

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 9th January 2023

2177 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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

Public: Cllr M Stanton, (SCC), Cllr M Cavill (SSDC)

2178 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

2179 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10th October 2022 were approved and signed.

2180 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- **Update on Planning Application: 22/02392/S73**

A decision is yet to be made on this application, which was originally submitted in August 2022. Several letters in support of the application have been submitted. Cllr Cavill will speak to the planners to ascertain the reason for the delay in reaching a decision and update the Council.

- **Update on formation of Local Community Networks (LCNs)**

Following the consultation which took place in the autumn, the County Council is working to develop a model for LCNs and its proposal will be presented to the Executive Board in mid-January.

2181 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

There were no issues raised.

2182 MATTERS OF REPORT

- a) **Footpaths – Pauls Farm/Radigan Lane**

Mr Burrough has been in contact with the SCC Rights of Way Officer and having considered the options available, the most appropriate solution would be to install a wooden footbridge to skirt the ford. This would be quite costly to

implement, and Mr Burrough will explore funding opportunities, for example, the National Highways Designated Funds scheme.

There are no other footpath issues

b) Highway matters

Following the surface dressing, the roads are holding up despite the recent heavy rainfall.

The service provider for school transport from the village has changed, and a larger bus is now used, resulting in some damage to the Village Green. It was agreed to contact School Transport within SCC, requesting that the service provider is contacted and asked to take more care. As the Parish Council is the owner of the Green, it would be responsible for repairing any damage caused and may look to recoup these costs from the service provider.

c) A358 Update

The submission of the Development Consent Order, due in December 2022, has been delayed whilst a review into the proposed environmental mitigations is carried out. In readiness of the submission, the Community of Parishes (CoP) has completed a draft Registration of Interest document and has detailed its four main areas of concern: safety of the community, scale of development, access problems to the A358 and inadequacy of the Southfields Roundabout proposals. This document will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate at the appropriate time.

The CoP is continuing to lobby Somerset County Council to challenge National Highways proposals.

d) Neighbourhood Watch Update

There have been several thefts of Catalytic Converters from cars in Barrington and Shepton Beauchamp recently and as a precaution, owners should park their cars in a garage wherever possible.

2183 TO AGREE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2023/24

The Council considered its budget for 2023/24. It was agreed to increase the grant to the Village Hall to £150, to match the contribution to the PCC for burial ground maintenance. It was also agreed to include a contingency figure of £200 to cover possible maintenance costs of the Village Green, and other unforeseen expenditure arising as a result of the formation of the new Unitary Council and Local Council Networks.

The total expenditure is estimated at £1660, and it was unanimously agreed to levy a precept of this amount. This would give a Band D property an annual precept of £25.13, a 12% increase on last year.

2184 TO CONSIDER DEVELOPING A PARISH RESILIENCE PLAN

Mrs Mann attended a conference to discuss how communities may wish to develop a resilience plan in case of emergencies. One of the suggestions is

that every property owner is aware of its 'What3Words' identification code to assist emergency services in locating the property as quickly as possible. The Council agreed that this would be useful, and parishioners would be encouraged to use this app. An article will be placed in the Parish Magazine and Beer & Curry Takeaway.

In addition, the Clerk and Mrs Mann will draw up a simple emergency plan detailing useful phone numbers and contacts that can be posted on the website and displayed in the Bus Shelter.

2185 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

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

a. Clerk's salary	£193.32
b. Beercrocombe PCC	£150.00
c. CM & BC Village Hall	£120.00

2186 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF REPORT FOR INFORMATION

- **Appointment of new signatory to bank account.**

The Council agreed that Mrs Mann should be nominated as an additional signatory to the Santander Bank account. The Clerk will obtain and action the necessary paperwork.

2187 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 6th March at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.32pm

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 6th March 2023

2188 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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

Apologies: Mr. J Down

Public: Cllr M Stanton, (SCC)

The Chairman spoke in memory of Malcolm Cavill, the District Councillor and parishioner of Beercrocombe, who had passed away the previous week. He was a generous and kind man who will be sorely missed by the Parish.

These sentiments were echoed by Cllr Stanton, who first met Malcolm when they were newly elected as District Councillors in 2019, and despite being of different political persuasions, soon became close friends and colleagues.

The Council wished to record its condolences to Malcolm's wife and family.

2189 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

2190 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2023 were approved and signed.

2191 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Update on Planning Application: 22/02392/S73
Cllr Cavill had spoken to the planners and the application was erroneously designated to the Area West team, currently staffed by agency planners. A decision is expected shortly but there is no further action for the Parish Council to take.
- Update on formation of Local Community Networks (LCNs)
The LCN proposals were approved by the new Council's Executive Board in January. Beercrocombe is in the Levels and Moors grouping, which also includes Curry Mallet.
It is likely that the first meetings will take place between July and September.

- Parish Resilience Plan

This has been completed and a copy will be placed on the Noticeboard and on the website.

2192 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

There were no issues raised.

2193 MATTERS OF REPORT

- a) Footpaths

There are no new issues to raise. There has been some flooding in recent months on the path next to Mushroom farm but there is little that can be done to prevent this.

- b) Highway matters

Following the installation of safety panels along Broadmead, the opposite verge has now been damaged by agricultural vehicles. The farmer responsible is aware of this and will make good the damage.

- c) A358 Update

As the submission of the Development Consent Order, due in December 2022, has been delayed, there is little progress to report. The Community of Parishes continues to maintain pressure on the County Council to engage with the parishes involved and take on board their views and concerns.

2194 TO CONSIDER DAMAGE TO THE VILLAGE GREEN AND WHAT FURTHER ACTION THE COUNCIL COULD TAKE.

The Chairman has contacted the Council to complain about the damage caused to the green by the school bus. His letter has been passed to the bus company and as a result, the bus now reverses past the bus shelter and takes the slip road.

However, the green continues to be damaged by other vehicles and it was suggested that either a reflective post or staddle stone should be placed behind the curb to prevent vehicles damaging the curb. The Chairman will obtain quotes for both options for the Council to consider.

2195 TO CONSIDER ISSUES OF DOG WASTE WITHIN PARISH

There have been increasing incidences of dog waste bags being left on the roads or hanging from trees.

The Council discussed the need for an additional dog waste bin, as despite weekly collections, the existing bin is often overflowing.

The Council would be required to fund both the installation and ongoing collections costs of a second bin and Mr Harvey agreed to investigate the

costs involved. Subsequent to the meeting, it has been established that the installation costs would be in the region of £350-£400 with weekly collection costs of approx. £7.

It was agreed that the Council would consider the matter further and discuss other options at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May.

2196 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

It was resolved to make the following payments:

a. Clerk's salary £96.66

2197 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Plans for King's Coronation.

A small group of parishioners are working on plans to hold a BBQ to celebrate the Coronation. It will be held on Monday 8th May from 3pm and will be a similar event to the one held to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

It is likely that the Beercrocombe Trust would contribute towards the costs if required.

- Morris Men Visit

The Morris Men will be performing on Tuesday 6th June at 8pm on the Village Green. The event will be publicised in the Beer & Curry Takeaway and the Parish Magazine

2198 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The first two Mondays in May fall on Bank Holidays this year, so it was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 9th May 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Tuesday 9th May 2023

ATTENDANCE

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Clerk to the Parish Council, Somerset Council Councillor and 6 parishioners.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2022 were received and approved.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr. Plumbly gave the following report:

The last year has been eventful with the jubilee, a state funeral and King Charles' coronation. Three Prime Ministers too. Luckily the village has not been subjected to the same upheavals though the deaths of Malcolm Cavill and Mike Davey within a month of each other and the departure of Gill and Tony Read diminish our community. We are pleased to welcome Tracy and Shaun in the Stables and Kezia and Josef in Pippins and hope they will enjoy living here and be able to participate in our shared lives.

Steven Jones, who stepped in as a temporary non-stipendiary minister four years ago after the long interregnum, retired last July and thanks were given to him and his wife Jill for their energy and contribution. Reverend Joanna Porter has taken over after to replace Paul Reynolds who left seven years ago.

The formation of the New Somerset unitary council on 1st April passed without significant noise, though the challenges of living with a large deficit budget will strain maintenance of services and the investment needed to make our whole community function well. Our roads were re-dressed last year though holes have started appearing already on certain sections. The local community networks (LCNs) that are planned will not be developed until later in the year. The new Somerset Council website uses the words "so local communities have a voice and decisions are taken with the benefit of local knowledge and experience*" appears a positive statement when providing support to the Community of Parishes concerned with the A358 development. I believe the use of 'for' instead of 'with' would have been more encouraging.

The dog bin opposite Mushroom Farm appears oversubscribed and we have engaged with the council to provide advice in ensuring the overflow and the poo bags left round the village are not a health hazard.

The annual plant sale at St James' produced £685 last year and the church spring clean in March on a lovely sunny morning in April, was well attended. The village enjoyed the concert given by Gregory Steward and arranged by Mark Humble in May in the church. The bus shelter garden produce raised £75 and the 100 club produced £560 of net receipts last year which all go towards the church income. The village green also looks good thanks to the mowing team, those who have planted and maintained the barrels and provided and decorated the Christmas tree.

The Parish Council's financial situation is in good order and thanks go to Paul Jervis for his audit of the accounts.

My thanks go to Gillian for her diligent planning, recording, advice to me and in navigating the unfamiliar paths of local government. I would also like to thank all my fellow councillors for their support and help during the year and for the volunteers who look after our village assets.

REPORTS FROM PARISH INTEREST GROUPS

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Rastrick reported that the Parish had not suffered any instances of crime but that there had been two thefts of catalytic converters in Curry Mallet and one in Barrington. The target vehicles appear to be Toyotas and Hondas.

Advice from the Police is:

Avoid parking half on the pavement, & half on the road. This may provide easier access to the underside.

If you have access to a garage, use it.

If you park on your drive, install security cameras.

Park in CCTV areas, or well-lit car parks.

Park close to walls or fences, without blocking pedestrian access.

Park in a well-lit area.

Mark & register your Catalytic converter with a marker kit.

Get a garage to weld the mounting bolts.

Fit a car tilt alarm.

Roads and Footpaths

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

Roads.

Last summer all the roads in Beercrocombe Parish, Radigan Lane and Elmbridge including the whole of Beer Street were surface dressed and are now in good order. There is still one issue outstanding in regard to the collapse of the railings into the ditch along Broadmead Road which is awaiting repair by Somerset Council Roads Department. The temporary hazard signs have caused the reduction in the width of the road and as a result slight damage has been caused to the road surface and verge opposite. Hopefully this issue will be resolved shortly. Beercrocombe now has some of the best

road surfaces of any village in the area. The Chairman has dealt with the issues involving the school bus and the village green.

Footpaths.

The only issue relating to footpaths involves replacing the footpath sign at the entrance from Beer Street onto the L5/14 which had collapsed due to the rotting of the signpost. This has been reported but the work remains outstanding to replace the signpost.

Village Hall Report

In this 1st full year following lockdown, bookings returned to pre Covid levels.

Our main job, as reflected in our charitable objectives, is to provide facilities for the community users who book the hall – and to keep it in a good state so that it meets their needs as well as our obligations under the Trust Deed – which is our main governance document.

As well as the Trust Deed we need some other governance documents to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission and potential funders, so we have reviewed these and created a Financial Control Policy, a Reserves policy and a Safeguarding policy.

Despite the concerns we have over running costs being higher than income we have managed to do a little better than break even in cash terms in that part of our budget. We did put up our rates by £1 an hour mid-year and this has helped us keep solvent. We are therefore using the funds we received previously during Covid to invest in improvements and refurbishment to the Hall.

This year the major areas of investment have been the new carpets and new locks plus a replacement door to the meeting room. We have also repainted some windows and doors – but still need to do some more repairs etc to the main door and repaint the cladding around the store room when the weather improves. We have also had terminal damage to one of the hall's fluorescent lights caused by a stray ball, so we are replacing these with LEDs. Heating units have or are being rewired. The roof is being inspected by an independent surveyor who will be giving us a written report on its condition and the likelihood on the need to replace it. Once the survey has reported we can set out a plan of action to cover those aspects along with the need to repaint the main hall in the coming year.

We also introduced Wi-Fi this year though it has not had any effect on usage.

At last year's AGM the issue of getting a licence for the Bell to use the car park, as set out in the Lease with the Duchy, was raised. The leaseholder CMPC have now picked up the requirement to do this with the new owners of the Bell.

The team delivered two excellent fundraisers with 'book and bap' mornings. We hope we can continue to offer such opportunities for the people from our villages to get together.

The financial position is still sound, we have secured from the new Somerset Unitary Authority a 100% discount on our business rates – normally charities only automatically get 50%.

Rent that the Parish Council negotiates with the Duchy is up for review toward the end of this year (April 2024 being 5 years from the current lease coming into force).

There is much to do to keep the hall as up to date decoratively as we can – and getting professional help with decorating and repairs remains a struggle so we will be calling for volunteers to help us with some of the decoration and grounds work over the next few months.

Village Trust

Mr. Harvey reported:

Two meetings took place of the trust between May last year and April this year. In this period grants of £200 each were made to three children leaving school this summer. The offer of a grant of £100 for the Queens Platinum mentioned in my report last year was not needed. A similar grant for the Kings Coronation celebrations in the village has been offered. There is a notice in the Bus Shelter advising how children can apply for a grant of £200 when leaving school.

Beer and Curry Takeaway

Mr Burrough reported that a digital copy of the Takeaway is published on the Beercrocombe website: Beercrocombe.org.

QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 7.35 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 2023

2199 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

Public: Cllr M Stanton (SCC),

Apologies: None

2200 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.

2201 Election of Vice-Chairman

Mrs J Mann was nominated as Vice-Chairman by Mr Harvey and seconded by Mr Burrough. Mrs Mann accepted the nomination which was unanimously approved.

2202 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

2203 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
LCN Representatives – A Plumbly and J Mann

2204 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 6th March 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2205 Matters arising from the minutes.

- **Damage to Village Green and response from First Bus**

First Bus has offered the Council £100 to repair the Village Green and the Council agreed that it should purchase some reflective wooden posts which could protect the corners of the Green. These are approx. £22 each and it was suggested that 6 posts would be sufficient, the cost of which would be covered in part by First Bus.

2206 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised.

2207 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

The fingerpost at the Manor Farm end of Footpath L5/14 has rotten at the bottom and has fallen over. Mr Down offered to repair and reposition the post, and if he is unable to do so, the matter will be reported to Somerset Council for action.

- **Highway matters**

The collapsed railings at Broadmead Road still remain in the ditch. The hazard sign is causing vehicles to damage the opposite verge. Mr Harvey will contact Somerset Highways to ascertain when the repair work will be carried out.

- **Planning**

No new planning applications have been received since the last meeting.

- **A358 Update**

There is no further news to report.

- **LCN Update**

It is hoped that the first meeting of the LCNs will take place in June and July and the Council will be advised of the date and venue in due course.

2208 To receive the annual accounts and internal auditors report.

The annual accounts were presented to the meeting. The precept for the year 2022/23 was £1495, and expenditure was £1148 resulting in a surplus of £347. The Council's reserves stand at £2696.

The Council received the internal audit report and thanked Mr Jervis for undertaking this work for the Council.

2209 To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 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)

2210 To approve Section 2 Accounting statements 2022/23

The Council approved the Accounting statements for 2022/23. The statements were signed by the Chairman and RFO.

2211 To confirm that the Council wishes to certify itself as exempt from the limited assurance review.

The Council confirmed that it met the criteria for exemption and was eligible to certify itself as exempt from the limited assurance review. The Chairman signed the exemption certificate.

2212 To review and confirm the insurance arrangements for 2023.

Renewal documents have been received from Zurich Insurance. The Council has been offered a 3 Year Long Term Agreement, which will reduce the premium by approx. £10 per year. It was agreed to enter into this agreement and the Council agreed to renew its insurance with Zurich Insurance for a premium of £182.51.

2213 To review and confirm the risk assessment for 2023.

The Council received the risk assessment for 2023 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.

2214 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.

2215 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

a) Clerk's Salary	£ 96.66
b) Community First	£182.51

2216 To confirm receipt of precept 2023/24

The Clerk confirmed that the precept of £1660 has been received from Somerset Council.

2217 Update on dog waste issues and to consider what further action the Parish Council should take.

The Chairman has spoken to a dog warden from Somerset Council who has agreed to patrol the Parish on a regular basis. New notices have been put up encouraging owners to take dog bags home if the dog bin is full and an article placed in the Beer & Curry Takeaway. The problem seems to have eased, although there is still the occasional bag left in the road.

2218 To consider whether the Parish should have a permanent memorial to commemorate the King's Coronation.

It was suggested that the Council should erect a plaque commemorating the King's Coronation on the bus shelter. Mrs Mann agreed to research what items are available and will bring examples and quotes to the next meeting.

2219 Correspondence for information and items of report

Cllr Stanton forwarded his monthly report in advance of the meeting. He stressed the importance of reporting road defects, preferably by the online reporting system, as extra money is available for pothole repairs at present. There are some concerns that contractors have been closing down issues before they have been resolved and if there were instances of this, he would like to be informed.

With regards to the LCNs, if Beercrocombe felt that a neighbouring LCN would be a better fit than the Moors and Levels LCN, to which Beercrocombe has currently be assigned, then movement should be possible. Cllr Stanton acknowledged that the proposed A358 improvements would be a priority for Beercrocombe in the coming years.

2220 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 3rd July 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

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 on Monday 3rd July 2023

2221 Attendance and Apologies

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

Public: Cllr M Stanton (SCC), 4 members of the public

Apologies: Mr. R Burrough

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2222 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

2223 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 9th May 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2224 Matters arising from the minutes.

- **Update on damage to Village Green and purchase of posts**

The Chairman has contacted First Bus twice within the last month as the bus is no longer reversing up the lane and further damage to the Green may occur. First Bus has offered the Council £100 to repair the Village Green and the Council agreed that it should purchase some reflective wooden posts which could protect the corners of the Green. These are approx. £22 each and it was suggested that 6 posts would be sufficient, the cost of which would be covered in part by First Bus. The Council agreed that the posts should be purchased.

2225 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised.

2226 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

No new issues to report.

A fallen tree temporarily blocked Footpath L5/14 and was promptly removed by the landowners.

- **Highway matters**

Mr Harvey has spoken to Derek Davies of Somerset Highways regarding the collapsed barriers at Broadmead Road as the matter appears to have been closed without the repairs being carried out. He will re-open the case and ensure that the work is carried out.

- **A358 Update**

There is no further news to report.

- **LCN Update**

The Chairman and Clerk attended the inaugural meeting of the Levels and Moors LCN and as expected the dualling of the A358 was not a concern for the other parishes within the LCN. It was agreed to investigate moving into the Crewkerne & Ilminster LCN as it is considered that Beercomb would have more common interests with the parishes within that grouping. Cllr Stanton mentioned that Fivehead are also considering changing LCNs, and the Clerk will contact the Fivehead Clerk to discuss the matter.

2227 To agree Council's response to Planning Application

a) 23/01462/FUL- Barns 1 & 2 Capland Lane, Ashill – conversion of barns to form one residential unit

The Council discussed this application, which is very detailed and well presented. The Council agreed unanimously to support the application which would provide a two bedroomed property for a local first-time buyer. The applicants were present to answer any questions that the Council had.

2228 To agree Council's response to Planning Application Consultation on Amendments to Planning Application: 22/02392/S73 at Middle Orchard Capland Lane Ashill

The applicant's architect was present and advised the Council that the alterations proposed could be agreed as a Section 73 application and that a full retrospective application was not required. Following a detailed discussion, the Council decided that it could not support the amendments and opposed the application on the material grounds that the ground area of the development had increased by 40%, the height of the roof had been raised and additional windows added, resulting in an overbearing property that compromises the neighbour's privacy. The Council considered that the design of the property impacts negatively on the surrounding rural area. A detailed response will be submitted to the Planning Officer.

2229 To further consider commemorative plaque to mark the King's Coronation

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that a plaque similar to the Millennial plaque in the bus shelter should be erected. It is likely that the Village Trust would match the Parish Council's contribution. Mrs Mann will research a suitable item.

2230 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

c) Clerk's Salary	£ 96.66
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2231 Correspondence for information and items of report

The dead tree behind the Telephone Box has been reported to Somerset Council. The Clerk will monitor progress as necessary.

2232 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd October 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

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 on Monday 2nd October 2023

2233 Attendance and Apologies

Councillors: Mr. P Dibble, Mr. J Down Mr. G Harvey, Mrs. J Mann, Mr. M Rastrick

Public: Cllr M Stanton (SCC),

Apologies: Mr. A Plumbly

In the absence of Mr Plumbly, Mrs Mann took the chair.

2234 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

2235 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 3rd July 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2236 Matters arising from the minutes.

- **Update on damage to Village Green and purchase of posts**

Six posts have been purchased at a cost of £77.10 and a working party to cement the posts will be arranged shortly. First Bus has agreed that it will contribute £100 towards rectifying the damage caused by its drivers. The school bus provider has changed with effect from September, Redwoods now provides the bus and driver, and first impressions suggest that the driver successfully navigates the green without causing any damage.

- **Coronation Commemoration Plaque**

Mrs Mann has sourced a company that can provide a slate plaque with the wording of our choice for approx. £200. It was agreed that the wording should be 'To commemorate the Coronation of King Charles 111, 6th May 2023'. Mrs Mann will check the suggested size of the plaque and obtain a firm quote for the price.

The Parish Council has been advised that the Beercrocombe Trust may consider a grant towards the cost of the plaque and the Clerk will submit a formal request to the trust once the final costs are known.

2236 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised.

2237 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

No new issues to report.

- **Highway matters**

Somerset Highways has confirmed that the contractors have been asked to replace the collapsed barriers at Broadmead but cannot advise when this work will be carried out.

- **A358 Update**

National Highways is currently carrying out a high-level review of all proposed schemes scheduled between now and 2030, with a shift in emphasis to prioritising and improving links to transport hubs. In a list of priorities, the A358 scheme is currently within Category H, and is the only scheme under review that needs the Secretary of State to approve before going before the Planning Inspectorate. It is possible that the scheme will be shelved or postponed due to monetary constraints.

In the meantime, National Highways has contacted parishes affected by the A358 offering a meeting to discuss and agree a joint position statement. Beercrocombe PC has declined this invitation, responding that its position remains that of the Community of Parishes, with whom National Highways should be engaging.

- **LCN Update**

The Vice Chairman and Clerk attended the second meeting of the Levels and Moors LCN held in September. The meeting discussed and agreed two priorities that the LCN would initially focus on – Active Travel and Health & Wellbeing and two working parties are to be established to progress the ideas.

Mr Harvey requested that the Council discuss at its next meeting the possibility of moving to the Ilminster & Crewkerne LCN, which may have priorities more relevant to Beercrocombe.

- **Planning**

No new applications have been received since the previous meeting, but the Clerk informed the Council that Planning Application 22/02392/S73 – relating to amendments at Middle Orchard, Capland Lane, has been approved.

2238 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

d) Clerk's Salary	£ 145.00
e) Website hosting	£ 85.82
f) SALC – Fees	£ 43.70
g) A Plumbly – posts	£ 77.10
h) Remembrance Wreath	TBC

2239 Correspondence for information and items of report

- **Winter 2023/24 Grit Bins**

Somerset Council will be checking and filling the grit bins by the end of September.

- **Bin Review and Recommend process.**

Following the implementation of Somerset Council, a consistent approach to the provision of dog waste bins is being taken and at present, no new dog waste bins will be installed.

Help will still be available with regards to patrols, signage and enforcement and problems within the Parish can be reported at:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/report-it>

- **Promotion of Parish Council**

In order to increase public participation and engagement, it was suggested that a short article be published in the Parish Magazine and Beer & Curry Takeaway, giving contact details and dates of forthcoming meetings, and encouraging parishioners to attend and give their views.

A permanent notice will also be displayed in the bus shelter.

2240 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.