

Beer Parish Council – Minutes

The Parish Council Meeting was held on **Wednesday 8th July 2026**, copies of minutes and reports are available on request.

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

Minutes were taken by the Clerk: Mrs Tess Nishino

- 1. Apologies and reasons for absence:** all Councillors were present at the meeting.
- 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 declared
- 3. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded:** none
- 4. Public Participation:** 2 members of the public were present.
- 5. To consider and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th June 2026:**
The Council agreed the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. Proposed Cllr K Stevens, seconded Cllr M Shobbrook, resolved all in favour. The minutes were signed and initialled on each page by the Chair.
- 6. EDDC and DCC Cllrs: to discuss reports already submitted and consider matters for the attention of EDDC/DCC Reps:** No report received from DCC Cllr. EDDC Cllr J Heath read from his report, available on request. Court Barton Hill is due to be resurfaced, but no time scale has been given; Cllr Heath has a planned visit to Branscombe Primary School, and will do all he can to ensure the school remains open; he is liaising with EDDC re: social housing and minimising duration of void properties; the District Council will continue until 2028 – there are no elections next year; after 16th July we will know more about local government reorganisation (LGR) and the effect this will have on Town and Parish Councils – Cllr Heath is pushing for timely disclosure on what assets are being transferred so the Parish Council can begin to make preparations.

It was decided to discuss agenda point 17.6 out of order, agreed all in favour. **17.6 To consider the effect Beer Eats has on local businesses:** Councillors noted that while a complaint had been received from a local business, lots of positive feedback has been received from residents. An unofficial survey showed that residents would not be eating out if it were not for the event. Some businesses benefit from the influx of visitors the event brings. The organiser has tried to engage with local businesses. Suggestions were made as to how businesses further up the village could benefit, such as asking EDDC for permission to display advertising signs on the Jubilee. The next Beer Eats is 7th August. It was proposed by Cllr M Westlake that the event be allowed to continue, seconded by Cllr C Arnold, resolved all in favour.

One member of the public left the meeting

- 7. To receive an update on the cabling under the land adjacent to the Coach Park and consider hiring a contractor to install the fence between the land and 1 Townsend:** after viewing the cabling map provided by National Grid, Councillors decided it is not safe to dig deep enough to install a sturdier fence and will therefore be installing a wire post fence. Cllr S Whitelock to visit the site in preparation for this.
- 8. To receive an update on the new Village Website:** the website is now live and operating on a monthly retainer to keep the back end up to date. News and events must be kept up to date for the site to remain relevant. Clerk to put together a rota for gathering new information.

9. Townsend Coach Park

- 9.1. To discuss whether there is space for an additional car now that a smaller vehicle is using the commercial bay:** no, the van driver would also need space to park his car.
- 9.2. To consider the price of the Townsend Coach Park commercial permit in light of the recent difficulties and smaller size of the current vehicle:** Cllr K Stevens proposed a 10% refund, seconded by Cllr M Shobbrook, resolved all in favour.
- 9.3. Consider options for enforcing parking permits at Townsend Coach Park:** The new signs are yet to go up, and it is hoped these will help deter infringements. A variety of options were discussed, which will be considered again if the signs are not effective.
- 9.4. To consider the possibility of extending some of the private bays to accommodate the parking of vans, potentially at a premium price:** the Council will look into the possibility of increasing the size of the middle bays to allow for the parking of larger vans, but any changes will not be put in place until the start of the next invoicing period (April 2027). Current permit holders are requested to stick to the terms and conditions and only park vehicles that fit into the bays.

10. BERT

- 10.1. To discuss the current issues BERT is facing:** the issues are of health and safety. The Parish Council will be responsible for the welfare of any volunteers and are worried about litigation.
- 10.2. To consider the next steps for BERT:** to contact the Insurance company and confirm what measures would need to be in place for the insurance policy to sufficiently cover the volunteers.
- 10.3. Questions & answers with Chris Khan from the Environmental Agency:** Chris Khan explained that the plan is about having a coordinated response, people to check where help is needed, and a single spokesperson for reporting to emergency services when they arrive. Volunteering is risk-free and should be covered by Parish Council's insurance. Questions then turned to Beer Brook. The Parish Council is unable to gather enough able volunteers for clearing the brook and is worried that heavy rain will cause it to flood. Chris Khan explained the EA is focusing on managing water at the top of the hill using natural flood management to slow the rate at which it reaches the village. He said there was not enough money to clear the Brook when the next heavy rain would fill it straight back up again.

One member of the public left the meeting

- 11. To receive an update on the registration of the MH with Land Registry:** Cllr M Shobbrook has filled in the documents and will visit the solicitor in person with the Chair.
- 12. To discuss ideas for Little Hemphay and consider renewing the lease:** A meeting with Clinton Estate showed that they were open to ideas for making the site economically viable and the lease is not as constrictive as was believed. Once nesting season has finished, the area will be cut back, and Councillors will consider whether to renew the lease following a site visit.
- 13. To appoint a new Jurassic Coast Ambassador / temporary Ambassador willing to fill out the Jurassic Coast Stakeholder Participation Survey:** Cllr K Stevens agreed to temporarily hold the position, although she will be unable to attend any meetings. Clerk to send her the survey.
- 14. To consider what to do about the Beer Memories Museum:** Cllr K Stevens declared an interest as she helped with the setup of the digital museum. Clerk to request a hard copy and enquire about the possibility of hosting the museum on the new village website.

15. Financial Report

- 15.1. To approve the monthly bank reconciliations to the end of June 2026:** approved
- 15.2. To receive monthly Alpha software reports for June 2026:** noted with no questions. Clerk showed that at the end of the first quarter, spend is on budget at 25.5%
- 15.3. To approve the schedule of payments for June 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 AGAR has been submitted and acknowledged by PKF Littlejohn: noted
- 15.6. To approve the purchase of a new leaf blower for the workman (estimated £310): proposed Cllr K Stevens, seconded Cllr M Finney, resolved all in favour.

16. Policies and Procedures

- 16.1. To review the Planning Committee Terms of Reference: As the whole Council meets for Planning, it was decided these Terms of Reference are no longer relevant.
- 16.2. To review the Assets & Property Portfolio Terms of Reference: The Assets & Property Portfolio was abolished, so these Terms of Reference are no longer relevant.

17. Environment and Community

- 17.1. To receive an update on the Old Chapel, Beer: £750 cash was raised at the event last month; they have made an application for an electrical supply; trees for electricity wire access will be cut at the end of nesting season.
- 17.2. To discuss progress of survey on drains, potholes, and infrastructure in Beer: Cllr S Whitelock has been informed that the sinkhole outside the Mariners' Hall is caused by a collapsed sewer, not the culvert. Councillors speculate that perhaps the culvert has also collapsed. An inspection with relevant parties has been arranged. Contrary to Cllr Heath's report, Cllr Whitelock has been informed Court Barton Hill repairs are not going ahead as the hill is "too steep"
- 17.3. To receive an update on Ashill Play Park Bottom gate: the gate has been ordered and will be arriving in 3-4 weeks.
- 17.4. To receive an update on actions taken at Ash Hill Playpark following the annual safety inspection report, and consider next steps: Chair is working through the points.
- 17.5. To receive an update from the inter-Parish working group for the potential nutrient reprocessing plan: Branscombe Parish Council has still heard nothing.
- 17.6. To consider the effect Beer Eats has on local businesses: discussed earlier.
- 17.7. To consider the new Bottleman contract, frequency "on request": proposed Cllr K Stevens, seconded Cllr T Stevens, resolved all in favour.

- 18. To discuss future Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the impact it may have on the Parish Council: there is not much to discuss until results of the decision on 16th July have been published. Councillors expressed concern about what would happen to the Parish Council's assets if it is decided the Parish Council is to be abolished. Cllr M Finney proposed the Parish Council's assets should be put into a community trust subject to appropriate legal due diligence, to ensure that the assets remain for the benefit of the community. This was seconded by Cllr J Heath and resolved all in favour.

- 19. Correspondence – See word document for full list of correspondence: noted

- 20. Police: Link to the police page shared prior to the meeting: noted

- 21. To note next date of tabletop sale on 19th September 2026: noted

Date of next meetings: Full Council Wednesday 7pm 9th September 2026.

Signed: Cllr T Stevens

Date: