

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 11th August 2025.

2341 Attendance and Apologies

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

Public: None

Apologies: Mr. Harvey, Mr. Rastrick, Cllr M Stanton (Somerset Council)

2342 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2343 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 12th May 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2344 Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

2345 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised.

2346 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

The Clerk has received confirmation from Somerset Council that the annual vegetation cutting schedule will continue as previously and the annual cut has now taken place along L5/20.

- **Highways**

A parishioner has made an online report regarding the condition of Church Lane which is subsiding and cracked in places.

The sunken drain near to Orchard View has been reported but is not due for immediate repair.

- **Planning**

No new applications have been received since the previous meeting. Somerset Council has had to implement emergency procedures with regards to planning in an effort to improve the process and reduce the substantial backlog of applications.

- **Village Hall**

The PV panels and battery installed in October 2024 have started to generate power and should provide an income of approx. £600pa. Further grant monies of £7400 have been received which will be used towards installing insulation to the hall ceiling which will improve the thermal comfort of the hall.

The Duchy of Cornwall has announced that it will suspend the rent on the hall which will save £1100p.a. This arrangement will remain in place during the tenure of the current Duke of Cornwall.

Fund raising continues and the latest Pimms and Prosecco event raised over £500.

Unfortunately, there have been several incidents of vandalism and the Committee is considering the use of CCTV to deter this.

2347 To consider how the Parish Council will comply with new requirements relating to digital and data compliance.

The Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel has issued new guidance as a new assertion concerning digital and data compliance will be included in the Annual Government and Accountability Return (AGAR) with effect from this financial year.

Parish Councils should have an authority owned email account such as org.uk or gov.uk and an IT policy that mandates the use of authority owned email accounts for official business.

All Parish Council websites should include an accessibility statement which is kept under regular review.

It was agreed that the Clerk could use the email address attached to the existing website (www.beercroocmbe.org.uk) which would satisfy the requirements of using an org.uk email address.

The Council will look to adopt an IT Policy at a future meeting and Mr Burrough will improve the accessibility of the website and publish an accessibility in due course.

The Council will reconsider the issue when the actual wording of the new assertion is published next March.

2348 To note and discuss removal of dead tree on Village Green

One of the trees on the Village Green has died and has now been removed. In view of the limited space on the Green, it will not be replaced.

2349 To consider change of bank account following notification of introduction of bank charges.

Santander will be introducing a monthly fee of £4.99 with effect from October. The Council discussed changing bank accounts but most other banks also levy a monthly fee and it was decided to remain with Santander for the time being.

2350 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

a) Clerk's Salary	£ 175.00
b) A Plumbly – BBQ Expenses	£ 234.00

2351 Correspondence for information and items of report

- **Notification of New Assistant Highway Services Manager**

Following the retirement of Derek Davies, John Nicolson has been appointed as the Assistant Highways Services manager for the area.

2352 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 13th October 2025 at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.