



Minutes of a meeting of Beaminster Town Council's Community Engagement Committee held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Thursday 25th September 2025 commencing at 7.00pm

237 PRESENT

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

238 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Gunning and Cllr Woods.

239 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

No interests were declared.

240 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 21st August 2025, having previously been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

241 DORSET DAY

It was **AGREED** that Sunday 31st May 2026 would be the most suitable date for hosting a public party, given the proximity of the late May Bank Holiday.

242 SCARECROW TRAIL

Cllr Biggs reported on the great uptake with regard to public response to the online vote for the best scarecrow, but also that the process of online voting needs refinement in order to be able to keep track of participation. **NOTED**

The Committee acknowledged that the 2025 **Farming** theme likely helped increase general participation, and that better promotion would likely benefit future events.

It was **AGREED** to continue the practice of placing a painted "Scarecrow Trail" sign at the bottom of Prout Bridge to aid in promotion of the event.

Mr. Kalemjian confirmed that over 100 Scarecrow Trail forms were submitted, and that a winner of the £25 "Lucky Dip" competition had been chosen. **NOTED**

Cllr Turner asked for an approximate total for the Scarecrow initiative. Mr. Kalemjian to liaise with Council staff and **CONFIRM**.

243 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 asked for any potential volunteers to be put in touch with the Council Office.

NOTED

244 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2025

The Committee considered the viability of creating a ceremonial Plunger, to use for the annual switching on of the Christmas Lights.

Cllr Biggs suggested that the winner of the Scarecrow Trail be invited to consider the role of lighting the town's Christmas Lights. Mr. Kalemjian to **PROGRESS**.

The Committee **NOTED** the following:

- a) Mr Kalemjian confirmed that the BTC staff had met on 23rd Sept to allocate and agree the division of labor for Christmas Lights.
- b) Cllr Biggs suggested utilising the organisations who participate in the Remembrance Parade. The potential availability of the Pavilion should be a consideration.
- c) 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. **NOTED**

The Committee **AGREED** the following:

- 1. Provisions need to be made for the inclusion of backup power. Cllr Gunning will be approached about the possibility of providing a suitable generator.
- 2. Mr Kalemjian will liaise with BTC Office to schedule a test of the snow machine, and will contact Raucous Chorus to discuss their involvement for 2025.
- 3. Any businesses interested in the availability of stalls for trading at the event should be directed to Beaminster Academy PTA for inclusion in the Christmas Market.

245 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.

246 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Thursday 23rd October 2025.

247 THE MEETING

The meeting which commenced at 7.00pm concluded at 7.57pm.