

Minutes of a meeting of Beaminster Town Council's Community Engagement Committee held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Thursday 21st August 2025 commencing at 7.00pm

226 PRESENT

Cllr Corbett (Chairman), Cllr Gunning, Cllr Gillings and Cllr Turner; also Mr Ethan Kalemjian (Administrator).

227 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Biggs (Vice Chairman) and Cllr Tuff.

228 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

No interests were declared.

229 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 24th July 2025, having previously been circulated were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

230 DORSET DAY

The Committee, having now had due time to consider the matter, expressed agreement generally on the merits of the idea, and it was **AGREED** that the 1st of June (Dorset Day) would provide a useful theme for the celebration.

An initial target date was considered Sunday 24th May 2026. **NOTED**

231 SCARECROW TRAIL

Mr Kalemjian **REPORTED** on the successful launch of the 2025 event and the enthusiastic participation by the wider public.

Cllr Biggs was making arrangements for the public to vote for their favourite scarecrow and to award the winner. **NOTED**

232 REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE:

Mr Kalemjian **CONFIRMED** that plans for the annual road closure were being submitted to Dorset Council for authorisation.

It was **AGREED** that the list of previous volunteers should be contacted early and that the contact list could be widened and refreshed.

Mr Kalemjian offered to circulate the provisional schedule for organising the Remembrance Day Parade to all members of the Committee for their consideration. **NOTED**

233 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2025

The success of the 2024 Christmas Lights event was considered as a useful model, for arranging the core of the 2025 event. The Chairman enquired about the arrangements for the Christmas Lights as well as the procedures and organisations involved. Mr. Kalemjian confirmed that the Council staff were planning to follow the same general approach with regard to the arrangements for 2025.

The Committee **NOTED** the following:

- a) The 2024 Christmas Market, held in the Public Hall, only opened in the late afternoon as volunteers from Beaminster Academy PTA could only start the process of arranging and decorating the Public Hall after the end of the school day. This made set-up challenging and did not afford much time for public to fully enjoy.
- b) Local school-aged children should be considered as an alternative to public representatives for carrying out the official *switching-on* of Beaminster's Christmas lights.
- c) Provisions need to be made for the inclusion of Raucus Choir as well as Prout Bridge Band, with clear distinctions regarding timing and area of coverage.
- d) The problems encountered with the running of the snow machine during the 2024 Christmas event should be addressed if the Committee intend to use it for the next event. In particular, the positioning and height were important considerations, as well as public security.
- e) The idea of using Beaminster St Mary's Church as a complimentary venue which would tie in neatly with the market in the Public Hall.

The Committee **AGREED** the following actions:

- 1. Cllr Gunning will liaise with both the Primary and Secondary Schools to plan their involvement in the 2025 Christmas Market including Santa's Grotto.
- 2. Mr Kalemjian will liaise with Raucus Chorus to discuss their involvement for 2025.

234 PUBLIC INFORMATION SCREEN

The Committee **NOTED** that the information screen had demonstrated clear utility when previously situated in the shop window Beaminster's branch of Royal Mail.

It was **AGREED** Cllr Corbett will approach a local Co-Op executive about the potential viability of the Beaminster Co-Op branch for hosting the Public Information Screen

235 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Thursday 25th September 2025.

236 THE MEETING

The meeting which commenced at 7.12pm concluded at 8.14pm.

Chairman

25th September 2025