

Beer Parish Council – Minutes

The Parish Council Meeting was held on **Wednesday 11th March 2026**, copies of minutes and reports are available on request.

Present:	Cllr M Shobbrook	Cllr K Stevens	Cllr T Stevens
	Cllr C Arnold	Cllr J Heath	Cllr J Morrow
	Cllr M Westlake	Cllr S Whitelock	Cllr M Finney

Minutes were taken by the Clerk: Mrs Tess Nishino

- 1. Apologies: To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence:** none. Cllr C Arnold arrived late to the meeting due to work commitments.
 - 2. Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the adopted Code of Conduct. (N.B. this does not preclude any later declarations). To consider dispensation requests:** none were declared.
 - 3. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded:** none
 - 4. Public Participation:** there were seven residents present. One resident raised the issue of anti-social nighttime noise in the Townsend Coach Park. Another resident agreed it was an issue. The remaining five residents wished to ask about Common Lane and their concerns about alleged proposed one-way traffic plans. Cllrs assured the residents that nothing had been set in stone and advised the residents to listen to agenda point 10 for a better understanding of how things stand. The Cllrs reminded the residents that the Parish Council does not have any powers to make any changes to the roads, which are the remit of DCC Highways.
 - 5. To consider and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 11th February 2026:** The Council agreed the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. Minutes were signed and initialled on each page by Cllr T Stevens.
 - 6. EDDC and DCC Cllrs: to discuss reports already submitted and consider matters for the attention of EDDC/DCC rep:** Reports from Cllr J Heath and Cllr P Arnott were noted. Both reports can be found on the Council website, or are available on request from the Clerk. EDDC Cllr J Heath added to his report that he had requested a meeting with EDDC to discuss the long term voided social housing properties in the area, and that any information regarding the disposal of said properties should not be confidential.
 - 7. To elect a new champion for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site:** Cllr J Morrow was nominated for the role. Proposed by Cllr M Shobbrook, seconded by Cllr M Finney, resolved all in favour.
 - 8. To elect a representative for the Community Land Trust (CLT):** Cllr M Finney nominated himself for the role. Proposed by Cllr K Stevens, seconded by Cllr J Heath, resolved all in favour
- 19:32 Cllr C Arnold joined the meeting**
- 9. To receive an update from the New Village Website working group, consider the final costings for the project, and consider signing the contract:** the working group again reiterated how impressed they had been with the web designer at their initial meeting. The quote was presented and Council agreed to go with the higher level of service. Proposed Cllr M Shobbrook, seconded Cllr J Heath. Clerk to contact web designer, book in the project, and pay the first 50% of the invoice.
 - 10. To discuss the results of the public consultation on Common Lane and consider next steps:** the Council began by once more stating that nothing was set in stone. There is recognition that the cliff by Common Lane, between the Meadows and Southdown Road, could fail at any time. If this were to happen all access via Common Lane would be lost (i.e. for vehicles and pedestrians). DCC Highways has

recommended that the Parish Council produce a road traffic scheme. The Parish Council can make initial suggestions only, it is DCC Highways that has the final say. BPC plans on asking highways to police the 6ft limit that is already in place, but rarely adhered to.

The cliff report commissioned by EDDC in 2017 was discussed. The proposed letter to DCC Highways was discussed. It was agreed to send the letter with some amendments. Proposed Cllr M Westlake, seconded Cllr K Stevens, resolved all in favour. Clerk to send letter once amendments have been confirmed.

Five residents left the meeting

11. To elect members for the Common Lane working group: to be arranged by email.

12. To discuss and consider residents' noise complaint regarding the Bottleman lorry at Townsend Coach Park: A letter from Bottleman, who could not be present at the meeting, was read out. Clerk to contact Bottleman and confirm what time they are operating at by requesting the tacho reports/records. Cllr J Heath to contact EDDC regarding the Noise Abatement Report commissioned a few years ago.

Two residents left the meeting

13. To consider the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting: Clerk to arrange consistent with previous years.

14. To consider how to combat the regular parking violations where Southdown Road meets Clapps Lane: The parking violation was discussed. Clerk noted that they had reported it to DCC Highways, who had advised they did not enforce traffic violations and suggested contacting the police. Cllr C Arnold to raise the issue to the police at the next police coffee morning.

15. Financial Report

- 15.1. To approve the monthly bank reconciliations to the end of February 2025:** approved
- 15.2. To receive monthly Alpha software reports for February 2025:** noted with no questions
- 15.3. To approve the schedule of payments for March 2026 (please note this may be subject to change up to the day of the meeting). Where the certification of invoices is done as a batch, this shall include a statement by the RFO that all invoices listed have been 'examined, verified and certified' by the RFO. All invoices to be checked and initialled by the Chairman:**
All payments were approved and invoices checked and initialled by Cllr T Stevens.
- 15.4. Clerk's report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting:** none
- 15.5. To note the renewal cost of the cover for Beer Parish's Council Insurance (entering 2nd year of 3rd year contract):** noted

16. Policies and Procedures

- 16.1. To review the Code of Conduct:** to be deferred to next month
- 16.2. To review the Financial Regulations:** to be deferred to next month
- 16.3. To review the Social Media Policy:** to be deferred to next month
- 16.4. To review the Privacy Notice:** to be deferred to next month
- 16.5. To review the Data Protection Policy:** to be deferred to next month

17. Environment and Community

- 17.1. To receive an update on the Old Chapel, Beer:** they need to reapply for charitable status as their application was declined. They are currently deciding what kind of toilets to install.
- 17.2. To discuss progress of survey on drains, potholes, and infrastructure in Beer:** Cllr S Whitelock has spoken with SWW about obtaining the necessary mapping documents.
- 17.3. To discuss pot holes, pavements, and the sink hole in the road by Mariners' Hall:** Clerk to contact DCC Highways regarding the collapsing culvert outside the Mariners' Hall.
- 17.4. To receive an update on Ashill Play Park Bottom gate and fence:** posts have been installed. Chair to approach the Men's shed about making a gate.

- 17.5. To receive an update on the BERT working group:** Cllr T Stevens will be attending a meeting with Devon Resilience Forum later this month, where he hopes to obtain advice and template health and safety documents for allowing safe implementation of the BERT plan.
- 17.6. To receive an update from the inter-Parish working group for the potential nutrient reprocessing plan:** Branscombe Parish Council has still not received any updates. Chair is in regular contact with the Branscombe chair to keep on the top of things.
- 17.7. To discuss and consider options for the maintenance of Beer Brook:** It seems likely that the community payback team will be able to help out with the clearing of the brook, although it is unlikely to happen until after the peak season.
- 17.8. To consider where to plant the free landmark tree from Devon Wildlife Trust:** the Workman will be asked to choose a suitable location for the landmark tree.

18. To discuss and agree dates for 2026/27 Full Council and Financial & General-Purpose meetings: meetings will continue on the second Wednesday of each month. Clerk to send around list of meeting dates.

19. Correspondence – See word document for full list of correspondence: noted with no questions

20. Police: Link to the police page shared prior to the meeting: noted with no questions

21. To note next date of tabletop sale on 14th March 2026: noted

Date of next meetings: Full Council Wednesday 7pm 8th April 2026.

Signed: Cllr T Stevens

Date: