

# Beer Parish Council

## Newsletter

January 2025

Sadly Beer news got off to a sad start in 2025, with the announcement that Brian Potter had died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Brian was a former Parish Councillor and served for many years on various Committees. He was also an active member of the community and gave his time to promote other organisations in the village. His towering upright stature will be missed around the village. The Council extends its sincere sympathies to his wife Deirdre and to his family.

In other happier news, the Council is pleased to be able to report that another survey of the state of repair and functionality of the watercourses throughout the village is underway, in the hope that flooding of parts of the village can be prevented during periods of heavy rainfall. Alongside this, the newly reformed Beer Emergency response Team Committee has already had several meetings to establish an action plan and a network of support if any unforeseen event occurs in the village putting lives and homes at risk. A financial grant has enabled the purchase of emergency radios and other equipment such as the ***“message in a bottle scheme”*** created by the Lions organisation. The plastic bottles in which the details of a person’s prescription medicines and details of their next of kin etc. can be recorded, are then placed in the fridges of vulnerable people. In the event of the emergency services being called to a person’s home, they will look for these details in the owner’s fridge. This is the recommended place to put the bottle, as it will be the first area the emergency services will look. These plastic bottles are available free of charge to anyone in the village who feels they would like to have one. Family members are also encouraged to consider their elderly relatives and to set up a “message in a bottle” as well. Details of the whereabouts of these supplies can be obtained via the Clerk to the Council, or by visiting <https://How it Works - Message in a Bottle , Lions Clubs International British Isles> .

Regrettably, we are not able to report any progress being made in the Transfer of Assets plan with EDDC. We submitted the required expression of interest form to EDDC in 2024 and we have supplied details of the areas which the Parish Council would be prepared to consider taking over. Only assets which are proven to be totally financially viable within the Council’s annual budget will be considered. A large amount of time and effort has been expended by the members of the asset transfer committee (many of whom are non-councillors-to ensure total democracy and scrutiny). Beer Parish Council has now given a deadline for EDDC to respond. We will await the District Council’s response with interest. It is thought that the possibility of EDDC being made part of a Unitary Group, is the reason for the delay in it responding to Beer. Further details will be given in forthcoming editions of this newsletter.

The Parish Council has identified the need for a restructure of the running of the Mariners’ Hall. The present schemes, under which the hall is run, were created in the 1950’s and they no longer meet the strict government requirements for the running of public spaces and areas. Fortunately, there are representatives from all the organisations in the village who regularly use the hall, on the management committee and they are keen to embrace the changes which are needed. It is hoped that the Mariners’ Hall website will soon be updated and made more user friendly for both the village residents and for potential bookings for social events and gatherings. Further details will be given as progress is made.

At the meeting of the Council’s Finance a General Purposes Committee in December 2024, recommendations for the setting of the forthcoming precept were agreed and those recommendations were subsequently adopted by the full Council. A request to EDDC in line with all local parishes has been submitted and details are available on the Parish Council website, under the Finance & General Purpose meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 minutes. The Parish Council recognises the financial plight of many of its residents in these difficult times and every effort to keep costs down will be taken.

Parish Council meetings take place each month in a relaxed but totally correct atmosphere, under the leadership of our Chairman and our excellent Clerk, Nicky Ingarfield. Public participation is very welcome and as there is a current vacancy on the Council, residents are encouraged to come along and consider joining the team.