

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall held on Monday 24th January 2022

2109 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr. P Dibble, Mr. J Down, Mr. G Harvey, Mr. A. Plumbly, Mr. M Rastrick

Apologies: Mr. R Burrough, Mrs. R Overton,

Public: Cllr C Paul (SCC), Mr. J Munday

2110 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

2111 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 18th October 2021 were approved and signed.

2112 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising

2113 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

There were no issues raised

2114 MATTERS OF REPORT

a) Footpaths

The broken gate on Footpath L5/16 has been repaired and moved to the end of the path at the request of the landowners.

b) Highway matters

Extensive patching has now taken place throughout the Parish in preparation for resurfacing which is due to be carried out in the forthcoming financial year.

The gullies and drains along Radigan Lane are still blocked as are the gullies at Mitchums. The Highways Superintendent has confirmed that these will be jetted shortly. Following the patching, drainage problems have arisen at the end of Stocks Lane and it is hoped that jetting will solve this issue.

An incident of flytipping was reported and promptly removed by SSDC Streetscene.

c) Planning

No new planning applications have been received.

d) A358 Update

The Parish Council's response to the consultation has been submitted to National Highways. A joint response from 13 local Councils has also been submitted.

The combined parishes have submitted a report to the Planning Inspectorate detailing the inadequacies of the Consultation. This report has been acknowledged and a response will be provided within 6 months.

There is a further joint meeting with neighbouring parishes (which now includes Ilminster Town Council) arranged for 03/02/22.

All reports submitted from the Parish Council and the combined parishes are available on the website.

2115 TO AGREE BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2022/23

The Clerk submitted a proposed budget to the members prior to the meeting. This budget was approved and it was agreed to keep the precept at £1495, as there are sufficient reserves to meet any unforeseen expenditure.

2116 TO CONSIDER BEERCROCOMBE'S REQUEST FOR A ONE OFF CONTRIBUTION OF £100 TOWARDS WORK CARRIED OUT AT MUSKAY

The Council has received a request from Beercrocombe PCC for financial support to carry out additional maintenance at Muskay. The cost of the work is £300, and it is hoped that financial support will be forthcoming from the Parish Council and the Village Trust.

It was agreed to make a grant of £100 in addition to the annual churchyard maintenance grant of £150.

2117 TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT AT THE VILLAGE HALL AND CONFIRM THE EXTENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S INVOLVEMENT

A working party of interested parents has been set up in Curry Mallet to look at extending the existing play area. Somerton Town Council have some spare playground equipment which may be available at little or no cost although the installation costs have yet to be firmly established.

The working party has approached the Parish Council to establish whether it wishes to support or be involved in the project. The Council confirmed that it did not wish to have any input into or responsibility for the project but that it would in principle agree to a small financial contribution towards the costs once a final budget has been established.

2118 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

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

a. Clerk's salary	£145.00
b. Beercrocombe PCC	£150.00 & £100.00
c. CMBCVH	£120.00
d. Remembrance Wreath	£ 17.00

2119 TO CONSIDER CHANGE OF DATES FOR FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council has learnt that Curry Mallet PC wish to change the dates of their monthly meetings to the 3rd Monday of each month which clashes with the regular meetings of Beercrocombe PC. It has been suggested that both Councils could use the Village Hall on the same night, with the committee room and hall being used at the same time.

The Council considered that this arrangement would not work for several reasons and as an alternative would consider meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month for which meetings were scheduled. The Village Hall was not available on any other night during the week.

The Clerk will contact the Bookings Secretary to advise that the proposal to share the hall was unacceptable to the Council but that it would move its meetings to the 2nd Monday of the month as a compromise.

2120 TO CONSIDER PARISH COUNCIL PLANS FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Council discussed how it should commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and it was agreed that a celebration on the Village Green would be appropriate, either on Friday 3rd June or Sunday 5th June. This would probably be a BBQ but with tables and bunting. The Council agreed that this should be a free event for the parishioners with funding provided by the Parish Council and Village Trust. Parishioners would be asked to provide desserts and drinks.

In addition, there are plans for a beacon to be lit on Crimson Hill and the arrangements for this will be the same as for the Golden Jubilee, with Curry Mallet taking the lead with support from Beercrocombe residents.

2121 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF REPORT FOR INFORMATION

- **Parish Council and Unitary Authority elections – May 2022**
Parish Councils elections have been brought forward a year to coincide with elections to the new unitary authority. 110 Councillors will be elected to the new Somerset Council which comes into effect in 2023.

Elections will take place on Thursday 5th May 2022

- **LGR Advisory Board Meeting –**

There will be a remote meeting of the Local Government Reorganisation Advisory Board on February 3rd at 3.30pm. All members are invited to attend.

- **Town and Parish Council Conference**

A Town and Parish Conference will take place on 17th February at 6pm to discuss the Local Government Reorganisation and how it will affect towns and parishes. This will be a remote meeting.

- **Connecting Devon & Somerset Mobile Boost scheme**

This scheme aims to upgrade indoor 4G coverage in some areas. Businesses and householders can apply for a voucher of up to £1200 towards the cost of a mobile signal booster from a registered supplier. Businesses and residents would be required to make a contribution towards the installation costs.

Further information is available at [Connecting Devon and Somerset – Mobile Boost Scheme](#)

2122 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 14th March**, at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall held on Monday 14th March 2022

2123 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr. P Dibble, Mr. G Harvey, Mr. A. Plumbly, Mr. M Rastrick

Apologies: Mr. R Burrough,

Public: Cllr C Paul (SCC), 3 members of the public

2124 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

2125 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 24th January 2022 were approved and signed.

2126 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 2117: A working party with regards to improving the play equipment at the village hall has been established.

2127 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

The prospective candidates for the forthcoming unitary council elections introduced themselves.

Mike Stanton is a Lib Dem candidate and is already a District Councillor representing South Petherton. Richard Wilkins is the other Lib Dem candidate.

Jonathan Munday is one of the candidates standing for the Conservative party. Clare Paul, already a County Councillor, is the other Conservative candidate.

2128 MATTERS OF REPORT

b) Footpaths

There are no new issues to report.

b) Highway matters

The surface dressing is due to take place between June and August, although the drains and gullies need to be jetted prior to this.

e) Planning

A Class Q Notification for conversion of agricultural buildings three residential dwellings at Lower St Farm has been approved.

f) A358 Update

A meeting with officials from Somerset County Council, South Somerset District Council and Somerset West & Taunton Council is scheduled to take place on 21/03/22. Mr Burrough will be attending on behalf of the Combined Group of Parishes.

2128 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2022 – TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES

The Clerk advised the members that nominations for the Parish Council elections opened on March 21st. Completed nomination forms need to be received by the Returning Officer by 4pm on Tuesday 5th April.

2129 TO DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCN) AND THE GROUPING PREFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL

The Council discussed the formation of LCNs and it is envisaged that each LCN would consist of 10 Parish or Town Councils. The importance of each LCN having shared values and priorities was discussed and it was agreed that members should meet informally to discuss the matter further, before the Council makes a decision.

2130 UPDATE ON PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

There will be a BBQ on Sunday 5th June for all parishioners. This will be held at Meads Orchard or at the Village Hall if it is wet. Beercrocombe Trust will make a donation of £100 towards the event and it was agreed that the Parish Council would match this donation.

The Morris Men will be performing on the Village Green on Tuesday 7th June

2131 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

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

a. Clerk's salary	£ 96.66
b. Beer & Curry Takeaway	£147.30

2132 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF REPORT FOR INFORMATION

- **Ukraine Resettlement Scheme**

Details of the Ukraine Resettlement scheme can be found on SCC website.

- **Somerset Waste Partnership Repair van**

The community repair van has been named 'Fixy' and has started some taster sessions in Langport. The van will support repair groups but will also provide practical help and tips to individuals including a PAT testing service. In its first year the van will be dedicated to repairing electrical and electronic items.

2133 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 9th May** at 7.30pm.
This will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

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 Beercrocombe 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

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 Muskey, 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

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall held on Monday 11th July 2022

2156 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr.. R Burrough, Mr. G Harvey, Mr. A. Plumbly,

Apologies: Mr. M Rastrick, Mrs J Mann

Public: Cllr M Stanton (SCC)

2157 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

2158 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 9th May 2022 were approved and signed.

2159 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising

2160 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

No issues were raised

2161 MATTERS OF REPORT

c) Footpaths

Mr Burrough has spoken to the owners of Pauls Farm with regards to reactivating the old footpath to resolve the problem of crossing the ford when in flood. The current access over the bridge has been blocked by a locked gate which the owners have installed to prevent cars driving over the bridge, which has happened on several occasions. A solution would be to install an additional gate for walkers only and Mr Burrough will contact the Rights of Way Team to explore this option further.

b) Highway matters

The surface dressing within the Parish will take place shortly.

The summer cut of the verges has been carried out.

There are several large pot holes on the roads leading into the Parish which have been reported for repair.

g) Planning

No new planning applications have been received,

h) A358 Update

Members of Beercrocombe PC have been working with the Community of Parishes to respond to the supplementary consultation that has recently taken place. The response from the Community of Parishes is available on: beercrocombe.org.

Cllr Stanton (Somerset County Council) indicated his willingness to support the Community of Parishes (COP) with their representations to the Planning Inspectorate and offered to arrange a meeting between the COP and Mike Rigby, SCC Lead Councillor for Highways.

i) LCN Updates

The Clerk on behalf the Council attended a meeting of local Parishes to discuss the possibility of forming an LCN. It is proposed that the LCN would encompass rural parishes with similar concerns and priorities. The interested Parishes are currently Beercrocombe, Curry Mallet, Hatch Beauchamp, West Hatch, Ashill, Neroche, Stoke St Mary, Pitminster and Corfe. Further meetings will take place in the coming months to discuss the options further.

Cllr Stanton advised the meeting that the new administration is looking at the structure and purpose of the LCNs and there may be changes to how the LCNs were originally envisaged. It is anticipated that a consultation exercise will take place during late summer/early autumn.

2162 TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE EXISTING OF CODE OF CONDUCT IS SUFFICIENT OR WHETHER THE NEW CODE RECOMMENDED BY SOMERSET COUNCIL SHOULD BE ADOPTED.

The Local Government Association has drawn up a new Code of Conduct which will apply to all levels of Local Government and which Parish Councils are encouraged to adopt.

Members of the Council discussed the new Code but considered that the existing Code of Conduct was appropriate and still relevant to a small Parish Council. It was agreed that the existing Code should continue but that members would be mindful of the provisions contained within the new code.

2163 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

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

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| a. Clerk's salary | £ 96.66 |
| b. SALC - Training | £ 25.00 x 2 |

2164 TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SIGNATORY ON BANK ACCOUNTS

At present, there are 2 signatories on the bank account and it was agreed that an additional signatory is needed, as a minimum of two signatories per cheque is

required. Mrs Mann was proposed as the additional signatory and the Clerk will contact the bank and request the necessary paperwork.

2165 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF REPORT FOR INFORMATION

- **Proposed date for Town and Parish Council Conference**

The provisional date for the next Town & Parish Council Conference is Wednesday 5th October. The format of the meeting, in person or remote, is still to be decided. The meeting is likely to cover LCNs and Asset and Service Devolution.

- **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations were very successful. A BBQ lunch was held, the cost of which was covered by the organising committee and the Parish Council wished to place on record its thanks to Willie Vigus, Frances and Martin Saunders and Helen and Andrew Plumbly for their generosity and efforts in making the event so successful.

The Celebratory Beacon was well attended and thanks are due to James Marks of Weavo Fencing who donated the materials free of charge. The Chairman will write a formal letter of thanks to him.

2166 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 10th October** at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall held on Monday 10th October 2022

2166 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr. R Burrough, Mr P Dibble, Mr J. Down, Mr. G Harvey, Mrs. J Mann, Mr. A. Plumbly, Mr. M Rastrick,

Apologies: Cllr M Stanton (SCC)

Public: Cllr R Wilkins (SCC), one parishioner

2167 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

2168 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th July 2022 were approved and signed.

2169 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising

2170 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

A parishioner spoke with regards to Planning Application 22/02392/S73, which the Parish Council would discuss at the meeting. He brought to the Council's attention that the Planning Application (amendment of plans) had been submitted under a section 73 amendment, which should not be used for material changes. The amended plans would result in loss of visual amenity which is a material consideration, in addition to a much larger footprint and material changes to the roof height and pitch. It was also noted that a Section 73 application does not require notice to be served on neighbours. The Council advised the parishioner that these points would be considered when discussing the Council's response to the application.

2171 MATTERS OF REPORT

d) Footpaths – Pauls Farm/Radigan Lane

Mr Burrough has met with a SCC Rights of Way Officer to discuss the issue of providing access to pedestrians when the ford at Radigan Lane is too high to cross. Historically, there was a footpath with footbridge to cross the stream, but this

footpath was not recorded on the Definitive Rights of Way map and has fallen into disuse.

For the past 30 years, the previous owners of Paul's Farm permitted walkers to use their private access track and bridge, but this permission has now been withdrawn and the access blocked.

Following discussions with the ROW Officer, there are 3 options available:

- a) Reinstate the historical footpath. However, as it does not appear on the definitive map, the footpath has no legal status and to reinstate it would be a long complex process requiring historical evidence of usage, prior to 1990.
- b) Establish the permissive access as a formal footpath. This procedure could take years and would require evidence that the former permissive path was used regularly. The current owners of Paul's Farm are likely to object.
- c) Arrange for a small footbridge to be built over the ford. This would be costly, and a survey would need to be carried out by SCC to establish the feasibility of the plan.

The Parish Council agreed that Option C would be the most appropriate to pursue and Mr Burrough asked Cllr Richard Wilkins to provide him with details of the most relevant contact in SCC who would be able to progress the matter further. Cllr Wilkins will visit the site in due course.

b) Highway matters

The surface dressing within the Parish has now been completed. The Council wished to place on record its thanks to Derek Davies, Assistant Highways Supervisor for his support in ensuring that the work was carried out. Mr Harvey will forward a note of thanks to Somerset Highways.

j) A358 Update

The proposed meeting between the COP and Mike Rigby, SCC Lead Councillor for Highways, has yet to be arranged. Despite Somerset County Council being the principal consultee, officials and Councillors have not engaged with the Community of Parishes.

The next Community Forum with National Highways will be held on October 19th and Mr Burrough will attend on behalf of the Council.

2172 TO CONSIDER PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE FORMATION OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCNs)

The Chairman and Clerk attended the Town, City and Parish Council conference at Yeovil on 4th October and the formation of the LCNs were a large part of the agenda. Following the formation of the Unitary Authority, it is envisaged that LCNs will be a Committee of the new authority and will ensure that local needs and priorities are taken into account. The roles and responsibilities are yet to be clearly established and feedback from the consultation will be used to define and formulate the structure of the groupings.

There are three proposals for the boundaries of the LCNs, developed using different factors, including population areas, electoral divisions and geographical areas.

Proposal A would consist of 18 LCNs. Beercrocombe would be included with neighbouring parishes such as Hatch Beauchamp and Curry Mallet in an area focused on Ilminster as the main town.

Proposal B consists of 17 LCNs. Beercrocombe would be in an area focused on Langport and Somerton as its main towns. Beercrocombe would be on the periphery of this grouping.

Proposal C consists of 11 LCNs and would be a much larger grouping incorporating Crewkerne, Chard, Ilminster and Langport as its main towns.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Council would respond to the consultation partially supporting Proposal C.

2173 TO CONSIDER PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO PLANNING APPLICATION 22/02392/S73 – VARIATION OF CONDITIONS RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT AT MIDDLE ORCHARD, CAPLAND

An application has been received to vary the conditions relating to a development at Middle Orchard, Capland, under a Section 73 agreement. The applicant wishes to substitute the approved plans with 8 new plans, which would result in the following material changes:

The width of the building is increased from approximately 6.5m to 8m, and the length of the side extensions increased from approximately 5.5m to 7m on western elevation, and 8m to 9.5m on eastern elevation,

The ground area of the development is approximately 40% larger than the approved size,

The angle offset of the side extensions has been reduced by approximately 15 degrees,

The apparent length of the building from the eastern elevation is increased from approximately 22m to 26m,

The roof angle is increased from approximately 25 to 45 degrees causing the building to be approximately 1.8m higher than the approved elevation,

Numerous windows have been added to both ground and first floors. On the first floor of the eastern elevation that overlooks a neighbouring property the number of windows is increased from 2 to 6.

The Council has been advised that a Section 73 agreement should only be used for minor material amendments and consider that the amendments proposed constitute material considerations which should be subject to a full planning application. The Council considers the application to be unlawful on this basis.

The Council agreed to oppose the planning application on the above grounds.

2174 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

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

a. Clerk's salary	£ 96.66
b. SALC - Fees	£ 42.48
c. Remembrance Wreath	£ 20.00

2175 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF REPORT FOR INFORMATION

● Village Hall Update

The Clerk advised that the Chair of the Village Hall committee had contacted the Council to advise that the roof may need to be replaced at a cost of approx. £20000. As part of the fundraising efforts and grant applications, it is likely that the Parish Council will be approached for funds and the Village Hall Committee wanted to make the Council aware of this at the earliest opportunity. The Duchy of Cornwall will also be approached, but is thought to be unlikely to help. However, following discussion the Council's view was that under normal tenancy agreements a roof replacement was a Landlord's responsibility and advised the Village Hall Committee to clarify responsibility.

The Village Hall made a loss of £1655 on a turnover of £5400 for the year 2021-22. Running costs have increased by approx. 10%. However, grants of £12000 were received from SSDC as part of the covid recovery and reopening funding. This funding has enabled the committee to install Wi-Fi in the building, and refurbishment and replacement of the floor and carpets.

There are now 11 Trustees, and the committee has recently reviewed and updated its governance and health and safety policies in preparation for grant funding applications.

● Remembrance Service

Mr Burrough will read the names of the fallen and Mr Plumbly will lay the wreath at the Remembrance Service which will be held at Hatch Beauchamp Playing Field on Sunday 13th November.

2176 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 9th January 2023** at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm