



Minutes of the meeting of Beaminster Town Council's Community Engagement Committee held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026, commencing at 7.00pm

**259 PRESENT**

Cllr Corbett (Chairman), Cllr Anderton, Cllr Benton, Cllr Gunning, and Mr. Kalemjian (Administrator).

**260 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Biggs, Cllr Gillings, Cllr Tuff and Cllr Watts.

**261 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

No interests were declared.

**262 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

The minutes of the extraordinary Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025, having previously been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

**263 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Committee **NOTED** that the 2025 Christmas Lights event was generally successful overall, and would be further improved by addressing concerns regarding traffic and pedestrian management as well as general public safety.

It was **AGREED** that the Committee would try to recruit additional volunteers for future event coordination, particularly those with valid First-Aid qualifications to assist as marshalls.

Cllr Corbett **AGREED** to investigate the viability of investing in small LED Christmas trees in place of authentic trees to streamline the annual process of decorating the Town Square and the surrounding area.

Cllr Gunning explained that a meeting was scheduled for later in January 2026 to discuss the possibility of purchasing a large Christmas tree for decorating the Town Square T/S which would save considerable money if successful. **NOTED**

**264 DORSET DAY EVENT**

The Committee expressed widespread general agreement that the format of Beaminster's 2025 VE-80 Party of Celebration (**held Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025**) was a useful template to

guide the organisation of the Dorset Day event scheduled for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026.  
Members considered lessons learned from previous events and **AGREED**:

**Cllr Corbett** will liaise with potential stall holders for the event

**Cllr Corbett** will consult with local businesses who might be willing to support the event.

**Cllr Anderton and Cllr Benton** will speak with music groups to about their availability for the event.

**Cllr Gunning** will investigate sources of tables, chairs, and a generator.

**Cllr Gunning** will liaise with Beaminster Football Club and Beaminster Cricket Club about providing BBQ and running a bar.

**Mr Kalemjian** will enquire about the cost of hiring a skip for the event.

The Committee **SUGGESTED** that the Primary School PTA should be approached with regard to face-painting.

Cllr Corbett **SUGGESTED** enquiring with local businesses about high-quality printing services for signage notably 2 or 3 good quality (large scale) signs.

## **265 FUTURE EVENTS**

Cllr. Anderton updated the Committee on progress for a regular series of community events undertaken with assistance from Cllr Tuff. Several musical groups have expressed an interest in performing for events.

Cllr Anderton expressed concern that the legal maximum number of occupants within the Public Hall could be a limiting factor. Further investigations are necessary in order to progress. **NOTED**

The Committee acknowledged that the issues associated with catering for user groups of widely varying ages presented practical challenges in addition to safety concerns.

Cllr Anderton will approach The Fleet Club in order to **UPDATE** the Committee with regard to prospective availability.

## **266 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

## **267 THE MEETING**

The meeting which commenced at 7.00pm concluded at 8.05pm.