

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 12th
May 2025

2322 Attendance and Apologies

Councillors: 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)

2323 Election of Chairman.

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

2324 Election of Vice-Chairman

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

2325 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

2326 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

Both Mr. Burrough and Mr. Harvey indicated that they would be stepping down from the Council next year.

2327 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 10th March 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2328 Matters arising from the minutes.

- **Repair of Footpath L5/13**

The Council wished to place on record its thanks to Mr Down for the repair to Footpath L5/13. The ditch was cleared and the footpath raised up to alleviate flooding. The new surface has been planted with grass seed. The Council agreed that a contribution of £200 should be paid to Mr Down. Mr Down was not present at this discussion.

- **Donation to Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Community Pub Ltd**

A bank account in the name of Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Community Pub Ltd has been opened which will enable the Community Benefit Society to apply for grants etc. In accordance with Minute 2318, it was agreed to make a contribution of £400 towards the set up costs of the company.

2328 Parishioners' Forum

A parishioner has raised concerns that Right of Way (ROW) L5/20 is impassable in places although the location of the obstruction is not known. The path in question is a Restricted Byway, rather than a footpath, and therefore walkers, horse riders, cyclists and horse drawn vehicles are permitted to use it. The course of the ROW goes along the river bed at some point.

There have been several issues reported in the past, the latest being in 2023 when the ROW was reported as being inaccessible. The defect was resolved as the vegetation was trimmed back and the byway added to the Somerset Council annual vegetation cut schedule.

Parishioners are encouraged to report any obstructions to Somerset Council using the online reporting facility.

The clerk will contact the ROW team to ascertain whether the annual clearance cuts are still continuing in view of the financial situation of Somerset Council.

2329 Matters of Report

- **Footpaths**

There are no new issues to report.

- **Highway matters**

There is a sunken drain on the highway near to Orchard View which could cause damage if not rectified. This will be reported to Highways.

The subsidence of the road on Capland Lane near to the plant nursery has also been reported, although this does fall outside the Parish.

- **Planning**

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

- **LCN Update**

Nothing to report

2330 To receive the annual accounts and internal auditors report.

The annual accounts were presented to the meeting. The precept for the year 2024/25 was £1860, and expenditure was £2505. The excess expenditure was due to the cost of renovations to the telephone box of £513 and a grant of £250 to the Village Hall as a contribution to the new heating system. The Council's reserves are sufficient to cover the deficit.

The Council received the internal audit report, which confirmed that there were no issues that needed addressing. The Council thanked Mr Roberts, who carried out the internal audit on this occasion.

2331 To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 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)

2332 To approve Section 2 Accounting statements 2024/25

The Council approved the Accounting Statements for 2024/25 The statements were signed by the Chairman and RFO.

2333 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.

2334 To review and confirm the insurance arrangements for 2025.

Renewal documents have been received from Zurich Insurance. The Council had previously entered into a 3 Year Long Term Agreement which expires in 2026. The Council confirmed that the insurance cover was still suitable for its needs and agreed to renew the insurance for a premium of £182.36.

2335 To review and confirm the risk assessment for 2025.

The Council received the risk assessment for 2025 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.

2336 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.

2337 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 2025 would commence on **Tuesday 3rd June** and end on **Monday 14th July**.

2338 Formal Expenditure Approval

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

a) Clerk's Salary	£ 116.66
b) Community First	£ 182.36
c) SALC	£ 70.53
d) J Mann – Village Green plants	£ 10.00
e) R Burrough – Footpath repair materials	£ 38.91
f) J Down – Footpath Repair	£ 200.00
g) CM&BC Community Pub Ltd	£ 400.00

2339 To confirm receipt of precept for 2025/26.

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

2340 Correspondence for information and items of report

No issues to report

2340 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th July 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.