



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

8 Fleet Street, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3EF

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www.beaminster-tc.gov.uk

Chairman: Cllr. Chris Turner

Town Clerk: Mrs. Christine Bright

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BEAMINSTER ELECTORS

will be held in The Public Hall, Beaminster, Thursday 27th April 2017 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Chairman's opening remarks and presentation of certificates to the recipients of the Beaminster Award for Young People
2. To receive the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th April 2016 (included in this Annual Report)
3. To receive reports from:
 - Council Chairman on Council activities over the past year (included in this Annual Report)
 - Chairman of Planning Advisory & Highways Committee (included in this Annual Report)
 - Chairman of Recreations & Amenities Committee (included in this Annual Report)
 - Town Clerk & RFO—Financial Report (included in this Annual Report)
4. To receive accounts of Parochial Charities to 31.12.16 (included in this Annual Report)
5. Open Session - general discussion of matters raised by Parishioners

*Cllr Chris Turner
Chairman of the Town Council
April 2017*

Minutes of 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th April 2016 with Councillor Chris Turner in the Chair and 55 parishioners present.

1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed all parishioners to the meeting.

The Chairman introduced Paula Buxton, DCC Youth Worker. With much regret Paula advised that as a result of changes to the way in which the County Council would deliver youth services in the future, the Youth Club in Beaminster, in its current form, would close in August 2016 and that these could be the last awards she would oversee.

The Awards presented this year were, in the main, to young people who had participated in the Summer 2015 project, volunteering as a senior worker at the Youth Club, for being a caring & responsible young person within the Community and being a mentor for the summer 2015 project. Club Member of the Year was awarded to Ashleigh Bodycombe.

The Chairman, Cllr Turner, thanked Paula Buxton for her hard work and dedication to youth services in Beaminster. He expressed his gratitude to Mr Streets who continued to work tirelessly to recruit volunteers and potential trustees with a view to forming a Charitable Trust to enable a youth club to continue in the town.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th April 2015 were approved.

3. REPORT FROM COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

In his report, previously circulated, the Chairman had referred to a number of key issues the Council were working on and he stressed the Town Council would assist where possible. He was pleased to report that following the recent co-option of three new members the Town Council was back to full membership and he introduced each councillor in turn.

He paid tribute to the former chairman, Gilbert Berry, who had recently relocated to Somerset and acknowledge his hard work and vital input into a number of significant projects including the pavilion. He

also thanked all members of the council staff for their hard work, skill and dedication to the work of the council.

He also drew attention to the report on Planning Advisory & Highways Committee, Recreations & Amenities Committee and to the Financial report for 2015/16 contained within the Annual Report. No questions were raised.

4. ACCOUNTS OF PAROCHIAL CHARITIES TO 31.12.15

Cllr Turner drew attention to the Parochial Charities accounts contained within the Annual Report and introduced Mrs Janet Page, Chairman of the Trustees who tendered the Treasurer's apologies.

Mrs Page reported that the Charity, had in fact, not spent all of its available funds during the financial year and asked those attending to spread the word that funds were available to support any child requiring support; the Charity do support the schools with residential trips etc.

The 'Relief in Need' Charity, again had funds to assist families on low incomes with the purchase of white goods and similar items.

5. OPEN SESSION

Prior to opening the meeting to the parishioners two presentations were received:

Beaminster Activity Area Development (BAAD) – Cllr T

Beswarick gave a brief resume of the background behind the Skate park project group. The obvious location for this facility being the Memorial Playing Field and public consultation, in the form of a questionnaire, had been carried out and plans for the project had taken on board the requirements of the young people and addressed the concerns of nearby residents.

A landscape artist had been commissioned to prepare drawings based on plans to construct a skate/BMX/scooter facility into a constructed 'crater' adjacent the pavilion.

The second element to the project would be new improved play equipment and seating area. The timescale for the project was open ended and dependent on securing the necessary funds likely to be in the region of £150,000 for the whole scheme.

Mr M Dower expressed his concern at the amount of financial outlay on one facility and questioned whether the facility could be maintained going forward. In response the Chairman confirmed that the Town Council were mindful of all aspects of the town and in their considerations, attempted to satisfy the needs for all ages. In the 2016/17 budget the Council had set aside £18,330 to support/provide community services.

Future of Beaminster Youth Club

– Mr Gil Streets felt privileged to be working with the Town Council and other volunteers to retain a Youth Club in Beaminster following the County Council's decision to close all funded Youth Clubs in Dorset.

Unfortunately the decision had an impact on the staff at the Youth Centre and he expressed his gratitude to Paula Buxton and her staff for their hard work.

He advised that a business plan had been prepared and presented to the County Council expressing the wish to retain the youth club and to continue to run it from the building at Prout Bridge albeit by an independent charity. He expressed his gratitude to the Town Council

for its promise of funding should he be successful; also to a number of businesses and individuals in the Town.

He used the opportunity of the Annual Parish Meeting to ask for volunteers to assist the new Club and would welcome potential Trustees.

The Chairman then opened the meeting to the parishioners:

Lighting of the Beacon to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday

– Mrs Broad expressed her disappointment that advertising had encouraged people to view the Beacon from the Playing Field however there had been no one from the Council to welcome spectators and the Beacon had, in fact, not been clearly visible.

The Chairman apologised and advised that it had been difficult to find a suitable location within the Picnic site on Buckham Down to erect the tower and that the offer of car parking on the Down had been received late in the day. He expressed his gratitude to Mr Streets and Cllr Jupp for their hard work in putting the beacon together.

Highway related issues Mrs Broad highlighted the poor condition of the road surface in Woodswater Lane and enquired whether re-surfacing works might be undertaken in the near future.

Cllr Cheeseman advised that the presence of a natural spring added to the problem and a suitable drainage solution to pick up the water had to be devised prior to re-surfacing works.

Mrs Hudson drew attention to the increase in the number of pots, A boards, tables & chairs being placed on the pavements making it very difficult for those with a pushchair or wheeled mobility aid.

Mrs Scott advised that Whitesheet Hill had not been resurfaced adequately following the long term closure of the Tunnel and potholes had reappeared. The section of original surfacing required relining and the reflective studs had been removed.

Mr Dower voiced his view that no interim measures would protect the railings at Prout Bridge whilst HGV's continued to turn right into Whitcombe Road. In his opinion

a proper engineering solution, possibly over the river would be required. In response Cllr Cheeseman advised the Town Council had been in discussion with the Environment Agency, County Council and District Council with a view to a suitable short term solution which might be to cantilever the structure over the river however a long term solution would require major investment for which funds were not currently available.

Local Plan Mr Dower, who had represented the Town Council at the Local Plan enquiry, was delighted to report that he, and others who had worked hard on objections to the proposed development in Hollymoor Lane, had been successful in that the Inspector had ruled that Beaminster should not expand any faster than in the past. With the increase in the size of the Broadwindsor site, and the proposal for the Clipper Tea site the town would exceed the total amount of new dwellings as specified by the Inspector.

Whilst acknowledging the need for affordable housing Mr Dower questioned what the town's aspirations were for the site at Broadwindsor Road. The Chairman felt the town also needed employment opportunities and he would welcome dialogue with Beaminster Society and other interested parties.

6. THE MEETING

In closing the meeting the Chairman advised that the Town Council were about to embark on a project to replace the roof the Public Hall, create additional storage within a small extension on the north elevation and possibly enhancements to the main hall.

The meeting which started at 7.30pm ended at 9.00pm

Finally, on behalf of the Town Council, Cllr Turner thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the interest shown. He also thanked his fellow councillors for their hard work to ensure the Council were as proactive as possible.

CHAIRMAN
27TH APRIL 2017

Chairman's Report

Yet again, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Council year seems to have spun around remarkably quickly. Progress is like a swan on the water - calm efficiency on the surface while paddling like mad under the surface!

After last year's hiatus over the fate of the Youth Club, we are delighted to see that the children are still enjoying all the benefits that the club has to offer, no small thanks to Gil Streets, Paula Buxton and her band of merrie helpers, without whom this would not be possible. Town Council is happy to contribute to the continued well-being of the Club and its members and, as you will have seen in the press, Clipper Teas have committed funds to the Club for the next three years. I'm very pleased to know that Children's Services are still active and that the Food and Clothing banks in the Children's Centre are now being supported by the Church Diocese, albeit that such a service is a sad necessity.

Although there is still a lack of clarity over the future of the Children's Centre building, the on-going process of Local Government Reorganisation and the consequences on services in the County means that there is still much to negotiate.

Also unfortunate is the necessity

of continued dialogue with DCC's Highways Department. The issue of the railings at Prout Bridge is still unresolved in spite of regular discussions. A meeting with them has been scheduled shortly before the Annual Parish Meeting at which we hope to bring you the latest news. The recent accident in Clay Lane brought into focus our on-going negotiations with DCC about a satisfactory crossing point near the school, not just for children but for the benefit of all pedestrians.

We have also been working on a response to West Dorset and Weymouth Districts' Local Plan Review which has been made necessary because of the need to prove that the land supply for housing in the area will be sufficient to achieve the target set in the adopted Plan of October 2015. We believe that the potential for housing development around Beaminster, as defined in the Adopted Plan, will contribute our 'fair share' of growth towards that target by the end of the Plan period of 2031. If the Plan period is extended to 2036, as has been suggested, we may run up against, what I believe, is the limit of our expansion capability. There are many issues to have to take account of if we are to fend off speculative developments.

On a lighter note, we hope everyone enjoyed our new Christmas lighting scheme, which we hope to build on this year. Our hard-working groundsman, Mr. Rod Hansford, has a new piece of kit to play with; a tractor-drawn slitter/aerator which we hope will benefit the playing fields by alleviating soil compaction for aeration and drainage.

Many of you will now know that Mr. Gil Streets has kindly accepted the Town Council's award of Honorary Townsman, a new addition to the select group of valued towns people who have contributed to Beaminster. We believe his award is very well deserved.

The new works to the Public Hall will become evident shortly with the help of our Project Manager, Mr. Daryl Chambers, who is over-seeing the order of construction and organising the progress.

Lastly, we are very pleased that Town Council has been awarded a two-star (out of 3) certificate by the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils in recognition of all the training undertaken by Councillors. We all believe that on-going training for Councillors is important for the Town and its Council to serve its community effectively.

Chris Turner, Chairman

EMERGENCY PLANNING & FLOOD WARDEN SCHEME

The Flood Warden Scheme was put in place following a lot of hard work by Beaminster Town Council Staff, in particular Sam Pearce and has been operational since 2009.

Within the Scheme the town is divided into sectors with a Flood Warden and a Councillor being allocated to each sector.

The flood wardens play a vital part in keeping an eye on 'their patch' to ensure that there are no blocked watercourses or other problems and are able to issue sandbags if necessary. Apart from flood wardens, members of the public can report issues to Beaminster Town Council who will try to deal with any problems.

Beaminster used to suffer very badly with flooding, particularly affecting properties in the centre of the town. Fortunately, about 25 years ago, major flood

alleviation work was carried out which has significantly improved the situation.

The Environment Agency regularly maintains many watercourses around Beaminster, including clearing screens of leaves and rubbish.

Beaminster Town Council has a very good working relationship with the Environment Agency and our scheme is often used as a good working model. In fact in January a number of new Environment Agency recruits, members of the Town Council Flood Warden Scheme and others from the Environment Agency got together, they met at the attenuation reservoir near Flaxfield Rise to learn from each other about their respective problems and remedies. It was very interesting and educational to hear in more detail about the maintenance and remedial work that the Environment Agency carries out to help to prevent problems and to comply with all the current legislation.

If you have any concerns regarding potential flooding to your property then you can register with the Environment Agency to be contacted when alerts and warnings are issued. Be rest assured that the Town Council Flood Wardens are always made aware of the potential for flooding and monitor the situation by watching the water levels on the ground as well as from water level gauges on the Brit which are available to view on a website.

Town Council staff regularly update details of emergency contacts and keep the Wardens informed, inevitably some Flood Wardens 'retire' so we are always interested in townspeople who would like to know about becoming a Flood Warden. If you would like to know more about the scheme or have concerns about flooding then please contact Sam Pearce at Beaminster Town Council.

Cllr Robin Cheeseman

RECREATIONS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The focus this year has been on the Memorial Playing Field with investment in a drainage system for the football pitch which I am pleased to say is working very well, the pitch and goal areas are much improved.

We are indebted to a local farmer who has kindly helped us with hedge cutting both at the Playing Field and the Cemetery this year and would like to thank him for his generosity.

In recent weeks our attention has been drawn to the unfortunate situation where vehicles parked in the car park have been blocked in by legitimate users of the Playing Field or Pavilion. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the car park is for USERS OF THE PAVILION, PLAYING FIELD AND

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA ONLY.

It's good to see that the Playing Field is also being used for community events with the Youth Club staging a Fun Day and, of course the Annual Church Fete in August.

An ongoing problem, not just in the Playing Field, but in a number of areas of the town is DOG FOULING. In particular, the Council Office get regular reports of a problem in the vicinity of St Mary's Primary School, Fleet Street and Church Street. These complaints are passed to the District Council's Dog Warden and are followed up by patrols.

In conjunction with the District Council's proposals to amend the dog related control orders in the District the Town Council have been in discussion with

regard to the possibility of the Town Council being able to employ an enforcement officer with the delegated authority to issue fixed penalty charge notices.

Finally, on behalf of members of the Town Council, I would express our gratitude to Rod Hansford for his excellent upkeep of the playing field and to David Williams who has now joined the staff as Cemetery Groundsman.

If anyone has any suggestions regarding the Playing Field please forward to our Town Clerk.

Chairman – Cllr M Jupp

PLANNING ADVISORY & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

During the past year we have considered 66 planning applications, of which the Committee recommended approval in 51 cases.

The most significant application during the last Council year was Application No. WD/D/16/000654 – Clipper Teas Ltd, Broadwindsor Road Industrial Estate – full planning application to erect factory extension for Clipper Tea to consolidate their existing production and distribution for the south side. Outline application for the demolition of the existing building on the central and north sides and the development of up to 45 homes, including affordable housing. I am sure you will have noticed that, in the past few weeks, work has started on the south side.

Highways issues

The usual highway issues are still giving cause for concern, in particular

- There has been no progress on the extension of double yellow lines from the mini roundabout in Tunnel Road, this would enable large lorries to clear the roundabout successfully without having to hold up traffic when waiting to maneuver past parked vehicles.

- The Town Council continues its discussions with the County Council with a view to coming up with a solution to prevent the regular damage to the Prout Bridge railings, usually incurred by HGV's turning right into Whitcombe Road.

- The Town Council's request for a controlled crossing in Clay Lane has once again failed despite the unfortunate

accident recently when a child was hit by a vehicle. We continue to lobby the County Council in support of the concerned parents.

The Town Council are to take a detailed approach to all highway related problems in the near future.

Do you have any ideas on how road safety within the town could be improved? If so please contact the Council office or any one of the councillors.

Chairman – Cllr Philip Elliott

FINANCE REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17

The Town Council continues to deal with the significant financial challenges faced by all levels of local government. With the decision taken by the majority of larger authorities to create a unitary authority in Dorset the Council must be mindful of the inevitable devolvement of responsibilities for some public services.

Following the initial concerns with regard to the future of the Youth Club I am pleased to say that, the community took this on board, with financial support from the Town Council in the sum of £5,000 and, with other significant funding from local businesses, the future of the new Beaminster Youth Club looks assured in the short term.

The Town Council continues to set a tight annual budget, however within that budget there is the scope to be able to consider further community support should it be necessary. The 2016/17 annual budget had projected a deficit of £24,420, the largest anticipated expenditure being the Public Hall roof and enhancement works. With work not expected to start until summer 2017 the balance remaining under that particular budget heading will go back to general reserves resulting in a cost neutral budget at 31st March 2017.

The Council set its 2017/18 budget in December 2016 based on a 7% increase in the Precept levy, the effect on a Band

D property being an increase of £7.25 per household per year equating to 0.14p per week.

The Council's priority in the coming year will be the Public Hall works, the other major ongoing project being the skate park facility.

Copies of the Town Council full budget can be obtained from the Council Office during opening hours.

Town Clerk – Christine Bright

(UNAUDITED) ACCOUNTS SHEET

BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

Year ended		Year ended		Year ended		
31.3.16		31.3.17	31.3.16	31.3.17		
	Receipts & Payments Summary				RECEIPTS	
114,935	Opening balance	146,606	1,274		Administration	1,627
162,071	Add receipts	168,155	1,640		Grants and Donations	856
277,006		314,761	119,000		Precept	130,900
130,400	Minus Payments	137,863	6,364		LCTS Grant	4,243
146,606	Closing Balance	176,898	8,963		VAT	4,508
			16,990		Public Hall	14,970
			2,850		Fleet Club	3,850
			1,076		Memorial Playing Field	1,320
31,671	Current year Fund	34,578	954		Allotments	-
34,665	General Reserves	62,050	2,165		Cemetery	2,785
17,515	EMR Leisure & Amenities*	17,515	175		Yarn Barton Centre	-
1,000	EMR Mrs Blair Fund	1,000	620		Street Furniture	-
56,155	EMR Public Hall Fund	56,155	-		Donations	300
1,000	EMR Cemetery Fund	1,000	-		Christmas Lights	2,796
1,000	EMR Allotment Fund	1,000	162,071			168,155
3,600	EMR Staff Fund	3,600			PAYMENTS	
146,606		176,898	48,833		Administration	50,607
			5,989		Community Enabling	10,268
			5,007		VAT	5,324
			29,267		Public Hall	26,276
			2,485		Skate Park Project	30
			29,609		Memorial Playing Field	36,998
			2,039		Allotments	166
			6,919		Cemetery	3,874
			-		Emergency Planning	229
			1		Yarn Barton Centre	-
937,430	assets owned by the Council	946,799	251		Street Furniture	125
			-		Christmas Lights	3,966
			130,400			137,863

*in addition to the EMR grants totalling £8116 have been approved by West Dorset District Council for the provision of skatepark/play area project

TOTAL FIXED ASSETS

The recorded current book value at 31st March 2017 of all tangible

BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr. Chris Turner Vice Chairman: Cllr. Robin Cheeseman

Cllr. Chris Baker, Beaminster House, 9 Tunnel Road, Beaminster DT8 3BQ	07734 823631	cjbaker@btinternet.com
Cllr. Terry Beswarick, 2 Hurst, Beaminster DT8 3ES	01308 861040	t.beswarick@beaminster-tc.gov.uk
Cllr. Peter Body, 15 Glebe Court, Beaminster DT8 3EZ	01308 861758	p.body@beaminster-tc.gov.uk
Cllr. Robin Cheeseman, 10 Whitcombe Road, Beaminster DT8 3NE	01308 862446	r.cheeseman@beaminster-tc.gov.uk
Cllr. Mrs Julie Cooke, 61 The Beeches, Beaminster DT8 3SL	07547 213498	juliecooke21@live.co.uk
Cllr. Alan Dawkins, 3 Half Acre Lane, Beaminster DT8 3DJ	01308 862844	a.dawkins@beaminster-tc.gov.uk
Cllr. Philip Elliott, 4 Fairfield, Beaminster DT8 3BS	01308 863408	philipelliott05@gmail.com
Cllr. Michael Jupp, 28 North Street, Beaminster DT8 3DY	01308 863417	mikerizzla@btinternet.com
Cllr. Steve Norris, 15 Southgate, Beaminster DT8 3LX	01308 863301	jeds@btinternet.com
Cllr. Mrs Janet Page, 10 Fleet Street, Beaminster DT8 3EF	01308 862422	Jan&chris@hand-n-head.freemove.co.uk
Cllr. Chris Turner, 10 Fleet Street, Beaminster DT8 3EF	01308 862422	Jan&chris@hand-n-head.freemove.co.uk

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE

8 Fleet Street, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3LF

Town Clerk:	Mrs Christine Bright	01308 863634	townclerk@beaminster-tc.gov.uk
Office Administrators:	Mrs Chrissy Clare, Mrs Sam Pearce	01308 863634	
Public Hall Caretaker:	Mrs Kath Crabb	01308 863148	beaminsterpublichall-bookings@hotmail.co.uk

Office Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 10.00am – Noon (closed on Thursday)
The Town Clerk is available during these hours on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

BEAMINSTER TRUST

(Reg. No. 200685)

Receipts and Expenditure Account for the year to 31st December 2016

CHILD WELFARE

Balance brought forward 12847.56

INCOME

One years income on 1272 M & G Charifund 903.12
One years interest on £19750.98 - 4% Treasury Stock 2030 1562.79
One years interest on £11570 - 5% Treasury Stock 2025 578.50
One years interest on £5296.27 - 2.5% Treasury Stock 2016 420.37
One years interest on £3400 - 2.5% Treasury Stock 2020 266.26
One years interest on £7680 - 2.5% Treasury Stock 2024 509.44
Share of Dividend Income 4061.94
21149.98

EXPENDITURE

Beaminster St Mary's School 980.00
Beaminster Youth Club - Equipment 489.98
Beaminster Youth Club - Expenses for trip to London 430.00
Student Expenses Engineering trip to Germany 350.00
Beaminster School pupil - purchase of laptop 410.00
Beaminster Playgroup - purchase of computer 601.03
Contribution towards Father Christmas presents 200.00
Christmas Hampers 600.00
Fees and Salary 1607.00
Office equipment 40.62
Transferred to Capital Account 5554.69
Balance carried forward 9886.66
21149.98

RELIEF IN NEED

Balance brought forward 10389.12

INCOME

One years income on 3703 M & G Charifund 2629.13
One years income on 42 Charities Fund 19.00
One years interest on Charities Investment Fund 27.91
One years interest on £7170.44 - Treasury Stock 2030 567.35
Share of Dividend Income 1353.98
14986.49

EXPENDITURE

Christmas Hampers 2320.00
Fees and Salary 823.33
Transferred to Capital Account 5554.69
Balance carried forward 6288.47
14986.49

MARKET HOUSE AND TOLLS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

Year ended

31.3.16

Year ended

31.3.17

Receipts

3900 West Dorset District Council 4200
0 Visiting market 0
3900 **4200**

PAYMENTS

500 Administration services 500
0 Maintenance 152
0 Legal/Professional fees 240
1640 Christmas Festivities 1500
16 Electricity 26
0 Julia - maintenance 675
217 War Memorial 0
2373 **3093**

4186 OPENING BALANCE

3900 Plus receipts 4200
8086 **9913**

2373 Less payments

5713 CLOSING BALANCE **6820**

TOTAL FIXED ASSETS

The recorded current book value at 31st March 2017 of all tangible fixed assets owned by the Trust

5650

Beaminster Youth Club.

Beaminster Youth Club now operates successfully as a Registered Charity supported by the Town Council and some commercial and private sponsors. At present there are six Trustees, who employ qualified youth workers managed by Paula Buxton and supported by a number of volunteers. We have a vibrant junior club for 8 to 11 year olds on Weds

between 5.00 and 6.45 pm followed by a club for 11 and over, offering a chance to meet and chat with friends whilst taking part in sport, art and other fun activities. Our amazing pop band offers young people age 10+ an opportunity to perform or to learn about supporting a band in a fun, relaxed environment. They meet on Tuesdays between 6 and 8 pm. We will be holding a Summer Fun Day on

the Memorial Playing Fields on Saturday 17th June. We would welcome any volunteers who might be willing to help on the day. Any other local organisations that would like to take part will be welcome.

Contact - Gil Streets. Chairman of Trustees gstreets@trefoihouse.co.uk

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

Despite numerous appeals for new members and volunteers to assist the independent Christmas Lights Committee, numbers had dwindled to just a few and the Chairman, Mrs Carole Annett and her Treasurer, Mrs Debbie Boyer, felt they could not continue.

The Town Council is very grateful to them and their committee for all the work they have done over several years. Following discussions with us, the co-ordination of the Christmas Lights reverted back under the control of the Town Council. Christmas 2016 was a steep learning curve for all of us – but I hope we pulled it off!

We were very thankful for the Clerk's

previous experience with Lyme Regis and, accordingly, brought in Torbay Display to create a street scene using our own lights and hired ones. We have also asked them to suggest lighting options for 2017 and, funds permitting, we are considering extending the lighting into Hogshill Street and across the Square. As a result of much valued feedback we intend to re-instate Santa's Sleigh and expand on the Children's Lantern Parade. The format for the Market will remain much the same but we hope to have a wider range of stalls.

Whilst we anticipated the evening to be self funding, the 2016 Christmas Lights Festival was subsidised by the Town Council in the sum of £1,120, in the main due to 'one off' infrastructure costs in respect of electrical work in

the Square. It is clear that additional funding will be required and a number of fund raising events, with the support of local businesses, have been planned.

I would like to thank all the Councillors who helped, Gil Streets, the Youth Club Pop Band, Raucous Chorus, Crewkerne Phoenix Band, Brian Gale, Santa, Beaminster School, Hawkchurch for loan of their marquee, and all the traders and townspeople who contributed to a great evening.

If anyone has any suggestions/ comments for the 2017 evening (December 1st) or would like to assist with fund raising please contact the Town Council Office.

Chairman – Cllr C Turner



Beaminster Activity Area Development (BAAD) Committee

BAAD originally started out as a Working Group, set up to investigate the viability of the provision of a skate park and improvements to the children’s play area for Beaminster. As the project evolved the decision was taken to recognise the Working Group as a formal Town Council Committee.

Skatepark

In November, four Skate park manufacturers/suppliers were invited to submit tenders for the provision of a Skate park, unfortunately we received only one. The Town Council’s Standing Orders dictate that more than one tender should be sought before a contract can be placed it was, therefore, necessary to go through the procedure again in January.

On that occasion two tenders were received and we could proceed with the business of selecting the most suitable company to build our Skate park. We are still in discussions with them and are considering which one to award the contract to.

The tenders showed different designs for the Skate park and it our intention to present these designs to the community for their comments and potential improvements.

Children’s Play Area.

We have approached several play equipment companies for information about their products and we will be asking for tenders soon.

The Committee asked Aileen Shackell, a lady based in Bridport who has many years experience in designing children’s play parks and landscapes to produce her ideas for a children’s play area taking into account the parents requirements as voiced in an open day.

We have based our requirements on the drawing produced by Aileen Shackell. It should be noted that this drawing is not definitive and we would welcome your comments.

Funding.

We are looking at various funders for money to complete the project.

Sport England have just opened a new funding stream called the “Community Asset Fund” and can fund projects up to a maximum of £150,000. This fund is exclusively for encouraging fitness in the community and the provision of a Skate park would fit this category.

Unfortunately they do not cater for children’s play areas so we will have to look elsewhere for this money. We have other funders to approach and are currently investigating the ones that would be most suitable. We also expect that local fund raising activities will contribute to both schemes.

Chairman – Cllr T Beswarick

