

Beer Parish Council - Minutes

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

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

Minutes were taken by the Clerk: Mrs Tess Nishino

- 1. Apologies: To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence:** Cllrs M Finney and J Morrow were absent due to health issues. Cllr C Arnold was late 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:** Initially 1 member of the public was present. They raised some questions about the format for the upcoming informal public consultation re: Common Lane. Questions were answered by Cllr M Westlake. The resident wanted to know if certain reports would be available at the consultation, and Cllr Westlake advised the specified reports would only be available on request. The resident questioned whether DDC Highways representation would attend the consultation, and the Clerk informed that they had been invited. Another resident joined the meeting during the questions, and a third resident joined as the first resident prepared to leave. One resident expressed support for the pedestrianisation of Common Lane, suggesting it was better than losing the use of the road altogether.
- 5. To consider and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 14th January 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:** There was no DCC report or representation. EDDC Cllr J Heath read from his report (available on request). He gave a start date and details for the Peazen Flats refurbishment, noted the resurfacing at Court Barton Hill, advised of a planned inspection for the cliffs behind Ducky's following the cliff fall, and raised awareness for the empty social housing properties in Underleys and his efforts to get them repaired and refurbished.

19:37 – Cllr C Arnold arrived.
- 7. To consider the length of renewal of the lease for the Heritage Centre:** the lease expired 3 years ago. A new lease was discussed. Cllr Shobbrook proposed renewing the lease for 3 years. Seconded by Cllr J Heath. Clerk to contact the Heritage Centre.
- 8. To consider the purchase of additional road signs:** a list of required signs was presented. It was resolved the Clerk would arrange purchase of the signs. Proposed Cllr K Stevens, seconded Cllr C Arnold.
- 9. To elect a new champion for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site:** to be deferred to next month.
- 10. To consider course of action re: fence on the land adjacent to the Coach Park and 1 Townsend Avenue:** fencing options were discussed. Cllr S Whitelock to dig holes for concrete posts after doing the Ashill Playpark fence.

- 11. To consider petitioning DCC Highways for 2 disabled parking bays on Fore Street:** Various possible positions for new disabled bays were discussed. Clerk to write to DCC Highways to request bays.
- 12. To receive an update from the New Village Website working group, consider the final costings for the project, and agree to sign the contract:** the working group reported a highly productive meeting. They are waiting on costings and a skeleton site, which they hope to bring to the next meeting.
- 13. To consider repairs to the stone walls on the Jubilee:** It was noted that the stone walls on the Jubilee are deteriorating rapidly and could become dangerous if not repaired. Clerk to contact Streetscene and request repair to the pointing. Cllr J Heath to log an issue via EDDC.

14. Financial Report

- 14.1. To approve the monthly bank reconciliations to the end of January 2025:** approved
- 14.2. To receive monthly Alpha software reports for January 2025:** noted with no questions
- 14.3. To approve the schedule of payments for February 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. The Church Clock invoice was questioned, as the clock is not a Council asset. Clerk informed that the annual clock maintenance is an established expense.
- 14.4. Clerk's report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting:** none
- 14.5. To appoint the Auditors Aalgaard Renshaw Business Solutions for the 25/26 internal audit:** Council agreed to reappoint the Auditors. Proposed Cllr M Westlake, seconded Cllr K Stevens.

- 15. To approve and sign the bank mandate for issuing a debit card for the Council Account:** The bank mandate was signed by Cllr T Stevens and Cllr M Shobbrook.

16. Policies and Procedures

There are no policies or procedures to review this month

17. Environment and Community

- 17.1. To receive an update on the plans for a public consultation on Common Lane:** The Horticultural Society has agreed to run the kitchen and will keep the profits from the sales of bacon baps and teas/coffees. It's an informal consultation, after which plans will be made.
- 17.2. To receive an update on the Old Chapel, Beer:** The roof repairs are holding up well. They are currently working on their application for charitable status. Toilets are the pressing issue – once they are in the Old Chapel can be used for "Champing".
- 17.3. To discuss progress of survey on drains, potholes, and infrastructure in Beer:** Cllr S Whitelock to purchase the SWW asset plan to aid in the survey. He showed examples of the maps that he will be using to mark on potholes, and examples of how he will mark on the gullies and manhole covers.
- 17.4. To receive an update on Ashill Play Park Bottom gate and fence:** Cllr S Whitelock to obtain fence posts and commence with hole digging.
- 17.5. To receive an update on the BERT working group:** no progress due to Health and Safety concerns.
- 17.6. To receive an update from the inter-Parish working group for the potential nutrient reprocessing plan:** Branscombe Parish Council has heard nothing new regarding the nutrient reprocessing plant.
- 17.7. To discuss and consider options for the maintenance of Beer Brook:** The Community Payback Team are checking with their supervisors but may be able to help clearing the brook by hand.
- 17.8. To consider where to plant the free landmark tree from Devon Wildlife Trust:** The Landmark tree did not arrive.

- 18. Correspondence – See word document for full list of correspondence: noted with no questions
- 19. Police: Link to the police page shared prior to the meeting: It was noted that this page is not great
- 20. To note next date of tabletop sale on 14th March 2026: noted

Date of next meetings: Full Council Wednesday 7pm 11th March 2026.

Signed: Cllr T Stevens

Date: