. Only 2 grants were made, both for £300, to the Village Hall and to Beercrocombe PCC. Investments currently stand at £42720.

At the last AGM, Mrs. Prideaux retired, having been a trustee since 1978 and chairman from 1981 until 2012. The success of the Trust over that period has been in no small part due to her dedication and enthusiasm. The village and local organisations have many reasons to be thankful to her for her leadership over such a long period. She was replaced by Suzanne Dibble.

Mr. Davies outlined how the Trustees were elected, as there had been some criticism in the village.

The body of Trustees is laid down in the Trust Deed and comprises:

One ex-officio Trustee (the Rector).

2 nominated Trustees (one by the Parish Council, one by the PCC)

2 co-opted Trustees (co-opted by the existing Trustees)

All trustees are elected for a term of between 3 & 5 years

The current Trustees are: Paul Reynolds, Tony Davies, Jill McLeod, Anne Eminson and Suzanne Dibble.

Questions from Parishioners

The issue of fast rural broadband was raised, as a new 'green box' has been installed in Curry Mallet. This should be active by the end of the year and should result in higher broadband speeds. Formal notification from BT will be issued to those properties benefitting from the increased speeds, once the service becomes available.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 19th MAY 2014

Firstly, I thank our Vice-Chairman, Graham Harvey, for Chairing the 2 meetings this evening, including reading out this report and, secondly, my personal apologies for being absent this evening.

On the whole, the Parish Council has had a very quiet year with only one planning application and no major projects or events.

The planning application was to erect a second dry fodder and machine barn next to the new existing barn behind the Manor Farm bungalows. The trade-off for the parish would be that the planned farm building complex next to the old canal would not be built, thus retaining most of the field as cultivated land. The Parish Council concluded that the trade-off represented an overall improvement for the parish, although it appreciated that for the residents neighbouring the new barn that improvement would not necessarily be felt.

Last May I reported that the very wet winter prompted me to discuss with our landowners their riparian responsibilities to maintain the ditches and streams that flow through our parish. I also reported that their response was very positive and community minded. During the summer land owners did indeed clear out most of the ditches and streams so the parish was well prepared for our past very wet winter. However, the intensity and persistence of the winter rain did cause considerable flash flooding at Radigan Ford, Broadbridge Bridge, Broadmeade Road, Elm Bridge and at Halfway House. Although no properties were flooded our roads and lanes were often impassable. The poor state of road drainage - the gullies, the culverts and the pipes into which they drain – exacerbates the problem. Indeed, a blocked culvert turned Broadmeade Road into a running stream for many weeks, which had the knock-on effect of undermining the road surface in several places. The problems were reported to Somerset Highways on several occasions and although, understandably, priorities during the winter were elsewhere, we hope that during the coming months these outstanding jobs will be undertaken.

Fortunately, Graham, looks after our roads and footpaths with great dedication and has developed good relations with both Somerset Highways and the Somerset Rights of Way Team. Although there are always issues for the Parish Council to deal with, our roads and footpaths are in the main in reasonable condition.

The Village Green remains looking smart and I thank the team of volunteers who mow the area and keep it looking neat and tidy. The blue lias kerbing, which was installed by the Parish Council nearly a decade ago, has proved invaluable in protecting the Green from traffic and it is pleasing to see this part of the village looking so good come summer and winter.

As at the 31st March our financial balance was £1,658, some £191 higher than the previous year as a result of reduced expenditure in several areas. Our precept remains at £1,150, giving one of the lowest rates within the District. I thank our Clerk, Gillian, for keeping the accounts in very good order and I would also like to thank Gillian for carrying out all her other Clerk duties so responsibly and efficiently.

I would also like to thank our District Councillor, Sue Steele, and our County Councillor, Derek Yeomans, for their continued support and advice over the past year.

Finally I wish to thank all the Councillors for giving up their time to help the parish prosper. Although the past year has been unusually quiet much is because our Parish Councillors have kept on top of their individual responsibilities and those issues that have arisen have been dealt with efficiently and pragmatically.

Thank you.

Bob Burrough

GRAHAM HARVEY ROADS AND FOOTPATHS OFFICER REPORT 19TH MAY 2014.

As mentioned in the chairman's report the winter was exceptionally wet with a large amount of flash flooding on the roads around the parish. However having walked the parish roads yesterday it is remarkable how things have recovered with the assistance of the highways authority. Generally the road surfaces are in reasonable order considering the pounding they received in the winter. I would like to mention one or two issues that remain outstanding and hopefully will be done before next winter.

The Culvert on the boundary of the Parish in Broadmead Road which has been mentioned before will be jetted before the winter sets in again. Water does flow but very slowly through the culvert and a jetter lorry will hopefully resolve the flow.

The repairs to the road surface outside the new barns in Beer Street will be completed within 3 months of the 1st April. I had a meeting with Neil Mc Williams and he has issued an order for the work to be carried out by an authorised contractor. I have asked him if the contractor at the same time can repair a hole on the bend opposite Mushroom Farm in Beer Street which has been damaged by the flow of water in the winter and heavy traffic going round the bend.

The issue of the bridge on footpath L5/1 opposite Paul's Farm still remains outstanding and having emailed Rachel Pearce SCC officer I received a reply on Friday to say she is still working through a pile of issues in regard to bridges in Somerset and hopes to get to it in June or July. I will continue to keep an eye on this matter.

Finally all the designated footpaths within the village to be strimmed have been done by the Somerset CC contractor. Unfortunately the most used footpath in the village L5/13 from Beer Street to Half Way House is only cut for a short distance. I have strimmed the rest of the footpath which took about 3 hours and 3 tanks of my strimmer. The footpath was difficult to be walked due to the height of the grass and foliage and extremely wet after rain or a heavy dew the previous night.

A big thank you to the farmer who has cut a path through the crop on footpath L5/14 from Beer Street to the Church. This footpath again is regularly used by residents of the village. On footpath L5/16 a gate post holding the gate has broken and this was reported to Les Braughton who has inspected it and agreed for a contractor to replace the post. This remains outstanding. The locking systems to the other gates on this footpath have been adjusted and gates shut behind you.

I have no further matters to report.

Graham Harvey

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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1600 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr. C Dale, Mr. A Davies, Mr. G Harvey, Mr. A Reed, Ms. J. Wright.

Public: Cllr. Steele (SSDC),

Apologies: Mr. B Burrough, Mrs. S Prideaux, Cllr Yeomans (SCC)

1600 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. R Burrough was elected as Chairman, having been proposed by Mr. C Dale, and seconded by Mr. A Reed. There were no other nominations. In the absence of Mr. Burrough, Mr. Harvey acted as Chairman for the meeting.

1601 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. G Harvey was elected as Vice-Chairman, having been proposed by Mr. C Dale and seconded by Mr. A Reed. There were no other nominations.

1602 ALLOCATION OF MEMBERS' ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities were agreed and allocated as follows:-

Neighbourhood Watch – Mr. A Reed

Village Hall Representative – Mr. C Dale

Highways and Footpaths – Mr. G Harvey

Planning – Mr. A Davies. The Planning Working Party will consist of Mr. Davies, Mrs. Prideaux and Mr. Reed.

Community Communication Representative – Ms. J. Wright

The post of Tree Warden remains vacant and it was proposed that Mrs. S Prideaux fills this position, subject to her acceptance.

1603 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

1604 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 17th March 2014 were approved and signed.

1605 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

1606 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

There were no matters raised.

1607 MATTERS OF REPORT

- **Footpaths**

The issue of the bridge on Footpath L5/1 has not yet been resolved, but the Rights of Way Officer hopes to attend to the matter during the summer. SCC has strimmed all the footpaths that are designated to be strimmed and Mr Harvey has strimmed the path leading from Mushroom Farm to Halfway House. It was **resolved** that Mr Harvey should receive £10 as reimbursement of his costs.

A path has been cut through the crop on Footpath L5/14 to aid access.

- f. **Highway matters**

The culvert at Broadmead will be jettied by winter.

The damage to the verges by the Manor Farm development will be repaired by Highways within three months. A hole has developed in the road opposite Mushroom Farm and it is hoped that this will be repaired at the same time.

- g. **Parish Domesday Book**

The Parish Register has now been updated and will be held in the Village Archive, situated at the Church.

As previously agreed, Mr Davies has paid a sum of £20.00 for the work to be completed and it was **resolved** that Mr Davies should be reimbursed for this amount.

The whereabouts of archived PC information will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

1608 TO APPROVE ANNUAL REPORT AND RECEIVE INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

The Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March 2014 were circulated prior to the meeting. There was a surplus of £191, as a result of reduced expenditure in several areas and part of this will be used to recoup the cost of the grant made to the Village Hall in the previous year. The reserves stand at £1,658.

It was **resolved** to agree the Annual Return and the Annual Governance statement, which will now be forwarded to the External Auditor.

The Council also received the internal auditors report. This confirms that all procedures have been handled correctly and all minuted items involving risk have been handled expeditiously. A VAT payment of £10 still needs to be reclaimed.

It was **resolved** to approve the Internal Audit report.

1609 TO CONFIRM THE COUNCIL'S INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

It was **resolved** to renew the Council's insurance through Community First at a renewal premium of £182.81

1610 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

It was **resolved** to make the following payments:

a. Clerk's salary	£ 88.34
b. Internal Audit Fee	£ 20.00
c. Community First	£ 182.81
d. SALC	£ 35.80
e. Mr A Davies	£ 20.00
f. Mr G Harvey	£ 10.00

1611 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

No correspondence has been received.

1612 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 21st July 2014 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8pm

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 21st July 2014

1613 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr. B. Burrough, Mr. C Dale, Mr. A Davies, Mr. G Harvey, Mrs. S Prideaux, Mr. A Reed,

Public: Cllr Yeomans (SCC), one parishioner

Apologies: Cllr S Steele (SSDC).

1614 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

1615 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 19th May 2014 were approved and signed.

1616 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- **Role of Parish Tree Warden (currently vacant).**

Mr Davies reported that Mrs Liz Davies had offered to resume the role as Parish Tree Warden. Her offer was gratefully accepted by the Council.

- **Parish Archives**

The Chairman confirmed that he held all the old documents relating to the Parish Council. He will endeavour to sift through the paperwork with a view to destroying material no longer relevant. It was suggested that old minute books could be deposited at the Somerset Heritage Centre for safekeeping.

Mr Davies confirmed that the updated record of the Parish Council members is now in the vestry of St James' Church.

1616 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

The parishioner present brought to the Council's attention the issue of noise caused by large agricultural vehicles travelling at inappropriate speeds. During the silaging season, he had been particularly disturbed by a steady stream of vehicles travelling through the village until approx. 1.30am. Whilst the Council accepted that farmers needed to work long hours at certain times of the year, it considered that the excessive speed at which the vehicles were driven contributed to the unacceptable noise levels that occurred. The Chairman will speak to the farmer concerned about this and the general

matter of some tractor drivers driving at excessive speeds through our country lanes.

1617 MATTERS OF REPORT

- **Footpaths**

The gate post on Footpath L5/16 has been replaced.

- **Highway matters**

The damaged verges by the Manor farm development are still to be repaired and Mr Harvey has reminded Highways that the work is still outstanding.

1618 TO DISCUSS THE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN MONITORING PLANNING APPROVAL CONDITIONS

During the course of a new planning application at Manor Farm, it became apparent that certain planning conditions relating to a previous planning application had not been adhered to, but nevertheless, had been 'signed off' by SSDC. It appears that SSDC are unable to monitor the planning conditions in detail due to lack of resources, and the Parish Council discussed whether it would be in a position to take on this responsibility on an informal basis, particularly with planning applications of a sensitive or controversial nature.

After discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that on receipt of planning application approval, it would note any conditions relevant to the Parish Council's interest and review these conditions on a regular basis to ensure that they were met.

1619 TO DISCUSS THE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO REPEAL OF s150 (5) LGA 1972

The Parish Council discussed the repeal of s150 (5) LGA 1972 which has dispensed with the requirement that payments must be authorised by two signatories. This repeal will allow Parish Council's to undertake internet banking if they wish.

In view of the small number of financial transactions made by the Parish Council, it was **resolved** to continue with the present arrangement of payments being made by cheque, signed by two authorised members.

The Clerk advised the Council that following the repeal of s150 (5) LGA 1972, the Parish Council should review its financial regulations and it was agreed to do so at the September meeting.

1620 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

h.	Clerk's salary	£ 88.34
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The Parish Council approved this payment.

1621 TO DISCUSS THE PARISH'S NATURAL FLOOD DEFENCES

Mr Dale brought to the Council's attention a recent article that had appeared in the Beer & Curry Takeaway regarding flooding and the use of natural flood defences. He wished to highlight to the Council the importance of ensuring that any flood prevention work carried out does not cause unforeseen consequences occurring in other parts of the local area. For example, clearance of ditches may result in faster water flow to bottlenecks further along, which can cause flooding in areas not previously flooded.

The importance of using natural flood defences was also stressed; e.g. allowing fields to act as a natural overflow and sponge, rather than channelling the water towards properties.

The Parish Council took note of this information.

1622 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION AND ITEMS OF REPORT

- **New PCSOs**

Mr Reed advised that PCSO Ross was no longer covering the parish, and had been replaced by PCSOs Elaine Cave and Melissa Thompson.

- **Conclusion of External Audit**

The Clerk reported that the external audit had been completed and two minor points had been noted by the auditor. The Annual Report and Notice of Conclusion of Audit have been published on the Parish Noticeboard.

- **Increased printing costs for Beer & Curry Takeaway**

Ms Wright advised the Council that SSDC is no longer able to subsidise the printing costs of the Beer & Curry Takeaway, and the cost will now rise from £56 per run to £125 per run. Increased funding may be requested from the Parish Council. The matter will be fully discussed at a future meeting.

1623 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 15th September 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 15th September 2014

1624 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr. B. Burrough, Mr. A Davies, Mr. G Harvey, Mrs. S Prideaux, Mr. A Reed, Ms Wright

Public: Cllr Steele (SSDC), one parishioner

Apologies: Mr. C. Dale, Cllr Yeomans (SCC).

1625 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

1626 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 20th July 2014 were approved and signed.

1627 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- **Unacceptable noise from agricultural vehicles**

The Chairman had spoken to the farmer concerned, who apologised on behalf of the contractors. He will speak to the staff again, and remind them to drive carefully, and at appropriate speeds.

- **Parish Archives**

Mr Davies reported that the church at Beercrocombe had suffered a break-in, and although nothing was stolen, the chest containing the parish archives and the copy of the Domesday Book was badly damaged. The members debated whether the book should be moved to a more secure location, and it was agreed to review the matter at the next meeting, having established whether the chest is likely to be repaired.

The Parish Council will also consider at a future meeting the possibility of transferring the archives onto to computer so that a backup of records is available.

1628 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

There were no issues raised.

1629 MATTERS OF REPORT

- **Footpaths**

There has been no progress made with regard to the bridge at Radigan Lane. Mr Harvey continues to keep the matter under close review.

- **Highway matters**

The damaged verges by the Manor farm development and the culvert at Broadmead are scheduled to be repaired by the end of October.

- **Planning**

It has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that the milk churn stand at Manor farm should have been retained as part of the barn conversion development. The matter has been reported to the SSDC Planning Enforcement Officer.

1630 TO ADOPT FINANCIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

The Clerk advised the Council that it should have in place a set of current Financial Regulations.

In line with the model set of regulations available from SALC and SLCC, the Clerk has drawn up a new set of regulations. These were circulated to the members and it was **resolved** that the Parish Council adopt the regulations, proposed by Ms Wright and seconded by Mr Harvey.

1631 UPDATE ON INTRODUCTION OF FAST RURAL BROADBAND TO THE AREA.

Several members attended a presentation by the Connecting Devon & Somerset team, as the Hatch Beauchamp exchange is due to be upgraded shortly. The green cabinet serving the majority of the parish is situated on the top road leading to Curry Mallet and there is currently a delay in obtaining the necessary wayleaves to bring electricity to the cabinet. Once the cabinet has been enabled, parishioners within a 1km radius may be able to receive broadband speeds of up to 24Mbps.

1632 TO DISCUSS COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE PARISH.

Ms Wright advised the Council that Curry Mallet has recently launched a new website, containing information that would be useful to Beercrocombe parishioners. It was discussed whether the existing Beercrocombe website should be updated, although the Parish Council presently has no responsibility for this site. Ms Wright will research the possibilities available and report at a future meeting.

Mr Harvey queried whether the community noticeboard inside the bus shelter should be moved adjacent to the Parish Council noticeboard so that it is visible from the road. However as permission would be required from the district authorities for any change to its location, it was agreed that the noticeboard should remain where it is.

1633 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

a. Clerk's salary £ 88.34

The Parish Council approved this payment.

1634 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION AND ITEMS OF REPORT

• **Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014**

Mr Clerk advised that following the introduction of the 'Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014', members of the public now had the right to film public meetings and communicate via social media. As a result of this, the Council's standing orders will need to be revised and this will be fully discussed at a future meeting.

1635 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 17th November 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 17th November 2014

1636 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr. B. Burrough, Mr. C Dale, Mrs. S Prideaux, Mr. A Reed, Ms Wright

Public: Cllr Steele (SSDC), 2 members of the public

Apologies: Mr. A Davies, Mr. G Harvey, Cllr Yeomans (SCC).

1637 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

1638 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 15th September 2014 were approved and signed.

1639 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

1640 TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY MAGNA CARTA PROJECT

Marjorie Hookham, a member of the Curry Mallet Magna Carta Committee advised the Parish Council that as part of the Magna Carta celebrations, Curry Mallet Primary School were planning to produce a collage map of Curry Mallet and wished to include Beercrocombe. To complement the collage, a pictorial map is also being produced, which will be placed in a time capsule to be opened in 2115. Every household will be asked to supply an image of its property and if the Parish Council were in agreement, the Magna Carta Committee would contact each household to arrange this. The Parish Council warmly welcomed this initiative and agreed that it should support the project. Mr Dale offered to be the point of contact and will liaise with the Committee.

1641 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

There were no issues raised.

1642 MATTERS OF REPORT

- **Footpaths**

The bridge at Radigan Lane has been inspected and there has been no significant deterioration. SCC has placed the bridge on an annual inspection programme.

- **Highway matters**

The damaged verges by the Manor Farm development has still not been made good despite promises that the work would be completed by the end of October. The Chairman reported that Broadmead Road flooded after the recent rain. He will ascertain whether Somerset Highways has cleared the culvert at the western end and will ask the farmer to clear the ditch on the eastern end that drains Broadmead Road to the main river.

- **Planning**

The Parish Council considers that it may be entitled to S106 monies in respect of the Manor Farm development. The Chairman agreed to make enquiries of SSDC to ascertain whether any funds would be forthcoming.

- **Parish Archives**

The Chairman reported that the locked box in the vestry is now considered to be secure. He has obtained a list of Parish Council documents contained in the box, and the only item considered to be of value is the copy of the Domesday Book.

- **Feasibility study for Playground at Curry Mallet**

The Parish Council has received notification from Curry Mallet PC, that it is currently undertaking a feasibility study to consider the provision of a playground. Beercrocombe PC has been asked if it wishes the Parish to be included in a survey to be carried out as part of the study. After discussion, it was concluded that the requirement of Beercrocombe residents was minimal, bearing in mind the availability of play equipment in Hatch Beauchamp, and that Beercrocombe should not be included in the survey. Beercrocombe residents with children at Curry Mallet Primary School would be included in the survey separately.

1643 REVOCATION OF STANDING ORDER 1(m) FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014

In order to comply with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, which permits members of the public to film council meetings without permission, the Parish Council **agreed to revoke** Standing Order 1(m) which prohibits the filming of meetings without express permission.

1644 COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE PARISH

Ms Wright advised the Parish Council that new printers had been found for the Beer & Curry Takeaway at a slightly reduced cost, but that increased financial support from the Parish Council of approx. £120 would be required in future years. This request will be considered when the Parish Council discusses its precept requirement in the New Year.

Ms Wright has looked at the current Beercrocombe website and considers that it can be improved with some slight amendments. The Chairman will contact the website owner to seek access to the website for Ms Wright.

The Parish Council discussed whether it should set up its own website and it was agreed to discuss this option further at a future meeting.

1645 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

b.	Clerk's salary	£ 88.34
c.	Clerk's expenses	£ 20.00

The Parish Council approved these payments.

1646 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION AND ITEMS OF REPORT

- **Completion of Interim Internal Audit**

The Clerk advised that the internal auditor had carried out an interim internal audit and that no areas of risk had been identified.

- **Somerset Library Services Consultation**

SCC is currently carrying out a consultation exercise with regard to future alterations to some aspects of the library services. One proposal is to review the usage of the mobile library service and consider withdrawing the service from those areas where it is not required. The mobile library does stop in Beercrocombe and has 4 regular users. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the consultation stressing that the mobile library provided an important service to the Parish.

- **Provision of de-icing materials**

Somerset Highways are offering Parish Councils the opportunity to collect a supply of de-icing materials for winter use. As there is still a good supply of salt available from previous years, it was agreed that no further supplies are necessary.

1647 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 19th January 2015

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.