



DRAFT COPY – TO BE CONFIRMED

Minutes of the meeting of Beaminster Town Council's Community Engagement Committee held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Thursday 23rd July 2026, commencing at 7.00pm

310 PRESENT

Cllr R Gunning, Cllr Acton, Cllr Wallbridge, Cllr Gillings, Cllr S. Gunning, Cllr Ginder and Mrs Cradock (Town Clerk).

311 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Corbett and Cllr Dawkins.

312 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

No interests were declared.

313 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 25th June 2026, having previously been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

314 SCARECROW TRAIL 2026

The Town Clerk updated Members on the plans for the Scarecrow Trail. So far, eight businesses had signed up to display a scarecrow as part of the official trail. Cllr Gunning would be offering free hay to residents and businesses on Monday 27th July between 2.00pm and 6.00pm at the Memorial Playing Fields. Promotional material had been distributed, with further posters and social media posts planned. The Town Clerk had created the trail map and entry form, which would be available for children to collect from the Council offices from 1st August. **NOTED.**

315 FUTURE ENGAGEMENT POSSIBILITIES

(a) Fireworks Night

Members discussed the possibility of the Council organising a free community fireworks display at the Memorial Playing Fields in November 2027. It was envisaged that provision for the event would be included within the 2027/28 budget if the proposal proceeded. Ideas for offsetting the cost included serving refreshments from the Pavilion and seeking sponsorship from local businesses. The Town Clerk would contact the Council's insurers and obtain indicative quotations from professional fireworks display companies. Members noted that consideration would also need to be given to noise, risk assessments, fire safety, event management and first aid provision. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would undertake further research and report back to the September meeting.

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(b) Ceilidh Night

Nothing more to report since the last meeting. **NOTED.**

(c) To consider the use of Beaminster Public Hall for airing World Cup matches.

Members discussed the possibility of using the Public Hall to screen major sporting events in the future, including the UEFA European Championship in two years' time. Consideration should be given to ensuring that such events do not adversely affect local pubs. Members also discussed whether there would be sufficient interest from families. It was **AGREED** to consider the matter further at a future meeting.

316 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Silent Disco

The Town Clerk advised that a date for a silent disco had been set for Saturday 3rd October at the Public Hall. It was **AGREED** that there would be a family session from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm, followed by an adult session from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm. It was further **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would approach Yarn Barton, Beaminster Museum and Prout Bridge to ask whether they would like to provide volunteers on the day, with any profits from the evening being shared equally between the three organisations. The event would be advertised in late August or early September once the new Council website, including the online ticket sales module, was operational.

317 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20th August.

318 THE MEETING

The meeting which commenced at 7.00pm concluded at 7.15pm.