

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 13th January 2025

2301 Attendance and Apologies

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

Public: None

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

2302 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2303 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14th October 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2304 Matters arising from the minutes.

- **Update on Telephone Kiosk Repairs**

The solar light only appears to be working intermittently, and they may be a problem with the battery. The Council agreed that Mr Burrough should purchase some replacement batteries.

2305 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised

2306 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

There are no new issues to report.

- **Highway matters**

The gully at the end of Stocks Lane appears to have been cleared and this together with the work previously carried out by Mr Down in the adjacent field, has prevented the area from further flooding.

It is noted however that the use of large agricultural vehicles by certain contractors are eroding the hedges and verges of Stocks Lane, causing mud and debris to clog the drains.

There is a large pothole/defect along Broadmead Road which will be reported online.

- **A358 Update**

National Highways has confirmed that the proposed A358 dualling from Southfields to Taunton has now been cancelled. This is due to the cost of the scheme.

- **Planning**

No new applications have been received since the previous meeting.

- **Village Hall**

The installation of the solar panels and infra-red heating has been completed.

The Village Hall continue to arrange fund raising events as expenditure currently exceeds income. The target for letting is currently 500 hours per annum and at present, only 400 hours is let on a regular basis.

2307 To agree budget and precept for 2025-26

The Council considered its budget for 2025-26. It was agreed to include a figure of £250 to cover the cost of the annual Village BBQ, and £100 to cover the cost of the Christmas Tree on the Green. The Village Hall grant will increase to £300. Total expenditure is forecast to be approx. £2000, but as the Council has sufficient reserves, it was agreed that the precept would remain at £1860, giving a Band D equivalent of £26.97p.a.

The Clerk will submit the Council's requirement to Somerset Council.

2308 To consider an application to Somerset Rivers Authority Grant scheme.

The Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) has introduced a grant scheme to assist parishes with flood prevention or improvement schemes. As the main flooding issue, the blocked gully at Elmbridge, has been rectified, the Council agreed not to submit a grant application.

2309 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

a) Clerk's Salary	£ 175.00
b) CMBCVH – Annual Grant	£ 225.00
c) Beercrocombe PCC	£ 150.00

2310 Correspondence for information and items of report

- **Somerset Prepared Resilience Road Show – 25/02/25**

Somerset Prepared are holding a resilience road show and drop-in session at Neroche Hall on February 25th. Mrs Mann will attend to represent the Council.

- **Somerset Rights of Way – Offer of gates**

To prepare for the forthcoming restructure at Somerset Council, the Rights of Way team is looking to distribute as much furniture as possible so that it is funded by the current year's budget.

If any landowner requires a gate for a public Right of Way, these are available free of charge, but the landowner would be responsible for installing them.

2311 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 10th March 2025**

Further meetings will be held on:

Monday 12th May 2025

Monday 14th July 2025

Monday 13th October 2025

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.