

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in the Branoc Hall (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 26 May 2016 at 19.30.**

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bass, Evans, Pike, Lambert, White, Cox, Walford-Howell, Mayes, Knight (DCC), PCSO Mike McGauly (Devon and Cornwall Police)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Hall, Pook (EDDC)

NO. OF PUBLIC: 5

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

MINUTES OF MEETING Held 21st May 2015 – The minutes were noted with no further comments.

MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bass reported another busy year with 17 meetings held dealing with, amongst other things 45 planning applications. This is an increase from 34 the previous year. The biggest application being the proposed increase in flying activities at the Airfield (and the one which raised the most public interest) but this has now been withdrawn.

The beach toilets and the application to reinforce the beach chalets are continuing.

At the AGM Cllr Bill Evans was co-opted to the council representing the Weston area.

Chris Bass set up the Parish Councils new web site www.branscombe-pc.org.uk in August and has proved a very informative and useful tool for information and communication between parishioners and the Parish Council.

On 1st August 2015 Gail Llewellyn (nee Kenyon) was appointed as our new Clerk.

Also in August a Housing Needs Survey was carried out by Devon Communities Together and the results published in November showed a need for 6 affordable dwelling in the Parish.

On the 11th June Cllr Mike Mayes was co-opted to the council, both co-options following the resignations of Cllrs Gibbins and Johnson.

In the summer PC Speariett retired and has been replaced by PC Richard Jenkins who with his PCSO colleagues Mike McGauly and Sam Slater regularly attend PC meetings to keep us informed of any crime that has taken place.

It has finally been resolved by EDDC to compulsory purchase the graveyard extension after probably 7 to 8 years negotiations between EDDC and the NT.

After discussions the Parish Council paid for additional parking signs pointing to the beach car park to be erected in the Square area, this was to try to help the overcrowding at Bennetts Close during the summer.

Thanks to co-operation from Cllr Jim Knights locality budget, the Parish Council has helped to facilitate repair works to the church gates and to secure a £250 donation for a new defibrillator to be sited at the Village Hall, this has been match funded by a £250 donation

from the Parish Council.

Following on from the drainage works at Street last year, there has been no reported incidents of flooding of properties. A great success also the flooding at Elverway has been addressed by DCC another big improvement.

On 7th April 2016, Cllr Graham Walford-Howell was co-opted to the Parish Council following the resignation of Alistair Wilmington.

Thanks to all Councillors who have attended meetings regularly and for their work and input during the year.

The Chairman also wished to thank Gail Llewellyn for her work since becoming Clerk and the Responsible Finance Officer to the Parish Council.

FINANCE REPORT

Year End Budget 2015/16

EXPENDITURE	2014/15	2015/16
Subs/Training	£ 150.85	£ 320.83
Clerk Wages	£ 2,332.64	£ 1,922.33
Expenses	£ 228.53	£ 345.23
Insurance	£ 195.02	£ 187.67
Ground Maintenance	£ 96.90	£ 96.90
Allotments	£ 50.00	£ 50.00
Meetings	£ 123.00	£ 149.50
HMRC	£ 583.00	£ 699.40
Payroll	£ 132.00	£ 160.00
S137 (Allowed incurred exp.)	£ 253.65	£ 2,279.00
VAT	£ 65.60	£ 454.16
Total	£ 4,211.19	£ 6,665.02

INCOME	2014/15	2015/16
Balance carried forward	£ 15,765.57	£ 19,560.41
Precept	£ 6,712.00	£ 7,255.00
Donations/Sponsorship	£ 1,000.50	£ 300.00
Bank Interest	£ 5.53	£ 5.43
Council Tax Grant	£ 288.00	£ 245.00
VAT	£ -	£ 417.72
TOTAL INCOME	£ 23,771.60	£ 27,783.56
EXPENDITURE		
Council Running Costs	£ 1,163.55	£ 3,883.29
Staffing Costs	£ 3,047.64	£ 2,781.73
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 4,211.19	£ 6,665.02
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE	£ 19,560.41	£ 21,118.54

Income includes £250 from Devon County Council from the Locality Fund towards the Village Hall Defibrillator and £50 from the Allotment Society.

Expenditure includes as an example (including VAT where applicable): £72 towards the cost of developing the new web site, £1,528.80 for the work to the War Memorial, £648 for the cost of the new signs in the village and £300 for the Housing Needs Survey. A full description of all income and expenditure can be found on our web site:

<http://www.branscombe-pc.org.uk/finance/4590221750>

Running Costs includes Insurance, subscriptions, war memorial and gardens and computer costs, training and maintenance. There were no audit costs.

Staffing costs include salary for 6 hours per week, PAYE, National Insurance and Payroll services.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

DCC – Cllr Knight – Reported that this year has been very productive; he now does tours of the village every 2 months to inspect highways issues. The biggest job was the flood protection at the Fountain Head, he reported that they will be coming back to complete some outstanding works. DCC had to close 2 roads in the village and are looking to close Green Lane as a Public Right of Way. The Locality Budget has been used wisely. Parkfield Terrace disabled parking is at its maximum and they cannot put any more in. Bennett Close has one disable parking bay. More works on highways to be done over the next year with Locksley Close now completed. £8k fund for capital projects is now available.

EDDC – Cllr Pook - Ward member for Beer and Branscombe

Elections for the district council were held in May 2015, there being no other candidates putting their names forward for election I was elected unopposed as an Independent. The final district results were:

Conservative Group	37 Members	63%	
Independent Group	15 Members	25%	(East Devon Alliance)
Liberal Democrats Group	6 Members	10%	
Independent	1 Member	2%	(Geoff Pook)
Total	59 Members		

The council addresses a large number of issues that impact on all of us as residents of East Devon. This report aims to highlight a few of the more significant issues and those of particular interest to Beer. If you want to keep abreast of the council's business a simple way is to read the agenda of the Cabinet and full council meetings. The following link to the main council web site takes you to the Council and Democracy page from which you can search meeting timetables and agendas and a summary of council business.

<http://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/>.

Finance - The council effectively has to do more with less as each year since 2011 from when the direct grant from government has been reduced as a result of government funding cuts to local authorities. Central government finance support is a mix of grants, business rates allowances, tax freeze grant and New Homes Bonus (NHB). Tax freeze grant has been given in the past to councils not increasing council tax to help cover the loss in revenue. It has been discontinued this year. Revenue support grant has been cut for the last 5 years, £2.3m in the first 3 years £0.79m in 14/15, £0.78m in 15/16 and £0.81m in 16/17 with a predicted £2.1m deficit by 2021. Over the past 5 years the council has bridged the gap by implementing a

transformation strategy which has delivered operational savings. These savings together with the NHB has enabled the council to deliver a balanced budget over the past 5 years. This year with the ending of tax freeze grant the council agreed to a modest council tax rise.

In summary the 16/17 budget is:

Net expenditure, the cost of running the council and all its services	£14.811m
Less support grants, NHB, business rates	(£7.660m)
Council tax 16/17	(£7.151m)
Balanced budget	(£0.000m)

The New Local Plan - The inspector passed the new local plan 2013-2031 and it was adopted by the council on 28th January 2016. There are still a couple of issues, one being the Village Plan that is still being finalised by the council. The plan can be viewed on line at <http://eastdevon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/emerging-plans-and-policies/the-newlocal-plan/local-plan-adoption/>. The plan emphasises the benefit and importance of Neighbourhood Plans.

Relocation - The decision to relocate was taken in the previous council. Progress this year has been good with the sale of the Knowle being confirmed and the design and costing of the new building nearly finalised. The move should be complete by 2018.

Refuse and recycling Contract - The current contract was up for renewal in May 2016, the retendering process started in 2015 and a preferred supplier was selected last month and the contract will start in July with the enhanced recycling service being rolled out as the contractor receives the new specialist recycling vehicles. The first should be available in Feb 2017. The new contract will include mixed plastics and cardboard. These additional recycled materials will reduce volume to land fill and therefore following very successful trials in Feniton and Exmouth, the new contract will include mixed plastics and cardboard but only collect land fill waste every 3 weeks. This not only reduces costs but will put East Devon above 50% recycling. The renegotiation has also helped towards the budget deficit by delivering a better service at a reduced cost.

Transfer of Assets - The transfer of assets to towns and parishes is of particular interest to Beer as we have a pilot project proposal in with the council for consideration at the present time and the district wide options are being looked at by cabinet in May 2016. The implications of transfer of local assets to local councils could have a profound effect on communities as well as delivering cost savings to EDDC.

Of particular interest to Branscombe - The toilets have been transferred to Mr Sellick to manage and maintain. This means a public toilet will continue to be provided on Branscombe beach. The grave yard has finally been transferred via a convoluted path of compulsory purchase from the NT and exchange of land with NT. There are still practical issues to confirm regarding the extent of land available for graves.

Police Report – PCSO Mike McGauly reported that there had been 62 incidents reported for the year 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2016 and the Have Your Say sessions at the Village Hall each Wednesday sharing the facilities with the Post Office is working well. The following are the final year-end figures for Branscombe:

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/04/15 to 22/05/16	Recorded Crime 01/04/14 to 22/05/15	Recorded Crime % Difference
Violence with injury	3	2	200
Violence without injury	0	2	-100
Burglary Dwelling	1	1	0
Burglary Non-Dwelling	3	7	-57.1
Vehicle Offences	1	1	0
Other Theft	1	3	-66.7
Criminal Damage	2	2	0
Public Order Offences	0	1	-100
Total	11	18	-38.9

Incident Closing Category	Incident Crime 01/04/15 to 22/05/16	Incident Crime 01/04/14 to 22/05/15	Incident Crime % Difference
Anti-Social Behaviour	4	3	33.3
Crime Recorded	4	3	33.3
Public Safety	32	31	3.2
Transport	22	8	175
Total	62	45	37.8

Cllr Bass thanked PCSO Mike McGauly and also added that the Have Your Say sessions are very good.

Village Hall – Ongoing maintenance of the Village Hall continues throughout the year and Helen Fielden, Village Hall Chairman wished to thank all involved particularly Ralph Cox, Glenn Everett, David Lamb and Mike Fielden. Also thanks to Paul Haines for overseeing the tariff for the electricity, Ros Gunn for the accounts, Katie Harris for minute taking and David and Viv Lamb for their work on bookings.

The main fire exit doors have been replaced in the hall together with the social room. New signage has been erected asking for donations for parking and use of the tennis court. The website is live with electronic booking and invoicing now in place.

The Masons Arms provided a bar that has been made into a counter/box office in the foyer of the hall. New carpet in the foyer has been laid and the main hall decorated.

The Colyton Post Master now runs a sub post office in the foyer of the hall every Wednesday afternoon.

The Play Area needs updating, with replacement broken equipment being the first stage and realignment of the tennis courts and general tidy up of the play area to follow.

New notice boards have been fitted and a key lock has been installed for easy access to hirers.

They have been raising funds for the purchase of a defibrillator unit at the Village Hall and have reached the target to purchase it including training. The Village Hall Committee thanked Axe Valley Runners, The Parish Council, Devon County Council and the Art Show for their contributions.

Branscombe Project - Chris Bass is forging ahead with the Photographic Fixed Point Project and with the monster interactive Favourite Landscapes/Places map. We are still looking for submissions of Favourite Places from anyone in the village who hasn't already given us theirs: contacts@branscombeproject.org.uk. We will have the Map running at our stall at the Harvest Fair for anyone who wants to see it.

When it web ready it will be posted on our website. Sue Dymond is still master-minding the website which now receives plus 50 hits a day <http://www.branscombeproject.org.uk/>.

We had five excellent winter talks ranging from archaeology below the North Sea to being a master mason at Exeter Cathedral, an exhibition 'Village Lives' after Easter covering new prehistoric and Roman finds, an eighteenth century recipe book, Variety Night and Branscombe Church archives, research on the Old Bakery, Coastguards at the Lookout, and Branscombe Forges, interviews with John Hughes and Guy Bentley, a Kingsley Squire retrospective, and the monster interactive map. We are planning to do our next Exhibition in 2018 and are continuing to do research into the history of Branscombe. 2016-17 Winter Talks are being, dates and topics will be announced in the Parish Magazine.

Branscombe PCC - Branscombe Church has had another good year with congregations being very good for the size of the village. The congregation has raised a lot of money for many worthwhile charities, as well as becoming more financially secure. Fund raising activities have included a Lent Charity Lunch, a Carol Party, Carol singing, concerts, Church Market, a Barn Dance, a Flower festival, coffee mornings, Cocktail party. The extension to the churchyard is nearly accomplished after approximately twelve years of negotiations with the National Trust and East Devon District Council. The Friends of the church continue to support the fabric of the church for which we are very grateful.

WI – They are celebrating its 90th birthday, in June they held a garden party at Blackbury Honey Farm with a talk. Their speakers this year included, Jan Thom "Crediton to China by Train", a representative from Waitrose on "Behind the Schemes, Linda Finlay author of 'The Royal Lacemaker' an insight on how she came to start writing. In October they held a Harvest Supper and Poetry evening. A Pie Fest was held in August and a monthly Craft Club continues. A trip to Sherborne by train and to Cothelstone Manor were also successful.

In 2016 Janet entertained the WI with photos and narrative of her Russian trip. A further talk on 'Operation Pied Piper' evacuees during the war was given. They have gained one new member.

Branscombe Players – Ross Willmington, Chairman reported that he was pleased to report another successful year. In August 2015 they staged their first summer production in over twenty years, a variety show "Branscombe's Got Talent", the show lived up to its name and was very well received. Instead of the usual pantomime they staged a cabaret show, "Jolly January Japes" on 9th January, again a full house and enjoyable show with the cast ranging from 5 years to 90 year old. The Players donated £520 to the Red Cross, Devon Air Ambulance, The Dogs Trust, Force and the Parish Magazine with a membership of 35.

On 9th July they are staging a comedy murder mystery “Murder at Branoc Hall” with tickets available at £10 each including a ploughman’s supper, ice cream and coffee. The pantomime will be returning in January 2017.

Branscombe Primary School – No report received.

Branscombe Pre School – Had an Ofsted inspection and received an ‘outstanding’ result. Occupancy levels are raising and currently they are full. They will be advertising in September and 2 children are going onto Branscombe Primary School.

Youth Group – No report received.

British Legion Men’s Section – Branscombe branch is a small branch and membership numbers are now below 40. Like many other organisations it is difficult finding new people willing to join in and who are able to spare the time to organise local events. Last year the branch led the annual Remembrance Sunday service at St Winifred’s Church and were very pleased to support Branscombe Primary School with their Remembrance service held at the church and the war memorial. The children read out their own poems about The Great War which were both thoughtful and moving.

The Branch would like to thank the generosity of everyone in Branscombe who supported the Poppy Appeal. Members of the Branch continue to be very active on behalf of the wider Legion presence in Devon County. Earlier this year three members joined in a pilgrimage to the Somme battlefields.

Future ideas for the Branch include marking our 70th anniversary next year and finding new volunteers to join.

British Legion Woman’s Section – In the past year we have attended many functions. At Star-Cross member of Devon are invited to an afternoon tea party. They also attended Devon County Conference at Tiverton last September. In November the Ladies arranged a coffee morning for ‘Poppy Appeal Branscombe’. At the Christmas Fair a fun stall was put on. It has not been an easy year, with talks with other Branches are many letters about closing of the Women’s Branch. This year the National Conference in April announced that all the Women’s sections would be closed not just a few, which is very disappointing.

Thursday afternoon Club - The club is open to everyone from everywhere of whatever age. We meet every third Thursday afternoon from 2-30pm – 4pm in the Branoc Hall. We chat and have a cup of tea or coffee, we have games, talks, quizzes etc. We have regular outings at a subsidised rate and we have an annual Christmas lunch.

Branscombe Cricket Club – No report received.

MATTERS ARISING FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

No matters were raised.

Meeting closed at 19.30 pm

Signed..... Date