



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th November 2025 in the Cowie Room, Public Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

3214 Members present – Cllr Gunning (Chairman), Cllr Benton, Cllr Biggs, Cllr Corbett, Cllr Gillings, Cllr Turner and Cllr Watts; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk) and Dorset Councillor Monks.

3215 Dorset Police – in the absence of a police representative the Town Clerk read a brief report on behalf of PCSO Alex Bishop that advised:

In the early hours of Saturday 25th October, unknown offenders forced entry to and stole a van from a premises in Beaminster. The van contained a tracker and was later recovered in Crewkerne however at this time there are no suspects. Possibly in relation to the incident there was the theft of a vehicle in Halstock a day or two later followed by the theft of a quad bike near Sherborne. The quad bike was subsequently recovered, the vehicle stolen from Halstock has been seized and a male from Wales arrested in the area of Langport.

In the early hours of Thursday 30th October, a fuel bowser was stolen from a Wessex Water site, unfortunately there are no lines of enquiry.

3216 Dorset Councillor – Cllr Monks advised on a number of important local matters:

1. Loss of broadband

Thank you to those Councillors and residents who joined Cllr Monks at the recent local plan consultation. Around 300 people attended in Beaminster and around 60 in Mosterton. All of the information is available on the Dorset Council website. The consultation remains open into October, and residents were encouraged to send in comments.

2. Highway issues

Officers concluded the survey scoring for the proposed crossing points in Clay Lane scored below the current threshold required. However, as Government and Council policies were being simplified, Cllr Monks has asked that the matter be reconsidered under the new scoring system and would update the Council on progress.

3. School crossing point

Cllr Monks has been in correspondence with Dorset Police regarding ongoing issues with E-Bikes. He expressed his gratitude to the Town Council for their support and hoped to be able to arrange a meeting with relevant partners for the matter to be properly addressed.

4. Devolution

DAPTC had commissioned a 'Double Devolution' report and had sought Dorset Council's support however due to the lack of detail contained within the report support had not been achieved. It was Dorset Council's perception that should town or parish councils accept additional responsibilities under devolution they would precept accordingly, there were no plans for Dorset Council to transfer funds with the responsibility.

3217 Enforcement Officer – In the absence of the Enforcement Officer the Town Clerk read a report on his behalf advising of the issues he had dealt with since the last meeting:

- Two uprooted trees in the School Woods had been reported to Beaminster School and Dorset Council, subsequently a number of other trees had been marked for attention.
- The extension to the cemetery continued to be used as a dog play area, this is despite the cemetery being a ‘dogs on leads’ area, also the car park was being used by walkers.
- There had been a dog attack in Parnham fields, all dogs must be under control at all times, if a dog does not have recall it should be on a lead
- Further complaints about speeding vehicles in North Street and the Square
- Three complaints with regard to inconsiderate parking and vehicles parked on junctions had been passed to Dorset Police
- Broken rails in St Mary Well Street had been reported to Dorset Council
- Anti social behaviour in the Playing Field was being investigated
- Reports of fires in the woods at Parnham fields
- Complaints regarding doors being kicked in Church Street, Clay Lane and Windy Ridge had been investigated and resolved.

3218 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tuff and Cllr Woods.

In submitting his apologies Cllr Woods tendered his resignation from the Council, long term work commitments would prevent him from having the time to fully support the town.

On behalf of all Councillors, the Chairman expressed his gratitude to Mr Woods for his valuable input into the Town Council, in particular as Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

3219 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 2025

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 23rd September 2025 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3220 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST OCTOBER 2025

The minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 21st October 2025 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3221 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

The Town Clerk confirmed that dispensations had been granted to Cllr Benton and Cllr Watts to enable them to take part in discussions on any matters pertaining to the setting of the parish precept.

3222 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Members **NOTED** the response received to the question posed by the Town Council and considered by Dorset Council in October.

Mr Langdon had subsequently submitted a request seeking the Town Council’s support for him to approach Dorset Council with a view to putting forward Beaminster’s Community Resilience Plan as an academic study model to investigate ideas, identify gaps and look into grass roots development and understanding. Members **AGREED** to offer the Councils support on the understanding the study would not impact on Council staff or budgets.

3223 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Members were circulated with details of the payments made in November 2025 including cheque numbers 106243 - 106255, direct debits, credit card and bank payments totalling £34,703.80; also receipts totalling £55,882.31 (copy attached). Members **RESOLVED** adoption as presented.

3224 RESOLVE MINUTES OF FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 25th September 2025

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 25th September 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

There being no items raised for discussion, members **RESOLVED** adoption.

(b) CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 13th October 2025

The minutes of the CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 13th October 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

There being no items raised for discussion, members **RESOLVED** adoption.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21st October 2025

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21st October 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

There being no items raised for discussion, members **RESOLVED** adoption.

(d) Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 4th November 2025

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 4th November 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

There being no items raised for discussion, members **RESOLVED** adoption.

(e) CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 17th November 2025

The minutes of the CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 17th November 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

(f) Town Amenities Committee meeting held on 18th November 2025

The minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held on 18th November 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

There being no items raised for discussion, members **RESOLVED** adoption.

3225 CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

RESOLVED to close the council office at 12 noon on Friday 20th December 2025 and re-open at 10.00am on Monday 5th January 2026.

3226 FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – PUBLIC HALL

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the fire risk assessment in respect of the Public Hall premises. **RESOLVED ADOPTION**. Cllr Biggs requested fire escape route plans are displayed at all fire exits **AGREED**.

3227 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members were circulated with a copy of the Beaminster Neighbourhood Plan update as of 21st November 2025. **NOTED.**

3228 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

No consultation documents had been received.

3229 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Wessex Water – Tankering

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the response received from Wessex Water with regard to the Councils concerned at the increase in tankering at Southgate.

The correspondence outlined a number of issues relating to repair/replacement works to the main system and offered an opportunity for a meeting with the regional sewerage pumping station manager. Members **AGREED** to accept the offer of a meeting, the Town Clerk was asked to arrange.

(b) St Mary's Academy – Letter of thanks

The Town Clerk read a note of appreciation received from St Mary's Academy for the recently awarded grant. **NOTED.**

3230 PROGRESS REPORT

No progress report was given.

3231 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items were highlighted.

3232 PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to Meeting Act) 1960

RESOLVED to exclude public and press from the meeting whilst discussion took place on the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted in respect of consideration of quotations received.

(a) Pavilion Refurbishment

Members had previously been circulated with the Town Clerk's report detailing the quotations received in respect of works identified as part of the Pavilion refurbishment project.

Members **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the following quotations:

- **External cladding** – to remove all damaged/rotten cladding and replace with new cedar cladding to match existing profile. To refix all cladding with tie stainless steel fixings and remove and replace all guttering and down pipes with metal deep flow guttering in the sum of £20,564 from C G Fry & Son.
- **Additional ventilation in the boiler room** – to supply and install a 5" inline extractor fan with thermostat and isolation switch. To supply and fit a slate vent and ducting kit in the sum of £763.98 from J T Property Management.

- **External shutters** – to inspect and service all 9 shutters and provide a further quotation for any further repairs in the sum of £464 from Wessex Industrial Doors. The Town Clerk advised the company had also been asked to provide a further quotation to supply and install a shutter on the serving hatch between the kitchen and main hall.

External fencing – to take down existing wooden fence and replace with galvanised two rail tube clamp system fence. Following discussion it was **AGREED** to obtain a revised quotation based on the replacement of the fence on the west elevation only with a view to undertaking any repairs to the fencing on the other elevations.

Flooring and Internal decoration – quotations had been obtained and would subject to a funding application to the National Lottery Community Fund. **NOTED**.

The Town Clerk advised that clarification had been sought with regard to the external signage at the Pavilion as to whether the signs should be built into the cladding or fixed externally. **AGREED** to fix externally and the Town Clerk was asked to produce designs for consideration at a later date.

(b) Closed Churchyard wall

The Town Clerk advised a quotation had been received to repair a section of damaged boundary wall (approx. 2m sq) in the sum of £3050 from DMcA Builders Ltd.

Due to the stone construction of the stone wall there could be the possibility of additional excavation work to establish stable fixing points, additional works would be charged at £2,130 per m sq. **NOTED** and **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** quotation.

(c) Trees in Cemetery

The Town Clerk advised that following a fallen branch an inspection of a lime and oak had taken place and a quotation received to remove non-functional dead branches from both trees in the sum of £500 from Forest and Tree Care Ltd. **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT**.

(d) Appointment of Town Clerk

The Chairman advised that following interviews on 24th/25th November a short list of three candidates had been drawn up for second interview.

3233 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th January 2026. **NOTED**.

3234 MEETING

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.00pm.

Chairman
20th January 2026

BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - November
2025

PAYMENTS		Supplier	Description	Cost Centre	Net	VAT	Total	Date Paid
Direct Debits								
D/D	Autorama	Van Service Plan	301	25.35	5.07	30.42	03/11/2025	
D/D	Concorde	Printing & Copies	101	32	6.4	38.4	27/10/2025	
D/D	Crown Gas & Power	Gas Supply PH	201	16.51	0.83	17.34	17/11/2025	
D/D	Dorset Council	Wheely Bins	101/201	68.7		68.7	19/11/2025	
D/D	Ecotricity	Electric Supply PH	201	126.88	6.68	133.56	20/11/2025	
D/D	Ecotricity	Electric Supply PH	201	150.86	8.03	158.89	20/11/2025	
D/D	Ecotricity	Electric Supply - Pavilion	401	213.85	10.69	224.54	20/11/2025	
D/D	HSBC	Current Account - Charges	101	37.59		37.59	21/11/2025	
D/D	HSBC	CB3 Account - Charges	600	7.06		7.06	17/11/2025	
D/D	NOW Pensions	Pension contributions Monthly - Oct	101/201/301	20	4	20	1049.49	29/10/2025
D/D	NOW Pensions	Pension admin Fee monthly	101	20	4	24.00	03/11/2025	
D/D	NOW Pensions	Pension contributions Monthly Nov	101/201/301				1049.49	25/11/2025
D/D	O2	Mobile Phones CB3 & EO Monthly	600/305	27.84	5.57	33.41	05/11/2025	
D/D	PWLB	Loan Repayment	301	5059.64	0	5,059.64	20/11/2025	
D/D	Lex Autolease	Electric van lease	301	323.96	64.79	388.75	03/11/2025	
D/D	SumUp	Office Card machine Transaction Fees	101	0.76		0.76	Various	
D/D	Siemens Financial	Photocopier Lease - Quarterly	101	368.66	73.73	442.39	31/10/2025	
D/D	SW Hygiene	Sanitary Bin Disposal - Pavilion	401	131.91	26.38	158.29	23/10/2025	
D/D	CB3	Fuel Supply - MPF & CB3	301/600/101	99.21	19.85	119.06	27/10/2025	
D/D	CB3	Fuel Supply - MPF & Fuel card fee	301/101	35.36	7.07	42.43	03/11/2025	
D/D	UK Fuels	Fuel Supply CB3	600/101	37.58	7.51	45.09	10/11/2025	
D/D	UK Fuels	Fuel Supply MPF & CB3	600/301	65.13	13.03	78.16	17/11/2025	
D/D	VPW Systems	Remote Back Up - Quarterly	105	86.87	4.34	91.21	07/11/2025	
D/D	VPW Systems	Fibre Broadband Activation & Quarterly bill	105	375	75	450.00	31/10/2025	
D/D	VPW Systems	Ability Mail Set Up Fee	105	30	6	36.00	31/10/2025	
D/D	VPW Systems	Ability Mail Discounted Set Up Fee	105	10	2	12.00	11/11/2025	
D/D	VPW Systems	Ability Mail - Subscription	105	30	6	36.00	10/11/2025	
D/D	VPW Systems	Anti Virus Subscription - 1 yr	105	135.36	27.07	162.43	14/11/2025	
		C/FWD				9,995.10		



**BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - November**

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Payment Type	Supplier	Description	Cost Centre	Net	VAT	Total	Date Paid
106249 Groves		Christmas tree lights x 25	103	276.87	55.38	332.25	25/11/2025
106250 Hutchinson Marketing	Job Advert		101	172.8	34.56	207.36	25/11/2025
106251 Larcombes	General Supplies		102/201/301/401	52.07	10.41	62.48	25/11/2025
106252 MER	Electric Van Charging		301	54.06	10.81	64.87	25/11/2025
106253 Scutum	Replaced x2 CCTV cameras MPF		301	597.04	119.41	716.45	25/11/2025
106254 Travis Perkins	general Supplies		201	75.86	15.17	91.03	25/11/2025
106255 Viking	Display Stand & Stationery		101	184.81	36.97	221.78	25/11/2025
TOTAL						34,703.80	
B/FWD							
33,007.58							

RECEIPTS

Payment Type	Customer	Description	Cost Centre	Net	VAT	Total
CR	CB3 Income	Bus Fares/Donations	600			116.44
CR	CB3 Income	Private Hire	600			105
CR	Dorset Council	CB3 - Concessionary fares	600			91.41
CR	Country Memorials	Memorial fee	303			48.75
CR	NSIB	Interest	101			267.66
CR	Fleet Club	Rent - Monthly	205			350.00
CR	Beaminster FC	Rent 25/26	401			2,000.00
CR	Dorset Council	CIL	101			50,699.05
CR	Various	Stall Pitch Hire	103			90.00
CR	Various	Access Licence MPF	301			20.00
CR	Various	Traders Christmas Tree Orders	103			690.00
CR	Pavillion Hire		401			95.00
CR	PH Hire		201			1,309.00
TOTAL						55,882.31



**BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - November
2025**

NOTES FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION

The above payments are approved expenditure items within existing contracts and / or the agreed budget framework. Councillors expenses having been vetted and authorised by the Chairman/Town Clerk or in the case of the Chairman's expenses, by Vice Chairman. Receipts are those from expected sources and within budget projections. Salary Cheque excludes employers and employees pension contributions. Payments include VAT where applicable.

Christine Bright
Responsible Finance Officer

Date: 25th November 2025

KEY
Payments over £500
Grants Received