

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 8th January 2024

2242 Attendance and Apologies

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

Public: None

Apologies: Mr. J Down, Cllr M Stanton (Somerset Council)

2243 Declaration of Interests

Mr G Harvey declared a personal interest in Item 10 of the agenda.

2244 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 2nd October 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Mann for chairing the October meeting in his absence.

2245 Matters arising from the minutes.

- Update on damage to Village Green and purchase of posts

The posts have been installed around the perimeter of the green and reimbursement is awaited from First Bus.

The Council placed on record its thanks to Andrew Plumbly for the work undertaken in this matter.

- Coronation Commemoration Plaque

There has been a delay in receiving a final quote and mock up of the proposed plaque, but this has now been received and will be circulated to Councillors for comment. The cost is approx. £120.00.

2246 Parishioners' Forum

A parishioner commented that the footpath by Frog Street Farm has been partially cleared but that the remainder of the route remains difficult to access. This is a known problem with the footpath where the definite route runs through the river.

2247 Matters of Report

- Footpaths

Mr Harvey reported that the fence adjacent to the footpath L5/13 by Mushroom Farm collapsed overnight, causing damage to the rails and footbridge over the stream.

The Somerset Council Footpath Officer will inspect the site shortly, but it is possible that a temporary closure may be required pending repair.

- Highway matters

The speed of water cascading through Beer Street during the recent heavy rainfall has led to the edges of the highway being damaged and washed away.

- A358 Update

National Highways has delayed its submission of a Development Consent Order for the foreseeable future and are working with the government on the next steps.

- LCN Update

Chairman attended the latest meeting of the LCN held in November, but the issues discussed did not seem relevant to Beercrocombe. The Chairman will attend the next meeting on January 15th.

- Planning

No new applications have been received since the previous meeting. The issue of Community Infrastructure Levy was raised in respect of new developments that have recently been approved and the Clerk will check whether the Council will be receiving a payment in respect of this.

- Village Hall Update

The Treasurer of the Village Hall provided an update. The Trustees are progressing their five year plan which includes reviewing the hall's energy usage with the possibility of installing an infra-red heating system at a cost of £10000. The Trustees are hoping to secure grant funding to assist with the cost and several organisations that regularly use the hall have also offered to contribute.

The Parish Council has been approached by the Village Hall and asked to consider providing an additional grant of £250 to help towards the cost of the heating. This proposal was unanimously agreed by the Council.

Regular usage of the hall is approximately 10 hours per week and income from hiring is insufficient to cover the annual running costs. In the future, further financial assistance from both Parish Councils may be necessary to ensure the hall is adequately maintained and remains viable. The Parish Council currently provides a grant of £150 per year, and it was agreed that this amount would be increased by £75.00 per year over each of the next two years to bring the Council's contribution in line (2/5ths of Curry Mallets' grant) with the annual grant provided by Curry Mallet PC, which is approx. £700.

2248 To discuss and agree budget and precept for 2024/25

The Council discussed the budget and precept requirements for 2024/25. Following the announcement of a financial emergency by Somerset Council, there is the possibility that parishes would be responsible for funding some discretionary services themselves. The emptying of dog waste bins and filling of grit bins may come into this category though Somerset Council has yet to specify what services will be reduced. The Council has sufficient resources to cover the cost, if necessary, of these services for the forthcoming year and it was agreed that these items did not need to be included in the budget.

The Council agreed that the Clerk's salary should be increased by £120 and that the annual grant should to the Village Hall should also be increased by £75.

It was agreed that the precept should be raised by £200 to accommodate these increases and that a precept of £1860 would be levied. This equates to an annual precept on a Band D property of £28.22.

2249 To discuss whether the Ilminster & Crewkerne LCN would be a better fit for Beercrocombe PC

The Chairman was hoping to attend the next meeting of the Ilminster & Crewkerne LCN on January 18th but is unable to do so. It was agreed to defer this agenda item to a future meeting.

2250 Formal Expenditure Approval

It was resolved to make the following payments:

a) Clerk's Salary	£ 145.00
b) CMBCVH	£ 150.00
c) Beercrocombe PCC	£ 150.00
d) Remembrance Wreath	£ 20.00

2251 Correspondence for information and items of report

- Complaint re chainsaw noise in village
- Mr Harvey declared a personal interest in this item.

Several parishioners have raised complaints regarding the use of chainsaw equipment at the weekend to cut up logs in commercial quantities, resulting in a noise nuisance outside of normal working hours.

The Parish Council raised these concerns and following advice from the Environmental Health Officer, the persons concerned have limited the time that the chainsaw operations take place to an average of 45mins once a week during the hours of 10am-12noon to minimise the inconvenience to their neighbours. There is no activity on a Sunday.

The Parish Council noted that every effort was being made to keep the noise to a minimum.

2252 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

The dates of the meetings in 2024 will be:

May 13th

July 8th

October 14th

The meeting closed at 8.55 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 4th March 2024.

2253 Attendance and Apologies

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

Public: None

Apologies: Cllr M Stanton (Somerset Council)

2254 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2255 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 8th January 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2256 Matters arising from the minutes.

- **Update on damage to Village Green and reimbursement from First Bus**

Reimbursement is still awaited from First Bus and the Chairman continues to chase this matter.

- **Coronation Commemoration Plaque**

The Parish Council has decided not to proceed with the Coronation Commemoration Plaque, as it considers that the money earmarked for the project would be better used to refurbish the old telephone box.

Every Parish Council has been given the opportunity to receive a framed portrait of the King, free of charge, and it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Curry Mallet PC to enquire whether they would be taking up the offer as the Village Hall would be the most appropriate venue to house the portrait.

2257 Parishioners' Forum

A parishioner has raised the issue of fly tipping in the vicinity of Broadmead Road. On several occasions during the past four years, large quantities of raw meat and other foodstuffs have been left in the area, sometimes on residents' properties. The matter was reported to Somerset Council on the last occasion and subsequently cleared within 48 hours. There is no identifying evidence left with the items and realistically little that the Parish Council can do to prevent future occurrences.

2258 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

Mr Harvey reported that Somerset Council responded quickly to the damaged footbridge on L5/13 and has installed a new handrail. As a result of the heavy winter rainfall, the footpath and watercourse have come together, and the adjacent ditch is blocked. The ditch may be the responsibility of the Duchy, but Mr Harvey will contact the Footpath Officer and ask her opinion.

- **Highway matters**

The bottom of Stocks Lane has recently been subject to prolonged flooding due to a blocked drain. This matter was referred to Highways, who confirmed that 2 gullies were not working properly and would be added to the list of locations to be jetted but they could give no guarantee when the work would be carried out.

The gullies in question receive an annual clean funded by Somerset Council and an additional clean funded by the Somerset Rivers Authority. However, part of the issue is the pipe between the gullies blocks on a regular basis and it was agreed that the Parish Council would consider the feasibility of employing a jetting machine for a short time to carry out some additional drain maintenance to alleviate the situation.

Several parishioners have undertaken to solve some of the issues caused by flooding and the Parish Council wishes to record its thanks to Henry Cole and Peter Rust for clearing the gully at the northern end of Stocks Lane and to John and James Down for clearing the grips, ditches, and culverts at Broadmead Lane, allowing the standing water to disperse. This is a great help to the community.

- **A358 Update**

There is no further news to report and the A358 scheme is currently held in abeyance.

- **LCN Update**

The Chairman will attend the next meeting of the Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN to be held on 21/03/24 to gauge whether this grouping would be a better fit than the Levels and Moors group.

- **Planning**

The Council has received notification of an Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing Occupation of dwelling without compliance with condition 3 on planning permission ref. 63832/A dated 23rd April 1964 (agricultural occupancy condition) at Manor Farm Cottage but is not required to comment.

- **Village Hall Update**

A contractor has been appointed to install the infra-red heating subject to sufficient grant funding being received, although a request for a grant of £4000 has recently been refused.

Curry Mallet Parish Council has recently commenced work on extending the playground.

2259 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

e) Clerk's Salary	£ 96.66
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2260 To discuss the proposal to make the Village BBQ an annual event with some funding provided by the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the Village BBQ should be an annual event. The cost of food and consumables is in the region of £250 and it was agreed that the Parish Council should fund half the cost, with an application to the Village Trust to fund the remainder.

It was agreed to hold the event in late June and subsequent to the meeting, Frances and Martin Saunders have agreed to host the event in their paddock on Sunday 23rd June.

2261 Correspondence for information and items of report

- **Receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment**

The Clerk confirmed that a CIL payment of £145 has been received in respect of a development at Lower Street Farm. This will be used to contribute towards the refurbishment to the telephone box.

2262 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.30pm.
The Annual Parish Meeting will also be held on that date.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 13th May 2024

ATTENDANCE

The Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Five Parishioners, Clerk to the Parish Council, and Somerset Council Councillor.

The Vice Chairman of the Parish Council chaired the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2023 were received and approved.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman of the Parish Council was unable to be present, but provided the following report which was read in his absence:

Mr. Plumbly gave the following report:

Firstly, my apologies for not attending the Annual Parish Meeting and thanks to Jayne for stepping in to provide the report.

This last year has been less eventful although there are ongoing financial challenges in the county and indeed in the country.

The Local Community Networks (LCNs) proposed by the new unitary authority meet every two months and our 'Moors & Levels' group have been well attended in person or online. The discussion groups are in three areas which are:

- Health and wellbeing which looks at mental health, loneliness, and physical health
- Highways
- Active travel focusing on footpaths/cycleways though mainly between Somerton and Bridgwater

We have discussed moving to the Ilminster and Crewkerne LCN with the A358 being an important shared focus over the last six years. This LCN is closer geographically to us and probably a more important centre of gravity

than Langport and Somerton. The discussion groups are broadly the same as in the Moors & Levels LCN.

Somerset Council's anticipated financial deficit is caused by numerous factors but the adult and child social care budget has increased this year by almost 18% and looks set to continue to rise. The deficit has led to outsourcing of community assets though Beercrocombe has none. We expect planned road maintenance and gully clearing to be more sporadic or postponed as the Council attempts to save money. The broader implication is that some Council services will decrease and, where possible, communities may need to volunteer to fill the void.

Frances & Martin Saunders very kindly offered to host a BBQ to mark the King's coronation – over 60 attended and had a great time. We have planned to do this again on 23rd June this year and hope this can be an annual event.

The annual plant sale at St James' in May produced £575 while the church spring clean was postponed till the autumn. The village enjoyed the concert given by our organist David Bigood and arranged by Lindsey Welfare in April in which raised over £350. Additional amounts were raised by the bus shelter.

garden produce (£43.25), notelets (£45) and the 100 club (£540) of net receipts which all go towards the church income.

The village green also looks good thanks to the mowing team who live around it and the barrels are maintained by Jayne Mann and others. Thanks to the Dibble family and to Niki and Simon Maggs for the donated Christmas trees in St James and on the green. Also, to Sally Gillichan who sorts the books in the phone box and keeps it tidy.

The Parish Council's financial situation is in good order and thanks go again 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 during the past year.

Neighbourhood Watch has 'updated and improved', all who register with the scheme will receive alerts directly from Avon & Somerset Police, rather than the scheme co-ordinator. To date, 14 of the current members have registered onto the new system, with a remaining 11 members still to do so.

Roads and Footpaths

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

Roads.

This last 12 months has been one of the wettest winters on records which has resulted in several flooding issues within the Parish. The main problem has been in Stocks Lane just below the junction at Elmbridge where there is a dip in the road resulting in water up to 4 feet forming which makes the road impossible to use for the majority of traffic and walkers. The matter has been reported to the Somerset Highways as two drains were blocked. Efforts had been made by Henry Cole, Peter Rust and James and John Down to clear the obstructions in the pipe down to the ditch. I notice however to-day 8th May that the water has now disappeared. I am not aware as to whether the drains and pipes have been cleared. After heavy rain to-day there is again flooding across the road.

There was flooding along Broadmead Road which has been resolved with the clearance of the whole ditch and culvert at the end close to Henry Cole's farm which again a big thanks goes to John and James Down. The railings in Broadmead have been replaced by Somerset Highways. The condition of the roads has deteriorated due to the excessive rainfall in the winter.

Footpaths.

The main concern is in respect of footpath L5/13 which runs alongside Mushroom Farm. During most of the winter this footpath has been impassable due to the footpath and the stream becoming one at the beginning of the footpath at Beer Street. The signpost and wooden bridge collapsed and I was able to have some temporary repairs carried out within 12 hours by a contractor instructed by the footpaths officer. It is hoped to review the whole length of the footpath with the footpath's officer shortly now it has become dry. The footpath signs for L5/13 and L5/14 are now back in place.

Village Hall Report

Thanks are owed to all of our thirteen Trustees for their support and contributions throughout the year – from help with gardening and exterior painting and organising and undertaking maintenance through to running two successful fundraising events. Not only do those help fund the running of the hall, they also give an opportunity to engage with our community to get them into the hall and enjoying a social event.

Our main goal, 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 of repair so that it meets their needs as well as our obligations under the Trust Deed – which is our main governance document.

We resolved the issue of the hall roof this year, through engaging a professional surveyor. They confirmed that, despite the need for ongoing

repairs to damage from weather as well as the occasional rock thrown onto the roof by persons unknown, the roof should last for a considerable time and did not need full replacement at this point. This confirmation has allowed us to take forward plans for improving the hall; starting with installation of IR heating which we hope will be completed over the summer. Fund raising to help pay for this project has been quite successful with thanks to Chris Dale for his considerable efforts. We now have sufficient to go ahead.

The next project will be to install PV panels and a battery to enhance the green credentials of the hall and, hopefully, reduce our energy costs. This will be more of a challenge for fundraising as we will need to secure the majority of the £20k required for the project from fundraising and applying for grants. The next item on the list is to resurface the car-park area with replenishing the gravel topping and making a significant repair to the concrete ramp.

Hall usage has decreased year on year, and we have concerns that running costs are higher than income although we have managed to continue with maintaining the hall decoration etc through a mix of professional services and sterling efforts of Trustees. We have repainted the main hall as well as the outside of the storeroom and external windows and doors. LED lights now replace the old fluorescent tubes in the main hall.

We had a cash deficit of £1834 in the year (last year was -£4732) and we continue to use reserves to balance this. The financial position is still sound, in that we have money in the bank and a reserves policy that ensures we keep sufficient back to enable the charity to be wound up properly if that should ever be required. We have continued to secure, from the new Somerset Unitary Authority, a 100% discount on our business rates – normally charities only automatically get 50% - but we will need to remember to apply for it each year as it no longer rolls over. Electricity prices remain volatile so costs of running the hall need to be kept under close scrutiny and we may need to make a small increase in rates mid-year to ensure we keep on track to our break-even goal.

The rent that the Parish Council negotiates with the Duchy was reviewed in year (Sept 23 being 5 years from when the current lease coming into force). The formula in the Lease agreement, based on RPI over the past 5 years up to 3 months before the review date, was applied which has increased our Rent by ~ 34%. We of course cannot recover this from our users.

During the year we received donations of £1726 and fund raising contributed an additional £880 all of which are essential to supporting the hall and we will continue fund raising events. There is also 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.

Curry Mallet Parish Council have arranged the installation of significant additional play equipment which is being enjoyed by local children.

Village Trust

Mr. Harvey reported:

There was meeting of the trust on the 26th September 2023 and the 12th March 2024. One child received a grant for £200. An application was received from Beercrocombe PCC for grants of £75.00 for 2022/2023/2024 which were granted. Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall were given a grant of £500 towards to cost of the proposed new heating at the village hall. Beercrocombe Parish Council were given a grant of £50 towards the maintenance of the telephone kiosk which is used as a library. The Parish Council also applied for a grant of £100 for the Annual BBQ which was refused as contravened the terms of the Trust.

Website

Mr Burrough gave the following report:

The parish website has been down for several months because the web hosting company Falcoda has stopped operating, without giving its clients notice and time to transfer to another company. Consequently, I am unable to edit the website. The web is a complex arena with many foreign companies sharing operations through automated systems, and none has been prepared to sort out the mess left by a rogue company like Falcoda.

However, the lease on the URL beercrocombe.org expires at the end of this month at which point it should be returned to the open market. If so, I will reacquire it through a new web hosting company. The alternative is to buy a new URL. As the parish website is primarily there to cover our legal obligations the impact of not being up to date has not been significant. Although this period has been frustrating the parish has had a web site for 9 years at a cost of just under £10 per annum. I will get the site up and running again, but I intend giving up the web master role next year.

For the past year the Beer and Curry Newsletter has been posted on the website.

Beer and Curry Takeaway

Mr Burrough reported that Phil and Jane Talbot put a lot of effort into producing the quarterly editions of the Beer and Curry. It is a pity that there are very few contributions to the Newsletter from the Beercrocombe community.

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 13th May 2024

2263 Attendance and Apologies

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

Public: Cllr M Stanton (SCC),

Apologies: Mr. A Plumbly

2264 Election of Chairman.

Mr Plumbly was nominated by Mr Burrough and seconded by Mr Harvey. Mr Plumbly had previously indicated that we would be prepared to stand again as Chairman if nominated, and the nomination was unanimously approved.

2265 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. She agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of Mr Plumbly.

2266 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

2267 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.

Communication Representative – Mr R Burrough

Village Trust – Mr. G Harvey.

Website – Mr. R. Burrough

LCN Representatives – A Plumbly and J Mann

2268 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 4th March 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2269 Matters arising from the minutes.

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

Mr Plumbly has finally received the £100 from First Bus as compensation for the damage caused to the Village Green. This amount covers the cost of the posts that have been placed around the edges of the green.

- **Village BBQ**

The Village Trust is unable to contribute as the event does not fall within the criteria as laid down by the Trust's constitution.

A parishioner has offered to donate £100 towards the cost and it was suggested that there should be a collection on the day towards the cost of future events. The Parish Council has committed to pay half the costs.

2270 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised.

2271 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

There are no new issues to report.

- **Highway matters**

There is water constantly on the road near to Beer Mill Farm and it is likely that the gully is blocked. This will be reported to Highways for action.

- **Planning**

No new planning applications have been received since the last meeting. The Certificate for Lawfulness for Manor Farm Cottage has been approved, thus releasing the property from its agricultural tie.

- **A358 Update**

There is no further news to report.

- **LCN Update**

Mr Plumbly attended a recent meeting of the Crewkerne & Ilminster LCN, and the Council will decide at a future meeting whether to change LCN areas.

2272 To receive the annual accounts and internal auditors report.

The annual accounts were presented to the meeting. The precept for the year 2023/24 was £1600, and expenditure was £1212. In addition, the Council

received a CIL payment of £145, resulting in a surplus of £679. The Council's reserves stand at £3375.

The Council received the internal audit report, which confirmed that there were no issues that needed addressing. The Council thanked Mr Jervis for carrying out the audit.

2273 To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 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)

2274 To approve Section 2 Accounting statements 2023/24.

The Council approved the Accounting Statements for 2023/24. The statements were signed by the Chairman and RFO.

2275 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.

2276 To review and confirm the insurance arrangements for 2024.

Renewal documents have been received from Zurich Insurance. The Council had previously entered into a 3 Year Long Term Agreement which expires in 2025. The Council confirmed that the insurance cover was still suitable for its needs and agreed to renew the insurance for a premium of £182.50.

2277 To review and confirm the risk assessment for 2024.

The Council received the risk assessment for 2024 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.

2278 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.

2279 To confirm the dates for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit regulations.

The Council confirmed that the period for the exercise of public rights in respect of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 would commence on **Monday 3rd June** and end on **Friday 12th July**.

2280 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

f) Clerk's Salary	£ 116.66
g) Community First	£ 182.50
h) Beer & Curry Takeaway	£ 145.98
i) J Mann – Village Green plants	£ 13.20

2280 To confirm receipt of precept for 2024/25.

The Clerk confirmed that the precept of £1860 has been received from Somerset Council.

2281 Correspondence for information and items of report

- A working party within the Parish has started to refurbish the Telephone Kiosk. The Parish Council will cover the costs without prior authorisation up to £300.
- Wessex Internet, has been contracted by Connecting Devon & Somerset to bring superfast broadband to the rural areas of South Somerset, including Beercrocombe. They are currently in discussions with landowners in the Parish over access rights for the laying of cables.

2282 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th July 2024 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 8th July 2024.

2283 Attendance and Apologies

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

Public: None

Apologies: Cllr M Stanton (Somerset Council)

2284 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2285 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 13th May 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2286 Matters arising from the minutes.

- **Update on Telephone Kiosk Repairs**

A working party of 5 volunteers has started the refurbishment of the Telephone Box. Costs to date are approx. £250 and it was agreed that the working party could commit to expenditure totalling £550 without further reference to the Parish Council.

Mr Harvey wished to place on record the Parish Council's thanks to the volunteers for taking on the project.

- **Report on Village BBQ**

The Village BBQ was a successful event, with 47 parishioners attending. The cost of the event was £273 and after taking into account donations received, it was agreed that the Parish Council should reimburse Mr Plumbly the sum of £170 as the event is for the benefit of the Parish.

2287 Parishioners' Forum

Some parishioners may not be aware that the car park at Tesco Ilminster has now imposed a parking limit of 2 hours and there is a penalty of £70 for stays in excess of this time. The Chairman has contacted Ilminster Town Council to enquire whether this is in accordance with the original planning permission granted when the supermarket was built but the Town Council does not have any control over the parking rights and is unable to take any action.

2288 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

Mr Harvey reported that there has been little progress with regards to the blocked ditch on L5/13, although the path has been cut by Somerset Council contractors as in previous years. Part of the problem is that the course of the footpath has altered over the years and has now in effect disappeared into the ditch.

Mr Harvey has been in contact with Glyn Edwards, the new interim Area Warden, and hopes to meet with him shortly to discuss what options are available.

- **Highway matters**

Mike Stanton, Somerset Councillor, has confirmed that the jetting at Stocks Lane has been programmed but as yet no date has been allocated. It is hoped that the jetting will unblock the drain, which is causing flooding on the road.

John and James Down have cut some of the roadside vegetation throughout the Parish, which has made a great improvement. The Parish Council is very grateful for their support and help to the community.

- **LCN Update**

The Levels and Moors AGM has been held and the annual report has been circulated to the Parish Councillors. The Parish Council will consider whether it should switch to the Ilminster LCN at a later meeting.

- **Planning**

No new applications have been received since the previous meeting.

- **Changes to website provider**

There has been a change to the website provider of the Parish Council website and the address of the site has changed to:

www.beercrocombe.org.uk.

The new domain name gives the Council better protection as it is governed by UK rules. The cost of the new domain name is £89.67, and the contract lasts for 3 years.

2289 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

j) Clerk's Salary	£ 116.66
k) Website Renewal	£ 89.67
l) Telephone Kiosk Repairs	£ 256.27
m) Village BBQ expenditure	£ 170.00

2290 Correspondence for information and items of report

- **Temporary Road Closure – Silver Street, Curry Mallet**

A section of Silver Street will be closed for up to 5 days with effect from 15th July. This closure may affect access to Beercrocombe from the Beer Street junction.

- **Contribution of £50 from Beercrocombe Village Trust**

The Clerk confirmed that a sum of £50 has been received from the Village Trust as a contribution towards the costs of the telephone box repairs.

2291 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.30pm. Mr Plumbly offered his apologies in advance as he will not be able to attend the meeting, and Mrs Mann will chair the meeting in his absence.

The meeting closed at 8.30 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 14th October 2024.

2292 Attendance and Apologies

Councillors: Mr. R. Burrough, Mr. J Down, Mrs. J Mann and Mr. M Rastrick
Cllr M Stanton (Somerset Council)

Public: None

Apologies: Mr. A Plumbly (Chair), Mr. P Dibble, Mr. G Harvey
In the absence of Mr. Plumbly, Mrs. Mann took the Chair.

2293 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2294 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 8th July 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2295 Matters arising from the minutes.

- **Update on Telephone Kiosk Repairs**

The refurbishment of the Telephone Kiosk has now been completed and was officially 'reopened' in July. The total cost of the renovations was £513.

The Parish Council agreed that a thank you to all the volunteers who worked on the project should be minuted.

Note: The solar light requires battery renewal about every 2 years. The batteries, 18650-2200mAh, 3.7 volts, are widely sold and cost about £5 each.

2296 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised

2297 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

The Footpath L5/13 has now been cut by Somerset Council and it is now walkable with care. Mr Down has replaced some posts with new ones into the fence alongside his land. The defect reported on the Explore Somerset Map remains as requiring attention.

- **Highway matters**

Mr Down has cleared a ditch in the field at the bottom of Stock's Lane and this has improved the runoff of surface water. Despite recent heavy rain, there was no flooding in the area.

- **A358 Update**

Following a Freedom of Information request by Mr Burrough, National Highways has confirmed that the current proposal will not be progressed through the Planning Act and that all files will be backed up to the National Archives. There has been no official announcement confirming whether the scheme has been cancelled.

- **Planning**

No new applications have been received since the previous meeting.

- **Village Hall**

The installation of the solar panels and batteries will start in October. These should provide at least 70% of the hall's needs and provide FIT payments of several hundred pounds per annum. The batteries will be placed in the entrance hall but will not obstruct the main doors.

The installation of the new infra-red heating will also start in October and following completion of all the work, an open day will be held for the community and interested user groups to see the improvements.

Due to the efforts of Chris Dale, the Village Hall Committee has successfully obtained grants that cover the cost of the solar panels and batteries in full and about 75% of the heating costs. The Parish Council contributed a grant of £250 towards the costs.

2298 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

n) Clerk's Salary	£ 175.00
o) Telephone Kiosk Repairs – Burrough	£ 218.53
p) Telephone Kiosk Repairs – Plumbly	£ 38.51
q) SALC Affiliation Fees	£ 44.96
r) CMBCVH – Grant	£ 250.00
s) HBPC – Remembrance Wreath	£ 20.00

2299 Correspondence for information and items of report

- **Somerset Prepared Day – 6th November 2024**

The event this year will take place at Bridgwater Rugby Club on Wednesday 6th November. Mrs Mann has agreed to attend and represent the Parish.

- **Somerset Rivers Authority – Local Grant Scheme**

Somerset Rivers Authority will be launching a local grant scheme to allow parishes to apply for small grants to alleviate flooding. A fund of £200K will be available from May 2025 but further information including the application process will be issued in December.

The Council discussed whether it should apply for grant funds which could be used to clear the several culverts that are blocked in the Parish. This would relieve the road flooding that occurs in certain areas. The Clerk will liaise further with members when more information is available.

2300 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 13th January 2025**

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.