

Beer Parish Council - Minutes

The Parish Council Meeting was held on **Wednesday 14th January 2026**, copies of minutes and reports are available on request.

Present: **Cllr M Shobbrook**
 Cllr S Reeve
 Cllr J Morrow

Cllr K Stevens
Cllr C Arnold
Cllr M Westlake

Cllr T Stevens
Cllr J Heath
Cllr S Whitelock

Minutes were taken by the Clerk: Mrs Tess Nishino

- 1. Apologies: To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence:** Cllr M Finney was absent due to health issues
- 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:** 3 members of the public were in attendance. The first resident voiced concerns regarding the pavement on Mare Lane to the school, on the righthand side, which is green with algae and very overgrown. Council advised the resident to log an issue on the DCC Highways website, as this is their remit. They offered for the Workman to clean the pavement in the meantime, but the resident advised it was beyond that stage. Cllr M Shobbrook raised a similar issue that another resident (not present) had raised with him requesting a handrail on Pigs Path to assist residents on icy days. Cllr Heath to raise the point with EDDC. Another resident spoke about road safety measures around the school. A request to update the school about any consultations re: Common Lane was made, so that dates could be put in the weekly newsletter and parents made aware. The resident had questions regarding the Mariners' Hall report, which Cllr M Shobbrook answered.
- 5. To consider and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 10th December 2025:** 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:** There was no DCC report. EDDC Cllr J Heath read from his report (available on request). He reported on the contact to Streetscene regarding the Ash tree, an update on the ongoing issue of defective windows in a social housing property in Beer, a request sent to DCC to deal with an unsafe tree adjacent to the Beer – Seaton road, vacant social housing property in Branscombe, and a social housing request.
- 7. To consider the report on the Mariners' Hall Committee Meeting of 5th January 2026:** Cllr M Shobbrook spoke of the cordial relationship the Council now has with the Mariners' Hall Committee. He reminded the Council that it has an obligation to 1. help the MHC source a new bookings officer and minutes secretary, 2. Create a new website for the MH, 3. Pay for the wall supports, as agreed at the last Council meeting, that have now been installed to support the unstable wall behind the MH. The Clerk suggested temporary website solutions until the new website has been created, including creating a MH page on the Council website, and offering a Council email for bookings. Proposed Cllr M Shobbrook, seconded Cllr C Arnold. Clerk to implement temporary website solutions.

8. **To consider the offer of a free landmark tree from Devon Wildlife Trust:** The Council voted in favour of receiving a free landmark tree, with a preference for a hazel, with second choice being silver birch. Proposed Cllr C Arnold, Seconded Cllr J Heath. The Council are undecided where to plant the tree.
9. **To consider the Heritage Centre's Annual Rent:** BPC has confirmed ownership of the Heritage Centre. It was resolved to keep the rent the same, considering that the Heritage Centre has had a hard year. Proposed Cllr K Stevens, Seconded Cllr M Westlake.

10. Financial Report

- 10.1. **To approve the monthly bank reconciliations to the end of December 2025:** approved
- 10.2. **To receive monthly Alpha software reports for December 2025:** noted with no questions
- 10.3. **To approve the schedule of payments for January 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. Clerk noted the upcoming payment for defibrillator pads, which were previously received free of charge. Clerk investigating, but in the meantime paying the proforma invoice as the pads are soon to expire.
- 10.4. **Clerk's report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting:** none

11. Policies and Procedures

- 11.1. **To discuss traffic management protocol for temporary road closures:** the legality for the manning / not-manning of temporary road closures was discussed. Although not a legality, it was decided that the relevant parties requesting the road closure must agree to man the closures to prevent the moving of signs and violations of said closures.

12. **To consider the purchase of additional road signs:** Still awaiting inventory of current road signs. Deferred till next meeting.

13. Environment and Community

- 13.1. **To receive an update on the damaged retaining wall behind the Mariner's Hall:** discussed under agenda point 7. The support struts have been installed, and the wall is now stable.
- 13.2. **To receive an update on the plans for a public consultation on Common Lane:** the aim of the meeting is to take an unofficial poll on pedestrianisation of Common Lane and take that public support to appeal to DCC (if in favour). Cllrs discussed preparation for the meeting and requested a budget. It was resolved that the Council would cover preparation costs up to £1000. Proposed by Cllr J Heath, Seconded by Cllr S Reeve.
- 13.3. **To discuss looking at costings for the pedestrianisation of Common Lane and the possibility of funding some of it using BPC funds:** Deferred until after the public consultation.
- 13.4. **To receive an update on the Old Chapel, Beer:** The temporary roof has been completed and the building is watertight. Once toileting facilities have been installed it will become a glamping site. A request for funds was made by the Chapel Trustee Committee representative. The benefits to the village were discussed, but Cllrs reminded the representative that the Council cannot back commercial ventures. Clerk to investigate the legality of lending funds to a commercial venture.
- 13.5. **To discuss progress of survey on drains, potholes, and infrastructure in Beer:** the size requirements for pothole repairs were discussed. Cllr S Whitelock reported on pothole measurements on Court Barton / Hollyhead Road. He has received the maps for the drain survey and is ready to make a start.
- 13.6. **To receive an update on Ashill Play Park Bottom gate and fence:** Cllr Whitelock to visit the site.
- 13.7. **To receive an update on the BERT working group:** nothing to report
- 13.8. **To receive an update on the working group for the new village website project:** still trying to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time.
- 13.9. **To receive an update from the inter-Parish working group for the potential nutrient reprocessing plan:** first meeting to be held in the next 2 weeks. The deadline is not as rushed as previously thought, as the planning application is expected to be submitted towards the end of the 2nd quarter or later.

13.10. To discuss and consider options for the maintenance of Beer Brook: Cllrs brainstormed ideas for cleaning the brook. It was decided that the first step is to clear out the cart wash. Cllrs to continue to think of other options for clearing the brook through town and report back next month.

14. Correspondence – See word document for full list of correspondence: noted without questions.

15. Police: Link to the police page shared prior to the meeting: It was noted that the police page has not been updated.

16. To note next date of tabletop sale on 14th March 2026: noted. Clerk to re-circulate the most up-to-date tabletop surgeries rota amongst Councillors.

Date of next meeting: Full Council Wednesday 7pm 11th February 2026.

Signed: Cllr T Stevens

Date: