

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 20th May 2019

ATTENDANCE

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Clerk to the Parish Council, SSDC District Councillor, SCC County Councillor and 4 parishioners

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2018 were received and approved.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr. Harvey gave the following report:

The whole Beercrocombe Parish Council came up for re-election on the 2nd May 2019 and I am delighted to say all existing councillors sought re-election and no other persons sought election and therefore no formal election was required and the seven existing councillors were re-elected unopposed. I look forward to working with them for the next four years. If I should be re-elected to the Chair of the Council this year it will be my last year and at the end of the four year period I will not be seeking re-election. I would like to congratulate Malcolm Cavill on being elected District Councillor for our area in replacement for Sue Steele who did not seek re-election. Sue Steele had been an excellent councillor over a number of years and was very helpful to Beercrocombe Parish Council.

The main event in the Parish over the last 12 months was the purchase of THE VILLAGE GREEN for £1 from South Somerset District Council. The Chairman formally received the documents from Councillor Sue Steele on behalf of the District Council. There was a very pleasant social evening with a display of Morris Dancing on the village green and the weather was excellent that evening. A large number of villagers attended the event and there will be another similar social event in June this year when the Morris Dancers will again visit Beercrocombe.

I understand that the terms for the new lease at the Village Hall have now been agreed with Duchy of Cornwall but I do not know the full details of the lease.

I will outline the Roads and Footpaths in my annual report on those items. No final decisions have been made in regard to the proposed route of the Express way on the A358 by Highways England. Work has started on the M5 junction 25 improvements and the Nexus scheme. These improvements will no doubt cause some inconvenience to users of the junction over the next 2 years.

There was one notable Planning Application in regard to the construction of a Dog Kennel and the Parish Council formally opposed this application. However, at a meeting of the Planning Committee of South Somerset District Council the application was granted with conditions.

Our financial situation remains very healthy with only a slight increase in the precept from £1335 to £1385 per annum.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow Councillors for their support during the past 12 months and once again my sincere thanks to Gillian our Clerk on her excellent minutes and her professional advice to us on all matters brought to the attention of the Council.

REPORTS FROM PARISH INTEREST GROUPS

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr. Rastrick reported that there are 17 residents officially in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

The only incidents this year were suspicious cars in the vicinity. Two cars were seen spending a long time in the Church car park and a registration number was reported to the authorities. There has also been cases of fly tipping in the Churchyard and two cars seen leaving the area at great speed.

A van was parked in the entrance to the Orchard in Stocks Lane for a lengthy period and on investigation the make of the vehicle did not agree with the registration details. This was reported to the Police.

The new Neighbourhood Watch signs are now in place.

Roads and Footpaths

Mr. Harvey delivered his report on roads and footpaths as follows:

Roads.

There are considerable difficulties in keeping roads within the village in good order. The main issues concern the deep pot-holes on the sides of the road that have appeared over the years. These narrow lanes are used by ever bigger vehicles which cause most of the damage. The County Council have a policy of not repairing any holes that are less than 40mm deep. Recently parts of Broadbridge Lane have been repaired but in the same area other holes were left because they were not 40mm deep which I personally think is stupid and very short sighted. Repairs have been carried out in Stewley Lane. I have spoken to James and John Down and they have carried out some repairs to the sides of the road close to farm entrances in the parish. They are willing to assist filling in any other holes which may be identified by the Council which the County Council will not repair. I would like to thank them for moving the entrance to a field in Broadmead Lane and installing a double gate. The hedge was moved from the new entrance to the old entrance and hopefully

will be growing again within next 2 years. This change will prevent any further blockages of the ditch on the other side of the lane by the old entrance.

Footpaths.

Most footpaths within the Parish appear to be in reasonable order. The Mushroom Farm Footpath L/13 which is the most used footpath within the village and is kept in very good order by a villager on my behalf as I cut it myself when I had a dog. However there has been a complaint about the cutting of the grass and I will discuss this further later in the evening. As you are aware the County Council do not cut this footpath any longer and the whole length has been cut on a regular basis over the last 10 years by villagers.

Beer & Curry Takeaway

The newsletter continues to be well received by parishioners.

There have been no requests for paper copies of the welcome pack, with new residents obtaining the information via the website.

Village Hall Report

Paul Jervis, a Beercrocombe resident, is the Chairman of the Village Hall. The renewal of the lease has been signed by all parties and will be sent to the Duchy in due course.

The Village Hall finances remain healthy with income from lettings exceeding expenditure.

Village Trust

Mr. Harvey reported:

The Trust remains in a very healthy state with satisfactory interest payments being received on the trust investments during the past somewhat difficult financial year. Two Student grants of £200 were made to young people living in Beercrocombe under the criteria approved by the trust. A grant of £100 was made to the Parish Council in connection with the village green celebrations in 2018 and Beercrocombe PCC £75.00 for the upkeep of Muskay. No other applications were received.

QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm