

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 11 January 2000,
at Curry Mallet Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mr P Dibble Chairman
Mr A Davies
Mr B Howell
Mrs S Prideaux
Mr A Reed
Mr A Talbot-Williams
Mr W Vigus
Mr R Hughes District Councillor
Mrs J Macleod Clerk
and 2 members of the public

Mr D Pearce, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, asked that item 5 on the agenda be brought forward to an earlier part of the meeting as he had another appointment. This was agreed.

836 Apologies for absence.

None

837 Declarations of Interest.

B Howell, Mrs S Prideaux, A Reed and A Talbot-Williams declared a financial interest in item 7a. of the agenda, the Beercrocombe Millennium booklet.

838 Neighbourhood Watch.

D Pearce, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, said there was difficulty in communicating quickly with everyone in the village. The Chairman suggested four or five villagers be nominated to contact the village should there be an emergency and these names could be included in the village guide. D Pearce said there was also the question of the cost of photocopying the Neighbourhood Watch News pamphlet which was issued six times a year to circulate to all the village.

D Pearce left the meeting.

After discussion, it was proposed by P Dibble and seconded by B Howell that £30 be set aside from the precept to cover the cost of photocopying the pamphlet and this was agreed.

839 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 1999 were approved and signed.

840 Matters arising.

a. Millennium Plaque.

The plaque was now fixed on the left hand side of the bus shelter and the

Chairman thanked W Vigus for organising this and also B Howell for his assistance in attaching it to the shelter.

b. Village Sign.

A Talbot-Williams's catalogues had not provided details of suitable signs but the Clerk had contacted another company, Arien Products Limited of Bridgwater and this catalogue was passed around members of the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation from Arien Products Limited for a sign 1200mm x 200mm of item No NF/SSP/11.

c. Parish Paths Partnership – maintenance.

A Talbot-Williams and Howell undertook to carry out a survey of the Parish footpaths when the weather improved to see what maintenance is required and this will be brought up again at the next meeting.

841 Correspondence.

a. Somerset Association of Local Councils - contract of employment for clerks.

As the present clerk had been in the post for several years, it was decided to leave the matter in abeyance until a new clerk took over. R Hughes said Curry Mallet Parish Council had also decided to take this course of action.

b. Letter from B Longstaff.

Mr Longstaff's letter concerning the launch of the Beercrocombe Millennium Booklet was read out to the Parish Council. W Vigus volunteered to help with the organisation of the launch and attend a meeting at The Old Rectory on 1 February 2000 at 7.0 pm.

c. A Davies asked if there was any feedback on the seepage from the drain at Broadbridge. The Clerk informed him that a Mr Tony Peterson of Wessex Water had telephoned in reply to the Parish Council's letter of 24 November saying that remedial work would be carried out on 9/10 December and the seepage had now ceased.

d. A Davies also asked about the whereabouts of the Victorian letter box. The Clerk said, as had been agreed at the previous meeting, the letter box was now stored in the archive room of the bell tower in the church. It was agreed a letter be sent to Mr R Pitman thanking him for the safe custody of the letter box over the years.

Messrs Howell, Prideaux, Reed and Talbot-Williams left the meeting.

841 Finance.

a. Beercrocombe Millennium Booklet.

It was agreed that this was a very worthwhile application for funds and was proposed by W Vigus and seconded by A Davies that £25 be donated.

Messrs Howell, Prideaux, Reed and Talbot-Williams returned to the meeting.

b. Cheques for signature.

£25 to the Beercrocombe History Group as agreed in item 841a..

842 Matters of report.

a. Chairman.

The Chairman said that on Christmas day when the road was flooded between Keyseys Farm and Pauls Farm a local man was unseated from his mountain bike and, as a result of this accident which broke his cycling helmet, he was treated in hospital for concussion. The family were now considering taking legal action against W S Atkins. W Vigus said he had contacted W S Atkins on 4 January, informed them of the accident and within one a half hours a lorry was sent to fill in the pot holes. They were thanked for their quick response. It remains to be seen what is the outcome of any legal action.

b. Councillors.

i. Incorrect spelling of "Beercombe" on sign on A358.

B Howell reported that W S Atkins was in the process of having a new plate made to correct this.

ii. Broadbridge function on New Year's Eve.

Concern was expressed by the Parish Council regarding the function on the land south of Broadbridge and, particularly, the possibility of it happening again. The Clerk was asked to see if it was possible to find out the name of the owner of the land.

iii. Accident on A358 on Christmas Eve.

Mrs Prideaux said she was concerned about the reaction of the police in connection with the accident. The traffic was diverted through villages where there was local flooding at the time and this added to the chaos. It was proposed by Mrs S Prideaux and seconded by B Howell that D Pearce be asked to bring this matter up at the next meeting of the Police and Community Consultative Group.

c. Clerk.

The Clerk said Mrs Prideaux would be monitoring correspondence during her absence on holiday.

843 Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 21 March 2000. The meeting closed at 9.0 pm.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 21 March 2000, at Curry
Mallet Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mr P Dibble Chairman
Mr A Davies
Mr B Howell
Mrs S Prideaux Vice-Chairman
Mr A Reed
Mr A Talbot-Williaras
Mr W Vigus
Mr R Hughes District Councillor
Mrs J Macleod Clerk
and 2 members of the public.

844 Apologies for absence.

None.

845 Declarations of Interest.

A Talbot-Williams declared an interest in item 5a. of the agenda, the planning application for No 2 Broadbridge.

846 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2000 were approved and signed.

847 Matters arising.

a. Village Sign.

As the correspondence concerning this item was still in circulation, the quotation was not to hand. It was proposed by W Vigus and seconded by B Howell that the sign without posts up to a cost of £130 be ordered without delay. This was agreed unanimously.

b. Parish Paths Partnership – maintenance.

A list of footpaths in the parish with a description of their condition had been prepared by B Howell and A Talbot-Williams and was considered at length. It was agreed that access to the north end of footpath 5/2 be improved and the post at the north end of footpath 5/12, Halfway House, be re-erected. The Clerk was asked to obtain footpath arrows from S Wroe of SSDC and the land-owners are to be consulted before the arrows are put in place.

c. Ownership of the land at Broadbridge.

B Howell had obtained from the Land Registry the name of the owner, Susan Walters of 55 Chilton Park, Bridgwater. It was agreed that B Howell be reimbursed for the cost of the search fee - £4.

- d. Accident on A358.

As the Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator was not present, there was no further information on this item.

848 Planning Applications.

- a. 2 Broadbridge.
- b. Holmans, Stewley.

The Parish Council had no objections to either of these planning applications.

849 Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator.

In the temporary absence of D Pearce, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator, due to ill-health, A Reed kindly agreed to take on this task.

850 Potholes in village roads.

W Vigus reported that he had called out W S Atkins on several occasions to fill in potholes in the roads and they had acted promptly to his requests. He gained the impression there was no money available for any work other than patching up and filling-in where repairs were required.

851 Correspondence.

- a. Transport Need Project.

It was agreed that Pam Williams, the Transport Officer at SSDC, be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 May to give a short presentation on this project.

- b. Appointment of LEA Governors at Huish Episcopi School.

There were no nominations.

- c. Beercrocombe and the Internet.

This subject will be brought up at the next meeting.

- d. Light Industrial Estate, Hatch Beauchamp.

There was a full discussion following the receipt of a letter from Dr Odgers and further information received from J Stacey, the Planning Officer concerned at Taunton Deane Borough Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council should object to the development on the grounds of the detrimental effect increased traffic would have on the approach roads to Beercrocombe.

852 Finance.

- a. Cheques for signature.

It was agreed to pay the following cheques:- B Howell £4, the Clerk's 6 months' salary and expenses £174.36, the Chairman's expenses £15 and the annual subscription to the Somerset Association of Local Councils due on 1 April 2000 £18.76.

- b. Annual Audit.

This will take place on 31 March 2000.

853 Matters of report.

a. Chairman.

P Dibble said that he would be standing down as Chairman at the next meeting. Mrs Prideaux, the Vice-Chairman, said she would be prepared to become Chairman unless somebody else came forward.

b. Councillors.

W Vigus gave details of the launch of the Beercrocombe Millennium booklet and the celebrations taking place on Monday, 1 May. Further information will appear in the parish magazine. W Vigus also mentioned that it was possible he would be away from the village for a long period of time towards the end of the year.

c. Clerk.

Mrs Macleod said that, due to other commitments, she would be unable to continue in the position of Clerk after the September meeting.

854 Date of next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm and the next meeting, the Annual Parish Council meeting, will take place on Tuesday, 16 May 2000, following the Annual Parish meeting.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 16 May 2000

at Curry Mallet Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mr P Dibble
Mr A Davies
Mr B Howell
Mrs S Prideaux
Mr A Reed
Mr A Talbot-Williams
Mr W Vigus
Mr R Hughes District Councillor
Mrs J Macleod Clerk
and 2 members of the public

855 Apologies.

None

856 Election of Chairman.

It was proposed by B Howell and seconded by A Davies that Mrs S Prideaux be elected Chairman. Mrs Prideaux took the chair.

857 Election of Vice-Chairman.

It was proposed by W Vigus and seconded by A Talbot-Williams that B Howell be elected Vice-Chairman.

858 Adoption of NALC Standing Orders.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would adopt NALC Standing Orders and abide by them.

859 Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

860 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2000 were approved and signed.

861 Matters arising.

a. Village sign.

As authorised at the last meeting, the Clerk had purchased the village sign at a cost of £101.05 inclusive of VAT. A Reed agreed to make arrangements with other Councillors for its erection.

b. Parish Paths – maintenance.

Footpath arrows had been obtained from SSDC. It was agreed all paths should now be marked with the agreement of the land owner concerned. The

Clerk was asked to keep the remaining footpath arrows for future use.

c. Beercrocombe and the Internet.

B Howell volunteered to make enquiries as to the inclusion of details beneficial to the village on the web site page already on the Internet.

d. Light Industrial Estate - Hatch Beauchamp.

Planning permission had been granted by Taunton Deane Borough Council for the erection of 9 industrial units subject to certain conditions. After discussion it was decided to write to the highways authority expressing concern about the dangerous junction by the Hatch Inn and asking if there were any plans for improvement in the future.

e. Recruitment of Parish Clerk.

The position of Clerk was to be advertised in the Taunton Gazette and the parish magazine.

862 Planning Application - Frog Street Farm.

There were no objections to this application.

863 Music on land at Broadbridge.

There was a long discussion following the all-night rave over the May bank holiday when several complaints had been received by the Parish Council. The Environmental Health authorities EHO. at SSDC had written to the owner of the land but, as yet, had not received a reply. It was the intention of a member of the EHO's department to call on Susan Walters, the owner, but to date no further information was available. The advice from the EHO was to telephone 01935-462462 immediately any signs of a further visitation were seen.

It was decided that the Parish Council should also write to Susan Walters informing her of the complaints and asking for her re-assurance that no further events would take place.

864 Seeds to Trees.

A free tree/shrub scheme run by SSDC is available with a closing application date of 31 July 2000. The Clerk was asked to send details of the special community double decker bus to Curry Mallet school. Application forms are held by the Clerk.

R Hughes left the meeting.

865 Neighbourhood Watch.

As decided at the Parish Council meeting on 11 January 2000 item 838., four villagers were nominated to be emergency contacts and their names will appear in the village guide.

866 Correspondence.

a. Membership of Community Council for Somerset.

It was decided not to join this association.

b. SALC meeting on 6.6.2000.

The Clerk was asked to send apologies for absence to this meeting.

867 Finance.

- a. Cheque signatories.

The new cheque signatories were nominated as Mrs Prideaux, Chairman, B Howell, Vice-Chairman, and A Talbot-Williams.

- b. Report on audit on 31.3.00.

The Clerk reported that the auditor had raised no queries on the accounts and the Auditor's Certificate and Opinion was awaited.

- c. Appointment of Internal Auditor.

Mrs H Howell was happy to continue in this capacity.

- d. Insurance.

The Cornhill premium due on 1 June had increased from £112.28 last year to £137.68. The Clerk was asked to obtain another quotation and accept it should it be lower than the original figure from Cornhill.

- e. Policy on financial donations to charities.

It was agreed that the present policy of not giving financial donations to charities should continue.

- f. Cheques for signature.

The Clerk was authorised to pay the insurance premium as discussed under item 867d.

868 Headed writing paper.

B Howell agreed to liaise with the Clerk over the design of new headed writing paper.

869 Matters of report.

- a. Chairman.

The Chairman said more potholes in the roads had been filled in recently but the problem was still on-going.

- b. Councillors.

A Davies reported that Curry Mallet village school had recently undergone an Ofsted inspection and had come through it very well.

- c. Clerk.

Nothing to report.

870 Dates of meetings for year 2000/2001

The meeting closed at 10.10pm and the dates of meetings for the current year on the third Tuesday of the month are as follows:-

18 July, 19 September, 21 November, 16 January and 20 March.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT - MAY 2000

Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen to the Millennium Annual Parish meeting.

As 1999 was local election year we welcomed Brian Howell and Willie Vigus to the Parish Council and Tony Reed agreed to be co-opted as we were one short!

During the year 6 meetings have been held with regular attendance by members of the Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger Hughes our District Councillor for attending so frequently and giving us advice and assistance throughout the year.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were five planning applications during the year as follows:-

Mr Riley of Loxwood applied for an extension to the front of the house for an extended lounge, new porch and cloakroom.

Matthew Clark Ltd, owners of Stewley Orchard, applied for the utilisation of 2 redundant buildings to make additional covered space for storage and maintenance of agricultural equipment.

Mr Burrough of Holmans Farm applied for the erection of a general purposes barn for storage purposes.

Mr Whittaker of 2 Broadbridge applied for the erection of a 1st floor extension and

Mrs Morgan of Holmans applied for a single storey erection and replacement porch.

The Parish Council had no objections to any of these applications.

BUS SHELTER

The bus shelter was finally completed in early June and when the Morris Men visited we had a village BBQ and I formally "opened" it. I think most villagers will agree it has blended in very well on the village green. Our thanks to Martin Anderson, the local builder, for the finished article.

MERRYFIELD

Helicopter noise continues to be a problem for some villagers and a letter of complaint was sent to RNAS Yeovilton. For the first time there was an open evening in June at Merryfield and it was a great success despite being a very wet evening. There will be a repeat this year also in June.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Dennis Pearce kindly agreed to take over from Col Egan as the Co-ordinator. Sadly Dennis has been unwell during the year and we wish him a speedy recovery. Tony Reed has agreed to take over temporarily.

CONDITION OF ROADS

The condition of the village roads continues to cause concern. W S Atkins, when requested, have come and filled in the worst potholes but it is an ongoing problem due to financial restrictions. I would like to thank Willie Vigus for his help in liaising with W S Atkins throughout the year.

THE MILLENNIUM

I am sure all villagers will wish to join with me in congratulating Brian Howell and the Beercrocombe History Group for the production of the wonderful Beercrocombe book. It is a major achievement and the product of a lot of hard work.

Congratulations are also very much in order to Liz Davies and Maureen Longstaff, our church wardens, for raising the funds for the the restoration of the church bells. It was marvellous to hear them ring out for the first time since the 1920's on New Year's Eve. There is now a flourishing bell ringing group with Keith Thomas as Tower Captain and Brian Howell the secretary. Grateful thanks must go to Graham Button and Mary Taylor for their tuition of the bell ringers.

1 May saw the village millennium pig roast party with the old village records displayed in the church, maypole dancing, skittles, and a collage organised by Margaret Macevansoneya with every child in the village helping in its creation. There were also two photographic competitions. I would like to thank Brian Longstaff and Brian Howell on behalf of the village for their organisation of this most enjoyable day. Even the weather was kind after the wettest April on record.

CONCLUSION

I am standing down as Chairman after two years and I would like to say how much I have appreciated the support of my Vice-Chairman, Sue Prideaux, and my fellow Parish Councillors. Thanks also must go to Hilary Howell for being our Internal Auditor and stopping us cooking the books!

P Dibble

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 18 July 2000
at Curry Mallet Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mrs S Prideaux	Chairman
Mr B Howell	Vice-Chairman
Mr A Davies	
Mr A Talbot-Williams	
Mr R Hughes	District Councillor
Mrs J Macleod	Clerk

871 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from P Dibble, A Reed and W Vigus.

872 Declarations of Interest.

Nil.

873 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2000 were approved and signed.

874 Matters arising.

a. Village sign.

This was now in situ having been erected by Mr A Reed and it was felt to be an asset to the village. It was agreed to pay A Reed £10 for his expenses.

b. Parish Paths – maintenance.

A number of footpath signs have been put in position. B Howell said he would organise the repair of the sign at Halfway House and was thanked for his offer.

c. Beercrocombe and the Internet.

B Howell said he had carried out research with the SSDC representative for the Internet. He said he would prepare some information on Beercrocombe and send it to SSDC for inclusion on the Internet.

Mrs J Lock arrived at the meeting.

d. Hatch Beauchamp - light industrial estate.

The SCC's Senior Engineering Assistant, Ian Sorenson's reply to our letter expressing concern at the likely increase in traffic at the Hatch Inn junction was read to the Parish Council. Mr Sorenson said the situation will be monitored in view of the Parish Council's concern. A road sign on the side of the Hatch Inn giving directions to Beercrocombe and Curry Mallet is to be removed by W S Atkins as it is now an illegal sign. The Clerk was requested to write to W S Atkins stating that, if this sign is removed, another sign should be placed in a suitable position on Hatch Hill indicating the directions to Beercrocombe and Curry Mallet. It is not felt that the existing sign on the corner of Station Road is sufficient.

e. Recruitment of Parish Clerk.

The Chairman read out a formal letter of resignation from Mrs Macleod and informed the Parish Council that Mrs Gillian French had agreed to take over on 1 October 2000. The Clerk was asked to obtain a guide from SALC at a cost of £4 giving guidance on a contract of employment. To assist the new clerk with baby-sitting arrangements, it was decided to change the day of Parish Council meetings to the third Monday of the month.

f. Music on land at Broadbridge.

There had been no further raves to date. B Howell reported that on occasions rubbish had been left outside which was not collected by the dustmen; when this occurred he added it to his weekly rubbish collection.

g. Insurance.

The Clerk had been unable to obtain a quotation for less than £137.68 and therefore had sent a cheque for this amount to Cornhill Insurance.

h. Headed note-paper.

B Howell had designed three different headings for note-paper, one of which had been chosen by the Clerk. It was agreed to pay B Howell £3.99 for the cost of the paper.

875 Election of Beercrocombe Village Trust representative

Mrs Prideaux, as Chairman of Beercrocombe Village Trust, read a statement concerning the funds in which the Trust money was invested. Mr A Davies associated himself with the statement and supported it. Support was also given by B Howell and A Talbot-Williams. It was proposed by B Howell and seconded by A Talbot-Williams that A Davies continue as the Parish Council's representative on the Trust.

876 Parish Council minutes - summary in parish magazine?

It was agreed that a summary of the minutes by the Clerk should appear in the Parish magazine.

877 Correspondence.

a. West Country ambulance appeal

As the letter concerning this appeal was still in circulation, this will be brought up again at the next meeting.

b. SALC workshop for Chairman - 13.9.2000.

Mrs Prideaux said she would like to attend this course.

c. SALC training course for new Clerks - 23.8.2000. Mrs Gillian French will attend this course.

878 Finance.

a. Audit.

As a result of a telephone call by the Clerk, the Auditor's opinion had been received for the audit carried out on 31 March 2000 which was satisfactory.

b. New hourly rates for Clerks from 1.4.2000.

It was agreed to pay the new hourly rate, which had been increased from

£6.28 per hour to £6.47 as from 1 April 2000.

c. Cheques for signature

As agreed earlier, £10 to A Reed and £3.99 to B Howell.

879 Matters of report.

a. Chairman.

Mrs Prideaux said she would be attending a Tree Wardens' meeting at Totnes at the end of September and B Howell also expressed an interest in attending.

b. Councillors.

i. B Howell said that at long last W S Atkins has agreed to correct the spelling of Beercrocombe on the sign on the Ashill junction of the A358.

ii. B Howell reported that SCC intend to hold an exhibition of Millennium projects and he had sent for a form expressing interest to include the History of Beercrocombe book, the restoration of the bells and the bus shelter.

iii. The tug of war at the village fete this year had been won by Curry Mallet but it was hoped to make this an annual event. There might also be a ladies team!

iv. A Davies said Curry Mallet school had received a visit from the SCC Education Officer following a good Ofsted report. A Davies also said he felt the County had always given excellent support to its schools.

v. There was discussion concerning the over-grown vegetation on on Duchy Lane at Beer Cross. It was agreed that W Vigus would liaise with Nigel Fisher, the Curry Mallet Parish Clerk, and a working party would be formed to carry out pruning.

vi. A suggestion was made that there should be a photograph of each Parish Council for inclusion in the records; this was felt to be a good idea.

c. Clerk.

The Clerk reported that the poplar tree by the telephone box was growing into the power lines. She was asked to inform SWEB.

880 Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, 18 September 2000, at 7.30 pm. The dates of future meetings on Mondays will be as follows:-20 November, 15 January and 19 March

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 18 September 2000
at Curry Mallet Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mrs S Prideaux	Chairman
Mr B Howell	Vice-Chairman
Mr P Dibble	
Mr A Reed	
Mr R Hughes	District Councillor
Mrs J Macleod	Clerk
Mrs G French	Clerk designate

and 1 member of the public

881 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from A Davies, A Talbot-Williams and W Vigus.

882 Declarations of Interest.

Nil.

883 Minutes.

The Chairman said she wished to make an amendment to minute No 875 by adding the following wording:-

"Mr A Davies associated himself with the statement and supported it. Support was also given by B Howell and A Talbot-Williams". This was agreed and the minutes were then approved and signed.

884 Matters arising.

a. Parish Paths – maintenance.

B Howell was thanked for repairing the footpath sign at Halfway House and it was agreed to pay his expenses of £5.00.

b. Hatch Beauchamp - light industrial estate.

The Clerk had contacted Mr I Titchcombe of W S Atkins who said the road sign on the side of the Hatch Inn was not illegal and could remain if the publican at the Hatch Inn had no objection; the publican confirmed this was the case. There were no plans at present to place a sign on Hatch Hill indicating the light industrial estate but, should this be requested in due course by Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council, W S Atkins would make contact with Beercrocombe Parish Council regarding the incorporation of signing to Beercrocombe.

c. Contract of employment for Parish Clerk.

The guide from Somerset Association of Local Councils SALC. had been purchased and will be discussed at the next meeting.

- d. Music on land at Broadbridge.

The Chairman reported on the current situation with regard to the serving of a Request for Information on the owner of the land. The lack of police interest was discussed with David Heath MP during his visit to Beercrocombe at the beginning of September. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Heath, copies to Stephen Pilkington, Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, and Inspector Trevor Ashford at Yeovil, expressing its disquiet on the police handling of the "rave" during the evening of 5/6 August 2000.

- e. West Country Ambulance Appeal - Friends of Fleet.

After discussion it was decided to keep to the policy of no donations to charities. However, this policy can be further discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting in May next year seeking the villagers' views.

- f. Overgrown vegetation - Beer Cross corner.

B Howell and A Talbot-Williams were thanked for dealing with this problem.

- g. Powerlines adjacent to the village green.

SWEB's contractors dealt with the tree concerned within 48 hours.

885 Planning Application - "Staddles"

There were no objections to this application.

886 Correspondence.

- a. Audit Commission paper - "Audit & Accounts"

The Clerk was asked to precis the comments made by Councillors on this paper and send a letter to SALC as this item is due for discussion at its annual general meeting.

- b. SALC AGM - Parish Council representation.

The Clerk was asked to send regrets for absence at this meeting.

- c. Donation requests from charities.

It was decided that the policy of "no donations" should apply to requests from Exmoor Search & Rescue Team and Victim Support Somerset.

- d. Beacon Millennium Ltd

It was felt no reply was necessary to this letter.

- e. Transport Need Project

This paper will be circulated for Councillors' comments.

887 Finance.

Payment of cheques for the following were approved:-

Clerk's salary and expenses £242.77,

B Howell footpath maintenance £5.

888 Matters of report.

- a. Chairman - Nil

b. Councillors.

Following Mrs B Manu's presentation concerning school transport during the public 15 minutes, the Clerk was asked to write to Somerset County Council's Director of Education, copy to Mrs J Lock. The reply will be discussed and any further action at the next meeting.

c. Clerk.

One report had gone missing during circulation and the Clerk asked Councillors to check papers carefully upon receipt.

889 Date of next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm and the next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Monday, 20 November 2000.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20th November 2000

At the Village Hall, Curry Mallet at 7.30pm

Present:

Mrs S Prideaux Chairman
Mr Brian Howell Vice Chairman
Mr A Davies
Mr P Dibble
Mr A Reed
Mr A Talbot-Williams
Mr W Vigus
Mr R Hughes District Councillor.
Member of the Public - one

Public 15 Minutes.

Mrs Manu talked about the letter to the Education Department regarding School Buses to the village for Huish Episcopi Pupils. There has only been an acknowledgement of receipt. She also asked that something should be done about the roadside verge and hedge from the village up to Beer Cross, which is overgrown and reducing visibility on the road, forcing traffic into the middle of the road.

890 Apologies.

There were no apologies.

891 Declarations of Interest.

Mr A Davies declared an interest in Item 5e regarding Curry Mallet School.

892 Minutes.

The minutes of the Meeting on Monday 18th September were approved without amendment.

893 Matters Arising.

a. Parish Clerk.

Since the last meeting Mrs French had decided that she could not take up the appointment. The possibility of Mrs Manu, who was present, undertaking the task was discussed. The Chairman and Vice Chairman would discuss the matter further with Mrs Manu outside the meeting.

b. Music on land at Broadbridge.

A letter had been received from South Somerset District Council stating that they had been unable to contact the Landowner Mrs Walters and therefore did not feel that they could move the matter any further. It was agreed that householders who would be most affected would be supplied with relevant telephone numbers, including the SSDC duty Environmental officer, and the grid reference of the field concerned.

c. Transport Policy.

Several councillors had made comments on the circulating paper. The Vice-chairman would draft an appropriate reply.

894 Correspondence.

a. SALC White paper.

The papers were circulating but had not been brought to the meeting. The Chairman agreed to establish their whereabouts.

b. Police Meeting/Neighbourhood Watch.

The Chairman had hoped to attend but was unable to. No other councillor had been available. Mr Pearce had resigned as the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator due to ill health. Mr Reed had taken possession of all the papers and agreed to take the calls etc on a temporary basis. Councillors to think of a possible permanent replacement.

c. Alliance & Leicester/Giro.

A letter had been received informing us of the merger of the two bodies.

d. Appointment of LEA Governors.

No councillors had shown an interest.

e. Curry Mallet Primary School PTA.

A request had been received requesting financial support for a stained glass window, being provided in the South window of the main building, to mark the millennium. The councillors felt that they did not have sufficient funds and suggested that an application should be made to the Village Trust.

f. "Modernising your Council" video.

Mr Davis agreed to obtain a copy of the video and to circulate it to other councillors.

g. Local Plan Submission.

Papers have been received from the SSDC Planning Department explaining the rejection of a submission by Mr E T Hale to have his farmyard included in the Local Plan for the building of 4 dwellings and an industrial unit. The District Councillor explained the process to the meeting and said that an application could still be made as part of a normal planning process.

895 Annual Precept.

A lengthy discussion took place on the various options. It was proposed by Mr Dibble & seconded by Mr Reed that the precept for 2001 /02 should be £895 which would allow a reserve nearer the required figure of £200 to be built up.

896 Cheques for signature.

It was agreed that cheques should be signed for the following;

Donation to Beercombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall	£40
Donation to Beercombe PPC for churchyard upkeep	£115
Payment of Audit fee	£106.11

It was agreed that £200 would be transferred to pay these bills.

897 Matters of report.

a. Overgrown hedges.

The vice-chairman reported that he had again cut the hedge on the southwest corner at Beer Cross. Considerable concern was expressed at the bad state of the hedge on the entire western side of the road from the parish boundary to Beer cross. It was agreed that the council should write to the tenant of the land, Mr M Pettitt of Duchy Farm, Curry Mallet, saying that, if work to improve the situation had not been carried out within 2 weeks, then the matter would be reported to the Duchy of Cornwall Land Agent. A copy of the letter to be sent to Curry Mallet P.C.

b. State of roads.

It was reported that although some patching had been carried out this had been largely counter productive due to the very wet autumn. In some areas of the Parish the situation was becoming serious.

c. The Internet.

The vice-chairman reported that Beercrocombe is now on the Internet and may be found via southsomerset.gov.uk.

Councillors were impressed with the contents and layout and Mr Howell was congratulated on his efforts.

898 The date of the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 15 January 2001 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.