

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th January 2007 at Curry Mallet Village Hall.

1123 Attendance and Apologies:

Mr. A. Reed Chairman
Mr. R. Burrough
Mr. G. Harvey
Mrs. J. Macleod
Mrs. S. Prideaux
Mr. A. Talbot-Williams
Mrs. S. Steele District Councillor
Mr. M. King Clerk

Apologies were received from Mr. Davies and Mr. Nelson.
There were two members of the public present. (See minute 1130).

1124 Declaration of Interest:

There were no declarations of interests.

1125 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minute 1117 (b) Footpaths should read “Mr. Talbot-Williams reports that on the footpath at the rear of his property the farmer has ploughed right up to the hedge. He is to speak to the farmer about this.

Minute 1117(b) Footpaths, second paragraph should read “There are concerns that the footpath at the side of “Roselea” may have been eroded. The definitive footpath map will resolve this matter.”

Minute 1104 should read 1122.

1126 Matters Arising:

a) Highways:

Mrs. Prideaux was concerned about the blocking of Radigan Lane during a ditching operation. It was felt that it would be impractical to be able to forewarn residents of these operations.

Mrs. Prideaux complained that parts of Radigan Lane kept flooding and Mrs. Steele will take this up with SCC.

b) Footpaths:

We have had new gates on the footpath by the church (L5/14). Mr. Burrough has written to SSDC Countryside Service to thank them for the work in Beercrocombe especially the efforts of Mr. Montague. Mr. Burrough asked that these thanks be recorded in the minutes and this was agreed.

The unsafe stile on footpath no. 5/12 has been repaired by Mr. Pope, the landowner, but expressed concerns about horse-riders using this footpath. It is a footpath and not a bridleway. Mr. Burrough assured Mr. Pope that he would talk to any horse-riders and that other Councillors would do likewise.

On Footpath 5/13, the stiles at the mushroom farm have been wired with pig netting. Mr. Montague to look into this matter and perhaps have gates fitted.

c) Boundary revision;

Mr. Talbot-Williams attended the meeting of the Boundary Revision on 27th November, 2006 and the committee agreed in principle that the area at the top end of Beer Street should become part of Beercrocombe but this is only the first part of a long process.

It transpires that the farm to the west of Beer Street is about to change tenants. It is a Duchy farm and the trees and hedges have over grown the road and also obstructed the vision at the junction at Beer Junction. Parts of the hedge have an old iron fence within it, making it impossible to cut mechanically. The committee asked the Clerk to write to the Duchy about this issue and send a copy to Curry Mallet Parish Council. The Clerk will liaise with Mr. Talbot-Williams over the draft of the letter.

1127 Planning Procedures:

It was noted that the plans for Roselea have been rejected and the premises are now derelict.

“Neauchatel” at Stewley, new plans have been submitted.

1128 Matters to Report:

(a) Parish Plan

Mrs. Prideaux reported on the meeting of the Parish Plan Joint Advisory of 28th November 2007. There was a review of the ongoing projects which were

- (i) The Safety Booklet has been agreed and the final design is being drawn up before printing.
- (ii) The Footpath Guide was agreed at the last meeting of BPC but as yet Curry Mallet PC has not matched our £50 grant for the project.
- (iii) Curry Mallet PC have agreed to purchase a dog fouling bin for near the school but hoped matching funding could be raised to purchase a second bin.

- (iv) Both parish councils had made financial plans for the future planning of projects within the precepts.
- (v) The future plans for youth activity include the Youth Team organising ad hoc events but all had to be aware of the appropriate child safety matters. Linda Cooper had written some draft policies and it was thought that both parish councils should adopt these policies. The monies will be kept in the Parish Plan account until needed.
- (vi) The viability of the Post Office is creating a lot of publicity and Chris Dale and Elaine Tudor indicated they would like to be involved in any actions. It was felt that both parish councils should have a co-ordinated approach to this matter.

The next meeting is 29th January 2007.

(b) Village Green:

The new sign post has been erected with a sign to the church.

1129 Finance:

The 2005/6 Audit had been agreed by the auditors and Moore Stephens requested a cheque for £58.75 was requested. This was issued.
The grants from SSDC of £350 had all been paid to the Parish Council so we were Not entitled to another of the grants.

1130 Notifications:

Notification had been received re the events at Merryfield airfield for 2007 and these were to be displayed on the notice board.

Mrs. Prideaux reported a dangerous tree by the ford in Radigan Lane and the Council were to be informed.

The Clerk reported that he had received all the guidelines in case of an election this year.

Mrs. Steele spoke about the Government paper about the plans for one overall Authority for Somerset and explained the alternatives and the time-table for consultation and voting on this.

Two members of the public attended the meeting as there had been concerns that in the sheds on Manor Farm there was excessive noise from panel beating. Mr. Talbot-Williams felt that if this was a business the farmer would have to apply for planning permission for a change of use as this affected a residential area.

It was claimed that this was a hobby project and not a business and after a full discussion the owner of manor Farm agreed to desist and move the vehicle being renovated away from the farm thus stopping the noise nuisance.

Mrs. Talbot-Williams attended to complain about the refuse collection service. She was unhappy about having left out a plastic bag and having a yellow reminder sticker on her bin.

Councillor Steele outlined the process and would pass on the concerns of the residents of Beercrocombe.

1131 Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday 19th March 2007 at 7.30p.m. at Curry Mallet Village Hall

Signed
Chairman.

MK

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th March 2007 at Curry Mallet Village Hall.

1132 Attendance and Apologies:

Mr. A.Davies Chairman
Mr. R. Burrough
Mrs. J. Macleod
Mrs. S. Prideaux
Mr. A. Talbot-Williams
Mr. D. Nelson County Councillor
Mrs. S. Steele District Councillor
Mr. M. King Clerk

Apologies were received from Mr. Harvey and Mr. Reed.
There were two members of the public present. (See minute 1130).

1133 Declaration of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1134 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Re. minute 1125 Mr. Talbot-Williams has spoken to the farmer re the ploughing of the footpath.

1135 Matters Arising:

b) Highways:

Regarding the flooding at Radigan Lane the Council attended and are going to clean out one of the drains. The road surface is continuing to break up. The Clerk to inform the Council about this.

b) Footpaths:

The footpath 5/13 has been worked on and improved. A letter of thanks to be sent to SSDC for the good work by George Montague.

d) Beer Street trees:

Beercrocombe Parish Council have written to the Duchy about the cutting back of the hedges and trees along the west side of Beer Street. A copy is on file.

1136 Planning Procedures:

New plans for “Roselea” are about to be submitted.

The application for “Wicketts” for an extension to the north elevation of the property was agreed upon.

The matter of the noise at Manor Farm has been resolved amicably.

1137 Matters to Report:

(a) Parish Plan

The welcome packs and safety booklets have been distributed and been well received.

Booklets for four selected walks have gone on sale and the footpath maps have been distributed.

The youth project for the two parishes have applied for a grant of £3,500 for a youth group in the Curry Mallet hall.

Mr. Davies has made a written submission to support the saving of the Post Office in Curry Mallet.

(b) Village Green:

The idea for the plastic corners for the village green has now been rejected as it will not be sturdy enough. It was suggested that large stones be placed in the corners of the green. Mr. Burroughs to “e” mail Kim Sharpe to see if this is practical.

(c) A358/303 Road Plans:

The committee felt that the access points for local traffic were limited. They felt that the plan did not differentiate between the local traffic and trunk road traffic.

The local access to Ilminster was particularly restricted and devious.

It was noted that it was unlikely to be completed until 2013/4 and were concerned when it was eventually started that there would be serious congestion.

1138 Finance:

The Clerk reports that we have at present we have £756 in the Alliance Leicester Account and £1040 in the National Savings Account.

1139 Notifications:

The Clerk reported he had received a letter from Mrs. Macleod stating she would not be standing for re-election to the Parish Council. The Council thanked her for her dedication to the Council over the years.

The Clerk reminded all potential councillors needed to submit their applications within the time frame. He reminded them that they needed electoral roll numbers on the forms. He stated he would be going to the SSDC offices next week if they wished him to take the forms personally.

Mrs. Prideaux again complained about the rubbish left on the roads after the re-cycling lorry had been through the area.

1140 Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday 21st May 2007 at 7.30p.m. at Curry Mallet Village Hall and it would also be the AGM, Parish Meeting and the ordinary Parish Council meeting.

Signed
Chairman.

MK

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on May 21st 2007 at Curry Mallet Village Hall.

1141 Attendance:

Mr. T. Davies Chairman
Mr. T. Reed Vice Chairman
Mr. B. Burrough
Mrs. S. Prideaux
Mr. A. Talbot-Williams
Ms. J. Wright
Mrs. S. Steele District Councillor
Mr. D. Nelson County Councillor
Mr. M. King Clerk
Apologies from Mr. G. Harvey.

1142 Declaration of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1143 Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

1144 Matters Arising:

a) Highways:

The Council have agreed to repair Radigan Lane.

b) Footpaths:

The Parish Council have asked the Clerk to write to SSSC to thank them again for the outstanding work done by George Montague on the footpaths.

c) Hedges in Beer Street:

The Chairman reports that the Duchy had replied to his letter and passed the

1145 Planning Procedures:

The new plans for "Roselea" have been re-submitted and agreed. The permission for the conservatory at Old Manor Barn has also been granted.

1146 Matters of Report:

a) Village Green:

The idea of the large stones around the edge had been vetoed by Mr. Sharpe of Somerset County Council (Highways) as it would be dangerous. He suggested stout oak posts at each corner but these are about £200 per post. As this is an ongoing problem Mr. Davis and Mr. Burrough are to arrange a site meeting with Mr. Sharpe.

The two flower containers had disintegrated and Mr. Davis had them replaced for the sum of £36. This was in agreement with the committee.

b) Parish Plan:

SSDC Area Development wished to publish details of the Parish Plan on its web pages but the committee felt as it was a joint plan with Curry Mallet joint agreement has to be sought although BPC had no objections in this matter.

1147 Accounts:

The Clerk reported that he had finalised the accounts for last year and completed his section of the annual audit.

The accounts need to be agreed by the Chairman and a meeting is to be set up between the Clerk, the Chairman, and Mr. Reed to check the accounts. The Clerk after having taken advice from SALC has found independent auditor who will go over Section 4 (Annual Internal Audit report section) to check our procedures are compliant. She has agreed to do this free of charge. The committee were in agreement with this process.

The following cheques were issued:

£182.85 Clerks wages

£20 Clerks expenses

£36 Replacement flower containers

1148 Notifications:

There was a notice announcing the open evening at Merryfield Airfield.

Mr. Burrough stated that there had been two meetings of the Helicopter Group and he had received no notification of these meetings. The Clerk was not aware of these and had received no notification.

The Chairman stated he had received a letter from Mr. Thomas about stones blocking the edge of his drive at "Camelot" and inquired if this was a matter that the Parish Council could deal with. It was felt that measurements need to be taken and submitted to SCC Highways for a view on this matter.

There is to be a meeting on 7th June for SSDC to explain its views against the one unitary body for Somerset. SSDC is to carry out a referendum to get the view of the constituents. Mr. Nelson was asked his view on the matter and in general felt it was a good idea. It was pointed out that generally the projected savings for unification did not always come to fruition.

1149 Date of Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting is on Monday 16th July at 7.30p.m. at Curry Mallet Village Hall.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16th July 2007 at Curry Mallet Village Hall.

1150 Attendance:

Mr. T. Davies Chairman

Mr. T. Reed Vice Chairman

Mr. R.F. Burrough

Mrs. S.Prideaux

Mr. A. Talbot-Williams

Ms. J. Wright

Mrs. S. Steele District Councillor

Mr. M. King Clerk

Apologies from Mr. G. Harvey.

1151 Declaration of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1152 Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Under item 1144(c) after “passed the” should read “passed the letter to the farmer, Mr. Pettit. The Clerk is to write to Mr. Pettit.”

1153 Matters Arising:

a) Highways:

Mrs. Prideaux reports that she had been told by SCC that they had cleaned up Radigan Lane but had been unable to jet clean the soakaways. They will do this in the autumn when they need to hire a smaller vehicle in order to access the lane. Mrs. Prideaux stated that the road surfaces are appalling. The Clerk will inform the SCC of this.

b) Footpaths:

The footpath at the bottom is riddled with rabbit holes. This has been reported to SSDC. The farmer states he will repair the path when the crop is cut. There was a discussion as to who was responsible under these circumstances. It was felt that it was the land-owners responsibility and that BCC should write to the farmer stating that if remedial action was not taken the matter would be reported to DEFRA. It was also agreed that George Montague should be contacted with a view to sending the land-owner a copy of the codes of practice.

c) Hedges in Beer Street:

The Clerk reports that he has written to the landowner of the land and received no reply. The hedges have now overgrown the ditch and water is running onto the road. Mr. Davies is going to write to the Duchy again.

1154 Planning Procedures:

The new plans for "Roselea" have been re-submitted and agreed with a number of conditions.

1155 Matters of Report:

a) Village Green:

There had been a meeting at the village green with Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Burrough, and Mr. Davies. Mr. Sharpe proposed that large kerbstones could be laid around each end of the green. This would be about seven yards of stone suggested that a "character kerbstone" be used. The cost to lay the stones and backfill would be £500 to £700. It was SCC and BCC would pay half each to the project and we have enough money to do this. R. Talbot-Williams stated he would like to see the stones prior to agreeing Parish Council agreed to go ahead with this project.

b) Parish Plan:

Ms. Wright and Mr. Davies attended the committee and Ms. Wright is now the Secretary of the steering group. There is still £600 in the Parish Plan account and there were no new ideas on how to spend the money. The steering group agreed to continue to support the Post Office project, the dog bins in Curry Mallet and the Youth group. The residents of Curry Mallet did not wish to give out the footpath maps to all homes.

1156 Accounts:

The Clerk reported that he had met with Mr. Davies and Mr. Reid who had audited the accounts and were happy at the procedures adopted by BCC. The external auditor's forms were duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk is to send them to the external auditors, Moore Stephens.

1157 Notifications:

There was no news from the helicopter group.

The matter of the stones on the driveway adjacent to "Camelot" has progressed as follows. The Clerk has written to Mr. Fletcher about this matter and awaits a reply. The general view is that the plans need to be examined in order to ascertain whether the stones are on council land. Mr. Talbot-Williams pointed out that if for ten years the occupier had been driving over the joint drive he would be automatically entitled to do so and therefore the stones would be an obstruction. It was felt that it will end up as a civil dispute and Mr. Thomas would have to take the advice of a solicitor. It is believed he has already contacted a solicitor.

There is a Community Council for Somerset Rural Road show on 18th July at Merryfield Hall Ilton between 7p.m. and 9p.m.

Mr. Burrough reports that he has obtained the footpath warden packs form Paul Atwell which will help to prioritise maintenance of the Parish footpaths.

SSDC have agreed to maintain the road to the church. Footpath opposite her house had not been cut as it was believed that the landowner had died.

Mrs. Prideaux reported that the footpath opposite her house had not been cut. It was believed that the land owner had died.

She also reported that the bushes in the garden of the thatched house opposite Mr. Longstaffs were growing into the road and causing an obstruction. It was also noticed that this was the same for Wayside Cottage, Little Portions, and Manor Farm. The clerk is to write a polite letter to the occupiers reminding them of their responsibilities.

Ms. Wright spoke about the new ideas for local government in Somerset. This centred around “clustering” and what it could bring to small parishes. The committee fear that this would mean more funding to larger parishes and town councils and small parishes would lose their identity.

There was also a discussion about what Parish Councils should be called as a number felt that the term parish was outdated and suggested an attachment to the church.

She also stated that the Parish Council needs to formally adopt the “Codes of Conduct”. It was agreed to make this an agenda item for the next meeting.

1158 Date of Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting is on Monday 17th September at 7.30p.m. at Curry Mallet Village Hall.

Chairman

MK

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th September 2007 at
Curry Mallet Village Hall.**

1159 Attendance:

Mr. T. Reed Chairman
Mr. R.F. Burrough
Mr. G. Harvey
Mrs. S.Prideaux
Mr. A. Talbot-Williams
Ms. J. Wright
Mr. D. Nelson County Councillor
Mrs. S. Steele District Councillor
Mr. M. King Clerk
Apologies from Mr. Davis

1160 Declaration of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1161 Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Mr. Harvey was present and minutes amended.

1162 Matters Arising:

a) Highways:

The drains in Radigan Lane have been jetted and white paint is around the drains suggesting future repairs. The surface does still remain poor. Mr. Sharpe is to arranging to have the ditches dug. Some of the hedges and ditches are owned by the farmer. Mrs. Prideaux has written to Ashill Parish Council about this matter. The Chairman is also to write to APC about Radigan Lane.

There are pot holes in Beer Street which need to be reported.

The Parish Council wished to express disappointment at the surface dressing Programme as the pot holes need filling before the dressing is applied.

b) Footpaths:

The rabbit holes on footpath L15/13 still remain. The farmer has done no remedial Work on the path. It is the landowner's responsibility. A notice needs to be Displayed stating that the path is unsafe and suggest walking parallel to the path.

The notice should be signed by the Parish Council. The actual wording to be agreed and displayed by the path and on the village notice board.

1163 Planning Procedures:

The planning permission at Crimson Hill in Curry Mallet was discussed and Curry Mallet Parish Council had objected. BPC had also submitted objections to the plans.

1164 Matters of Report:

a) Village Green:

Mr. Sharpe of SCC has agreed to go ahead with the edging for the village green and

Mrs. Steele has arranged for SSDC to give us a grant of £300.

b) Parish Plan:

No report

The Clerk reported that the external accountants Moore Stephens had accepted the Accounts for 2006/7 as correct and required a cheque for £88.12 which was issued.

1165 Notifications:

There was a short presentation by Beth one of the new PCSOs for Beercrocombe. There is to be a police surgery on 16th October at Curry Mallet post office. She gave various statistics for the area and stated these are all available on the Avon and Somerset Police web site.

Beercrocombe Parish Council agreed to adopt the new Code of Conduct of the Standards Board for England.

There was a discussion about waste disposal especially regarding cardboard and plastic.

From 14th October SSDC are running a pilot scheme for the collection of these items

(not in our area) to assess the viability of collecting cardboard and plastic.

It has been decided not to remove the recycling bins at Curry Mallet village hall as they

The subject of bonfires in the village was raised as some residents had lit bonfires when

the direction of the wind had not been favourable. This had caused some distress to some residents. It was decided that the Clerk would draft a letter to be delivered throughout Beercrocombe. The Clerk will draft a letter to be agreed with the Chairman. There would also be an entry in the Beer and Curry Takeaway.

The Clerk reported that the matter of the rubble on the drive adjacent to the house known as Camelot was a civil matter after having received a letter from Mr. Sharpe at SCC.

The Clerk reported that SCC highways had written to BPC to identify “pinch points”

in the locality. The following were suggested Elm Bridge, Beer Bridge, Radigan Lane,
and the village green and the Clerk is to inform SCC.

The matter of emergency planning was highlighted and it was agreed to agenda this item for the November.

The next meeting of SALC will be on 29th September at Julia Wright is to attend.

1166 Date of Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting is on Monday 19th November 2007 at 7.30p.m. at Curry Mallet Village Hall.

Chairman

MK

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th November 2007 at Curry Mallet Village Hall.

1167 Attendance:

Mr. A. Davies Chairman
Mr. T. Reed Vice Chairman
Mr. R.F. Burrough
Mr. G. Harvey
Mrs. S.Prideaux
Mr. A. Talbot-Williams
Ms. J. Wright
Mr. D. Nelson County Councillor
Mrs. S. Steele District Councillor
Mr. M. King Clerk

1168 Declaration of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1169 Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The Chairman reported he had received a letter asking why the minutes were so out of date by the time they were on the notice board. The Clerk stated he would produce the minutes within a week.

1170 Matters Arising:

c) Highways:

The Clerk has written to the Clerk at Ashill to raise the issue of the road surface of Radigan Lane. Mrs. Pridaux reports that the pot holes have been filled and the ditches dug but there is standing water outside New Farm. The drains are to be jetted in the near future.

The Chairman is to write to Mr. Morrison about the inadequacies of surface dressing programme.

d) Footpaths:

Footpath L15/13 still has rabbit holes on the path. The farmer has ploughed near to the edge of the field but the holes remain. Mr. Burrough raised this matter at the recent Right of Way Workshop and received no definitive answer

to the problem although the District Council admitted they did have responsibility. Mr. Burrough is to write to the District Council about this matter. Meanwhile a new sign is to be displayed pointing out the danger. Mr. Harvey kindly agreed to have the signs laminated.

On Footpath L5/14 the farmer wishes to return to the old route of the path round the edge of the field bringing the path out to the rear of the churchyard, Mr. Burrough and Mr. Davies are to speak to the farmer about this. The farmer also intends to put a duck pond in the old canal and has started to remove debris from the site.

e) Bonfires:

The Parish Council originally intended to write to all householders in Beercrocombe about the problem with bonfires but an article in the Beer and Curry Takeaway was felt to be sufficient.

1171 Planning Procedures:

There were no planning matters

1172 Matters of Report:

c) Village Green:

Mr. Sharpe of SCC Highways has found some blue lias kerbstones which will be suitable for the edge of the green which will help to keep the cost down. It is now believed the cost will be £750. This will be funded by £300 grant from SSDC through Councillor Steele, £250 from Beercrocombe Parish Council and the remainder from the village trust. The date for the start of work has not yet been set.

d) Parish Plan:

Ms. Wright and Mw. Davies had attended the last meeting of the steering group and reported that the group were running out of ideas of how to proceed with the plan. as most of the short term objectives had been achieved.

The funding for the newsletter is to be gradually withdrawn by SSDC. This year half the funding is to be removed and it would require a contribution of £45 to continue. BPC agreed to continue with the newsletter and await a decision from Curry Mallet Parish Council. It was felt that as the youth group had been well supported by the parish council that they might be able to take a more active part in this project.

Councillor Nelson stressed the importance of keeping the Parish Plan going as there is a possibility that there could be funding for the longer term projects.

1173 Finances:

Mr. Davies reported that he had met with the Clerk to outline the financial details in order to set the precept for 2008/9. He presented a projected expenditure for 2008/9 of £1040 which was agreed by the members. There one cheque to be signed for the Clerk for £182.85 for the half yearly wage.

1174 Matters of Report:

Mr. Davies had spoken to Beth Unthank, PCSO for the village and she reported that

there had been no crime in the village since the last meeting.

Mr. Burrough reported he had been given a bag of tools at the Right of Way Workshop

in order to keep the footpaths clear. Mr. Harvey agreed to keep these for the village.

The Clerk reported he had written to the Environment Agency as a local farmer on the

River Isle which could have an effect on flooding and the E.A. had acted quickly to resolve the problem.

The Parish Council had received a letter from SCC asking for financial support for the

Olympic Games for the sum of £2000. The Council declined this matter.

Mr. Langley in the Post Office at Curry Mallet has been shortlisted for rural shop awards. Both Beercrocombe and Curry Mallet fully support the shop/post office.

Ms. Unthank, PCSO, asked if we would be interested in a presentation from the Community Justice Panel. The Parish Council felt we were too small a unit to hold a presentation. It was suggested that this could be incorporated into the AGM.

The Clerk introduced a sample of an emergency planning document as a guideline to

what would be required. Mr. Reed is to look into a draft emergency plan.

1175 Date of Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting is on Monday 21th December 2008 at 7.30p.m. at Curry Mallet Village Hall.

Chairman