

# BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held online via ZOOM platform on **THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 19.00hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Fastnedge (Chair), Cox, Evans, Lambert, Pegler, Pike, Powell and White, and Cllr Pook (EDDC).

APOLOGIES: None.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: None.

PRESS: None.

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Nicky Langley.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020, as previously circulated, was approved by Council and will be signed by the Chair as a true record at the next face-to-face meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr White declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to planning application 20/2454/FUL.

ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS:

**a) Police:** No report received.

**b) National Trust:** No report received.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

**a) DCC:** Report received previously.

**b) EDDC:** Report received previously. Cllr Pook also mentioned following up several planning issue for Branscombe, including asking for some to go to Committee. Chair thanked Cllr Pook for his support in this regard, in particular relating to 20/2251/CPE, which had been incorrectly worded by EDDC; the wording on this application has reportedly been changed on the notice on site.

**c) Village Hall:** No meetings have been held.

MATTERS ARISING:

**a) Parish Emergency Plan:** Cllr Cox and Cllr Pegler met and the Plan has been updated with comments also from the Chair. Contacts for the School (redacted online) and the Airfield have been received. Cllr Evans will confirm with Oakdown Caravan Site if it is possible for the people in Weston to rendezvous there in an emergency. A hard copy of the Plan will be provided to all Cllrs and DCC, and an exercise will be sought with DCC/DAA, once completed.

**b) EV Charging Point:** The Village Hall has been selected as one of 37 sites in Devon. DCC have asked for a letter from the Trust confirming their agreement to proceed. Cllr Evans asked clarification on BPC financial involvement; 25% of the installation fee (~£5,000) with operational

costs to the Operator. Cllr Pegler will communicate with DCC requesting further information and requesting a call between DCC and the Village Hall Trust to better understand the commitment.

**c) Website Accessibility:** Clerk approached other Devon Parish Councils and the overwhelming advice seems to be redo, rather than make the existing site compliant. Aubergine has been contracted by SLCC to offer such services at a discounted cost to members; Clerk will seek financial assistance from DCC through the locality budget grants and further advice from Beer Parish Clerk regarding claiming disproportionate burden.

**d) Damaged retaining wall by bus stop:** Work has been completed and Cllr Pike will check if there is any charge.

**e) DALC VAT course:** Regarding the VAT Reclaim for the DAA night landing site at the Village Hall; SLCC advice was that no part of the VAT is recoverable since the expenditure was for the benefit of a third party and there were contributions from elsewhere, however a claim for work done by MAT electrics in November 2019 for £1,387.83 had already been made. Clerk will seek further advice on the validity of the claim from Beer Parish Clerk (who experienced a similar undertaking) and others.

**f) Mason's Arms staff accommodation:** A response was received from St Austell Brewery stating that the property manager would visit the accommodation and provide feedback to Council.

**g) Remembrance Day:** Cllr Cox reported that 30+ people attended the service on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> and others on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, and a wreath was placed at the war memorial from BPC.

#### PLANNING:

**a) Update:** It was noted that application 20/1945/VAR had recently been refused and enforcement action was proposed by the planning officer.

#### **b) Applications, Appeals & Enforcement:**

i) 20/2390/FUL - Hillend Branscombe Seaton EX12 3DN - Construction of 2 no. outbuildings and associated landscaping (partially retrospective) – Chair noted that the garage had already been approved and has a greater impact on the built environment/neighbours than the two outbuildings; Cllr Pegler proposed to support, Cllr Pike seconded, seven in favour and one abstention.

ii) 20/2303/LBC - The Barn Edge Barton Manor Branscombe - Retention and completion of insulation to underside of existing rafters inc. new boarding and plaster finish – Chair proposed to support, Cllr Cox seconded, all in favour.

iii) 20/2454/FUL - Land at Woodhouse Hill Branscombe - Proposed menage (for private use) – Cllr Cox sought to clarify the location, which is elevated from the road and therefore out of site from passers-by. Chair proposed to support, Cllr Lambert seconded, all in favour.

#### HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS:

**a) Culvert by Village Hall:** Cllr Cox had written to Steve Kelly of DCC Highways about this and was awaiting a response to Cllr Shaw's request for a site meeting in support of his email. Chair proposed a further letter to Highways stating that the National Trust would likely be reluctant to remove further shingle build up on the lower side of the bridge in the future, it would be down to DCC; seconded by Cllr Pike, all in favour.

**b) DCC Doing What Matters:** Update requested from Steve Kelly with no response to date.

**c) Road Wardens:** BPC will utilise DCC grant for £678 in Q1 2021 when there is sufficient daylight to perform work safely. Cllr Pook mentioned that Beer Parish were willing to share the cost of a full load of material; Clerk will send details to Beer Parish Clerk about shipping, etc.

**d) Road Signs:** Clerk responded to DCC on provision of 4 Branscombe / 2 Weston signs, provided sample of “private” sign and clarified beach car park is private; no reply yet received.

**e) Restricted width on Northern Lane:** Cllr Lambert stressed the importance of a sign at this location to discourage HGV drivers from using this route; BPC could fix such a sign to the gate by the cattle grid. Cllr Pook suggested a local signage contractor. Cllr Cox will purchase the sign. Cllr Cox proposed, Cllr Lambert seconded, all in favour.

**f) Traffic Group meeting:** Cllr Cox discussed the minutes including his concern over the work at Elverway on drainage and the progress of the Berry Barton scheme. Clerk will email Steve Kelly and ask again for a site meeting.

**g) Damage to path through Littlecombe Shute to beach:** Cllr White reported that surveyors had visited the site and he was awaiting their update. Cllr Pook described how Beer Parish had taken over the P3 funding for footpaths and received a grant of £550/year for their maintenance.

**h) Temporary Traffic Notice:** Closure of road from Branscombe Cross to Northern Lane noted.

#### GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:

**a)** Comments sought on EDDC Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026; noted.

**b)** Police & Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez - Public Survey responses sought; noted.

#### FINANCE:

##### **a) Finance Update 2019/20:**

Total receipts for the year	£ 9,313.04
Total payments for the year	£ 6,683.37
Difference	£ 2,629.67
Current balance	£ 26,431.00

**b)** The Council supported a subscription to Zoom of £11.99/month +VAT, vs. £10/month for hire of Village Hall to facilitate Council meetings while not possible to meet face to face. Proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr Cox, all in favour.

**c)** The Clerk had not been able to make any progress in facilitating internet banking.

**d)** SLCC advice on VAT refund was discussed earlier.

##### **e) Cheques:**

i) Chq. No. 1062 – Clerk’s wages & expenses Oct-Nov - £1,422.19

ii) Chq. No. 1063 – Branscombe PCC (Parish Newsletter) - £20.00

iii) Chq. No. 1064 – DALC Introduction to VAT Training - £36.00

iv) Chq. No. 1065 – Royal British Legion Remembrance Day wreath - £22.25

#### MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

It was noted that Oaklodge Café closes on 28<sup>th</sup> November for their winter break.

The next meeting will be called as business dictates and notice will be placed on the website, BPC Facebook page and with EDDC.

Meeting closed at 20.35 hrs.

Signed..... Date .....