

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 9th May 2022

2134 Attendance and Apologies

Councillors: Mr. R. Burrough, Mr. G Harvey, Mr. A Plumbly, Mrs J. Mann

Public: Cllr M Stanton (SCC), two parishioners

Apologies: Mr.J Down

The Chairman welcomed Mike Stanton, the newly elected Councillor to Somerset County Council, to the meeting.

2135 Election of Chairman.

Mr Plumbly was nominated by Mr Burrough and seconded by Mr Harvey. Mr Plumbly accepted the nomination and the nomination was unanimously approved. Mr Plumbly signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2136 To co-opt Mr P Dibble and Mr M Rastrick to the Parish Council

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Dibble and Mr Rastrick to the Council. Both members signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and immediately participated in the meeting.

2137 Election of Vice-Chairman

Mrs J Mann was nominated as Vice-Chairman by Mr Burrough and seconded by Mr Harvey. Mrs Mann accepted the nomination which was unanimously approved.

2138 Allocation of Members' Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and Responsibilities were agreed and allocated as follows: -
Neighbourhood Watch – Mr. M. Rastrick
Village Hall Representative – Mr. A. Plumbly
Highways and Footpaths – Mr. G Harvey
Planning – Mr. R. Burrough.
Community Communication Representative – Mr R Burrough
Village Trust – Mr. G Harvey.
Website – Mr. R. Burrough

2139 Declarations of Interests

Members handed their completed Register Of Interests to the Clerk.
There were no Declarations of Interests in respect of the agenda items

2140 Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14th March 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2141 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

2142 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised

2143 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

Walkers have complained about the difficulty of crossing the Radigan Lane ford when the stream flooded. OS 1903 1:2500 Somerset County Series indicated a footpath crossed the stream about 20 yards upstream of the ford and continued through Pauls Farm before rejoining the lane at the bend before the bridge. Former owners of Pauls Farm confirmed that there was previously a bridge over the stream that was in neglect. Activating the old footpath through a Definitive Map Modification Order could be a solution. As this would impact on Pauls Farm Mr Burrough agreed to discuss the issue with the present owners in order to resolve the problem of crossing the ford when in flood.

- **Highway matters**

No further issues to report

- **Planning**

No new planning applications have been received.

- **A358 Update**

Members of the Parish Council will be attending the next National Highways Community Forum meeting on Tuesday 10th May 2022.

2144 To receive the annual accounts and internal auditors report

The annual accounts were presented to the meeting. The precept for the year 2021/22 was £1495, and expenditure was £1506 resulting in a deficit of £11. Expenditure included the purchase of roses and barrels for the Village Green at a cost of £116 and a donation of £100 towards the upkeep of Muskay, The Council's reserves stand at £2349.

The Council received the internal audit report and thanked Mr Jervis for undertaking this work for the Council.

2145 To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 and confirmed that it had considered and agreed items 1-9 of the statement. The statement was signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

2146 To approve Section 2 Accounting statements 2021/22

The Council approved the Accounting statements for 2021/22. The statements were signed by the Chairman and RFO.

2147 To confirm that the Council wishes to certify itself as exempt from the limited assurance review

The Council confirmed that met the criteria for exemption and was eligible to certify itself as exempt from the limited assurance review. The Chairman signed the exemption certificate.

2148 To review and confirm the insurance arrangements for 2022

The renewal documents for the Council's insurance had not been received in time for the meeting but the Council agreed that it would renew the Council's insurance through Community First provided that the renewal premium was in line with previous years.

Subsequent to the meeting, the renewal premium was confirmed as £185.72, the same as the previous year.

2149 To review and confirm the risk assessment for 2022

The Council received the risk assessment for 2022 and considers that it has adequate measures in place to mitigate any risks the Council may face. It was **resolved** to approve the risk assessment

2150 To review the Council's financial regulations and internal audit controls

The Clerk has reviewed the financial regulations which were adopted in September 2014 and considers that these are still appropriate.

The Clerk has also reviewed the internal control procedures and considers them to be adequate.

It was **resolved** to approve the financial regulations and statement of internal control.

2151 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

a) Clerk's Salary	£ 96.66
b) Community First	£185.72

2152 To confirm receipt of precept 2022/23

The Clerk confirmed that the precept of £1495 has been received from SSDC.

2153 Local Community Networks - Update

The Chairman has attended a meeting with members of Hatch Beauchamp, West Hatch and Neroche Parish Councils to discuss the possibility of forming an LCN. The Chairman of West Hatch PC has been in touch with Sara Skirton, the lead official for the formation of LCNs but at present, the guidance is not clear. The LCN will be a vehicle for voicing views on what is important to the local community and it will be important that the members of the LCN have common goals and priorities.

The recent local government elections has resulted in a change of political control of Somerset Council and this may have implications for the formation of Local Community Networks.

2154 Correspondence for information and items of report

- **New Code of Conduct**

The Local Government Association has produced a new Code Of Conduct which Parish Councils are being encouraged to adopt. The Clerk will forward the new code to members and a decision on whether to adopt the new code will be taken at the next meeting.

2155 To confirm date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th July at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.50pm