



## EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Extraordinary meeting held in the Cowie Room on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** at 6.30pm.

**3310 MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Gunning (Chairman), Cllr Gillings (Vice Chair), Cllr Acton, Cllr Dawkins and Cllr Wallbridge; also Sara Cradock (Town Clerk).

**3311 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Corbett.

**3312 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Gunning declared a personal interest as the applicant was his spouse and left the meeting.

**3313 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR**

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the applicant's co-option application.

The applicant, Mrs Sam Gunning, was invited to address the Council and outlined her reasons for seeking co-option. Mrs Gunning spoke of her commitment to the local community and her desire to contribute to the future of Beaminster. She highlighted her previous involvement with a number of local organisations and committees, including playgroups, primary and secondary schools, the football club and cadets.

Mrs Gunning advised Members that she had recently qualified as an accountant and, with her children now older and requiring less of her time, she felt able to dedicate time to serving on the Council. She also outlined her experience in fundraising and financial management.

In response to a question regarding her husband serving as Chairman of the Council, Mrs Gunning stated that she was confident she could act independently, express her own views and contribute objectively to Council discussions and decision-making.

Following questions from Members, the applicant withdrew from the meeting whilst the Council considered the application.

It was proposed by Cllr Dawkins, seconded by Cllr Wallbridge and:

**RESOLVED** (3 votes in favour, 1 abstention)

That Mrs Sam Gunning be co-opted to Beaminster Town Council.

Mrs Gunning then rejoined the meeting and, having signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Town Clerk, took her seat as a Councillor.

**3314 THE MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 6.40pm.

Chairman  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2026