

# BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **2362 Attendance and Apologies**

*Councillors:* Mr. A. Plumby (Chair), Mr. R. Burrough, Mr. P Dibble, Mr. J Down, Mrs. J Mann, Mr. M Rastrick

*Public:* Cllr R. Wilkins (Somerset Council), one parishioner

*Apologies:* Mr. G. Harvey

### **2363 Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2364 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **2365 Matters arising from the minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

### **2366 Parishioners' Forum**

There were no issues raised.

### **2367 Matters of Report**

- Footpaths**

No new issues reported and there are no outstanding issues.

- Highways**

Gullies in Stocks Lane and Beer Street have been successfully cleared and the Parish Council expressed its thanks to Gary Turner and the Downs family for carrying out this work.

There is a small water leak near to Little Portion, which has been reported to Wessex Water and will be repaired in due course.

Wessex Water has also installed a sensor in the manhole to the south of the village green to monitor the level of sewage at that point.

- **Planning**

No new applications have been received since 2024.

- **Village Hall**

The ceiling insulation installed last autumn has improved the comfort of the users as well as the acoustics.

The PV panels and battery have also saved the Village Hall using power from the grid and has provided more than £1000 in export credit to date.

Fund raising has gone well with a £400 donation (wreath-making) and £700 from the Bad Edukation concert.

A new tai chi group has started.

The damaged sloping area of the entrance ramp will be repaired as soon as the weather allows.

- **Update on potential purchase of the Bell Inn**

The share offer raised £110K and a grant of £37K has also been secured. There is still a shortfall of more than £100k to be raised and the chair will contact the fundraising committee for an update on the situation.

## **2368 To agree budget and precept for 2026-27**

The Council agreed the following items of expenditure for 2026-27.

Administration and staff costs - £960,

Grants - £450

Beer & Curry Takeaway contribution - £180

Village Green maintenance - £50

Village BBQ - £150

Miscellaneous - £150 – to include website expenditure, remembrance wreath etc.

Total budget is £1940, and the Council agreed to increase the precept to £2000 to cover the expenditure, an increase of £140 from 2025/26

This will result in a Band D payment of £28.74 p.a.

The Council discussed whether it should make a contribution to the Christmas Tree on the green, which is kindly donated by Simon and Nikki Maggs and it was agreed that it would be more appropriate for the Beercrocombe Trust to fund this. The Chair will contact the trustees to make the suggestion.

## **2369 Update on possible meeting with Sarah Dyke, MP**

Chris Dale, on behalf of the Pub committee, has arranged a meeting with Sarah Dyke on 27<sup>th</sup> February between 1.30-2.30pm. This will be a joint meeting with Curry Mallet PC, Beercrocombe PC, and members of the Bell Inn fundraising committee. In addition to 'saving the Bell', it would be useful if parishioners from both communities

could attend and raise other issues of concern. The Clerk will advertise the meeting in the bus shelter and also advertise it in the Beer & Curry Takeaway.

### **2370 LCN update following introduction of new LCN link officer.**

The Chair attended the Ilminster and Crewkerne LCN meeting in December 2025. There were 17 attendees and almost all attendees engaged with problems, ideas or solutions. Topics were similar to Levels and Moors - Active travel, Highways, SALC - where Ilminster and Crewkerne, with larger populations, had more to say on these points eg. Request to reduce the speed limit at Southfields roundabout from 70 to 40mph.

It was recognised small parishes have less need to engage in LCNs but by linking with other small parishes they have a larger voice. The Council considered whether it would benefit Beercrocombe PC to be part of the Ilminster & Crewkerne LCN and on balance agreed that there are more areas of common concern with parishes adjacent to Ilminster, such as rural bus services, improvements to A358 and A303 etc.

Chris Booth is the new link officer for both Ilminster & Crewkerne LCN and the Levels and Moors LCN, and it was agreed that the Chair would contact him to ascertain whether it would be possible to switch to Ilminster & Crewkerne LCN.

### **2371 Formal Expenditure Approval**

It was **resolved** to make the following payments:

• Clerk's Salary	£ 175.00
• CMBCVH – Grant	£ 300.00
• Beercrocombe PCC	£ 150.00

### **2372 Correspondence for information and items of report**

- **Somerset Resilience Day – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Jayne Mann attended the annual Somerset Resilience Day, which was a useful event.

The Digital Landline Switchover was discussed and she has provided information to residents that will be affected by this. The advice is to always have a charged mobile phone to use in the case of electricity failure. A charged power pack is also recommended.

- **To discuss possible change of date for July meeting.**

Due to holiday commitments, it was agreed to move the date of the July meeting to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

### **2373 To confirm date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

