

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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

ATTENDANCE

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Clerk to the Parish Council, SCC County Councillor and 5 parishioners.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th May 2021 were received and approved.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr.Plumbly gave the following report:

As in 2021, the covid restrictions on our lives have changed some of the ways we interact but at least parish meetings have returned to normal. This will help us deal more effectively with the major issues we currently face, namely the A358 redevelopment and the Unified Somerset plans for new LCNs. These have and will continue to require a good deal of energy and thought to make sure our views are fully taken into account by the organising powers. Bob's understanding of the regulations concerning road design and development have been extremely important and his hard work is most appreciated by the thirteen parishes and Ilminster Town Council, which are participants in the Community of Parishes group representing our community views.

The last year has passed quickly despite the dearth of village social events - we did manage to sing carols on the green round the donated christmas tree and the church plant sale took place in May '21 and made £937 with tables in three locations - this was 20% more than the year before and includes donations for the fruit and vegetables that were left in the bus shelter during the summer.

The Church 100 club raised £948 half of which was distributed as prize money.

The PC finances are stable and we voted not to increase the precept this year - there are enough inflationary pressures currently.

Malcolm Cavill is looking and feeling much better than a year ago after some radical treatment. We wish him well and look forward to seeing him out on his new bike bought shortly before he became unwell at the start of covid.

I must thank Rose Overton who stood down this year and my thanks also go to all our existing councillors who are continuing their roles. We are fortunate

to have had John Down join us last year and also Jayne Mann this year and this expands the farming knowledge in our rural area. We also welcome arrivals to the village, Lynne and Paul Batchelor.

Thanks are due to all those individuals who contribute to reviews and action on our interest groups: neighbourhood watch, the village hall, the village trust, footpaths and roads. A village cannot function well without those who give voluntarily of their time.

We have the Jubilee celebrations to look forward to in June so we hope its good weather.

Finally my thanks go to Gillian for her knowledge and guidance to me and to our other councillors who provide me with advice based on their significant depth of experience and the history of the parish.

REPORTS FROM PARISH INTEREST GROUPS

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Rastrick reported that the Parish had been blessed with another crime free year, although there have been some instances of outbuildings being broken into in neighbouring parishes.

The 'Nottingham Knockers' have been present in the parish in recent weeks and these people can be intimidating to elderly residents. Several reports were made from local parishes to the Police who did speak to the individuals concerned and asked them to leave the area.

As before the number for a crime in progress is 999, with non-emergency on 101.

Our local PCSO's (based in Ilminster) are:

John Martin, John.Martin@avonandsomerset.police.uk Mobile;
07889659178

Stephen Trace, Stephen.Trace@avonandsomerset.police.uk Mobile;
07511213849

Roads and Footpaths

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

Roads.

I am delighted to say that substantial progress has been made on the roads within Beercombe Parish, Radigan lane and Elmbridge, which are technically outside the Parish.

It was agreed with Derek Davis, that he would arrange for substantial patching to take place either side of the old railway bridge at Elmbridge, which technically is the responsibility of the Taunton Highways Office.

The patching has greatly improved the road surfaces and it is hoped that the roads will be surface dressed later this summer. Some extra minor patching may be needed.

It is hoped that additional work will be carried out on blocked gullies..

Footpaths.

I am not aware of any issues concerning footpaths. Repairs have been carried out to footpath L5/16 with the installation of a new gate on the footpath. Research is to be carried out with regard to L5/1 as to the direction of the footpath through Pauls Farm.

Village Hall Report

The trustees budget for '21-'22 was helped significantly with a grant from SSDC of an additional £12,000 during the year. While this means our bank balance is extremely healthy the underlying use of the hall and running costs are also important. The hall is used by the badminton group, the scouts, Round Window club, short mat bowls, Messy church, the playgroup plus ad hoc hire; so together with the proceeds from the clothing bank in the car park this contributed almost £4,000 in income. Costs, in order of magnitude are cleaning, Duchy rent and insurance and this meant we ran at a loss which the trustees believe is acceptable.

As a building that is thirty years old, repairs are always ongoing: the main floor has just been completely re-sanded and finished as a badminton court, we have looked at energy consumption though sporadic hall use means additional heat retention measures will never provide value for money. We plan to create sinking funds for the roof replacement and redecoration. We also plan to replace carpets this year. There is an interest group hoping to expand the play equipment area though this may require an important five figure investment to allow this to happen.

The hall is well lead and has eight active trustees who carry out all the maintenance of the grounds.

Village Trust

Mr. Harvey reported:

There have been two meetings of the trust since the last annual report to the Parish in 2021. During the period 2021-22 Grants were made to the Church PCC of £1000 towards the costs of replacing the church gates, the usual annual grant for Muskey of £75.00 and a one off payment of £100 for additional clearance work at Muskey. One Student grant of £200 was approved. A grant of £100 has been approved for the Queens Platinum Celebrations to be held in June.

Income from investments exceeded the expenditure shown above. Some £3000 held in bank accounts will be invested in an Accumulation Fund which re-invests the dividends. The Trust is in a very good financial state having regard to the present financial situation in the country.

QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm