

# BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 19.30hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Bass, Fastnedge, Mayes, Pike, Lambert, White, Walford-Howell, Evans, Pook (EDDC) and Shaw (DCC)

NO. OF PUBLIC: None

Cllr Bass welcomed Cllr Shaw (DCC) to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Cox

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017, which were previously circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record with the following minor amendments:

Cllr Pook (EDDC) –

- Reported that EDDC had contacted the CCG regarding hospital beds (not homes)
- EDDC have now reached recycling levels avg of 74 tonne, 390 tonnes/week in EDDC (replaced “from 50 tonne to 54 tonne”)

## DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr Bass – Pecuniary interest as he has been asked to quote for the work - **17/1521/FUL** - Coxes Farm Branscombe, Seaton EX12 3BJ - Construction of detached two bay garage.

Cllr Fastnedge – Nonpecuniary interest as he is a close neighbour - **17/1521/FUL** - Coxes Farm Branscombe, Seaton EX12 3BJ - Construction of detached two bay garage.

## POLICE AND NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

**Police:** Not in attendance and nothing reported.

**National Trust:** Not in attendance and nothing reported.

## MATTERS ARISING

**Fountain Head Gardens Bench Plaque** – The plaque was handed to Cllr Bass to put on the bench. Cllr Bass suggested we have a little get together at the Fountain Head, the Clerk will arrange a suitable date. All agreed that as the Fountain Head had offered to pay for the plaque we would go 50/50 with them, Clerk will arrange.

### **West Bank Friends – Vicky-Jo Eva –**

The Parish Council have had two communications that may be of interest to West Bank Friends. One is if there is a possibility in helping out with a gap in funding for the use of the village hall for the coffee mornings and the other is the funding for the Post Office hire of the front of the Village Hall for £5/week. It was also agreed to publish the questionnaire in the Church Magazine.

**Church Waste Bin** – The bin outside the Church by the bench gets overflowing, Cllr Walford-Howell asked if it could be looked into to be emptied more often. Cllr Pook said he would ask what the emptying schedule was, he thought it may be every three weeks, and if it could be done more frequently.

### PLANNING

**Planning Update** – The update was noted.

**Appeals** - None

### **Planning Applications:**

*Cllr Bass left the room and Cllr Fastnedge took the chair*

**17/1521/FUL** - Coxes Farm Branscombe, Seaton EX12 3BJ - Construction of detached two bay garage – Cllr Fastnedge advised that he did not think that it would be seen from the road. Cllr White asked what size it would be as this was not visible from the computer scan. Cllr Fastnedge asked if we could make a point in our response that the image was not very good to read on the screen. Cllr Mayes proposed that we **support** the application with Cllr Pike seconding and **all in favour**.

*Cllr Bass returned to the room and retook the chair*

**17/0847/LBC** - Great Seaside Farm Branscombe, Seaton EX12 3DP - Structural works to address movement of internal partition wall at ground and first floor, replacement window frame and repairs to first floor window (south east elevation) – After a full discussion, Cllr Mayes proposed that we **support** the application with Cllr Walford-Howell seconding and **all in favour**.

**17/1553/FUL** - Little Bulstone Branscombe, Seaton EX12 3BL - Construction of a concrete base to support a temporary field shelter – Cllr Bass suggested that as it was a concrete base, this was permanent works. He also advised that there seems to be a field shelter there already and felt that this constitutes as permanent works. Cllr Mayes proposed that we **do not support** the application on the grounds that it is a permanent structure in an AONB and therefore not a suitable building for the area, it also seemed that it was ambiguous that it was a temporary shelter on a permanent concrete base. Cllr Pike seconded this with **all in favour**.

**Enforcement** – None

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE - None

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

**Cllr Martin Shaw (DCC)** provided the following report and update:

### **County Councillor's Report July 2017**

#### **Community hospital beds**

I spoke at Devon County Council's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee on 19 June and East Devon District Council's Scrutiny Committee on 22 June to oppose the NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group's plans for cutting beds in Seaton and Honiton hospitals.

I was disappointed that Health Scrutiny, on the recommendation of the Chair, Councillor Sara Randall Johnson, delayed a decision on whether or not to refer the CCG's decisions to the Secretary of State for Health until 25 July. There have been reliable reports that staff are leaving and patients being turned away from both hospitals, although 'permanent closure' is not scheduled until September (Honiton) and October (Seaton). The delay risks leaving us with a *fait accompli*.

EDDC's Scrutiny Committee, however, expressed 'great concern that there will be no community hospital beds east of Sidmouth, leaving residents in a whole swathe of eastern Devon remote from the nearest hospital facilities.' The Committee also agreed to write to DCC's Health Scrutiny Committee, urging it to refer the matter to the Secretary of State for Health 'as a matter of urgency'. The Chair, Councillor Roger Giles, repeatedly asked the CCG 'how many additional staff will be required' for the CCG's new model of care, only to be told merely 'what is required'.

There is mounting cross-party support for looking again at the CCG's completely indefensible switch of beds away from Seaton. County Councillor Ian Hall and Councillor Andrew Moulding, both representing Axminster, Mike McAlpine, Chair of the Committee for the Axe Valley Health Hub, and Seaton's Deputy Mayor, Martin Pigott, all made strong arguments against this switch in these meetings. CCG representatives, Dr Sonja Manton at DCC and Dr John Kerr at EDDC, both avoided answering direct questions about the flawed case for axing Seaton's beds.

#### **Highways reporting**

I am in regular touch with parishes and our Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Stephen Kelly, [stephen.kelly@devon.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.kelly@devon.gov.uk), about issues that councils and residents have brought to me. On 23 July I attended a Highways induction for new members. I was given a huge amount of information, but some points seem important to pass on now:

1. Issues should be reported online whenever possible, at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>. Online reporting means issues go directly to the teams which deal with them (e.g. potholes to the contactor filling them, hedges to the hedge-cutting team), rather than taking extra time if emailed or phoned in.
2. If there are two or more nearby potholes, or hedges which are obstructing drivers' vision (the ones the County will cut), make a report for each hole or hedge separately. This helps them to see clusters of issues.

3. Remember that they have criteria for filling potholes (a 40 mm drop at the rim of the hole, not in the middle, and minimum width of 300 mm). The contractors will only fill the ones that are reported *and* fit these criteria, not others. This explains why some holes are filled while nearby ones are not (not my policy - don't shoot the messenger!).

I will be attending the East Devon Highways and Traffic Order Committee (HATOC) on 24 July. I will see if it is possible to get any last-minute additions to the 2017-18 schedule. Otherwise, new requests will be for 2018-19.

### **Traffic group**

Colyton Parish Council have asked for a meeting with the NHO and myself, which will take place on 10 July. I am aware that there have been different practices in the two previous divisions on 'traffic group' meetings. I have also heard different views on the effectiveness of such meetings. If parishes see a benefit in regular divisional meetings, rather than in dealing with Highways issues directly with the NHO and myself, I will convene them.

### **Speeding**

On 14 July, I will be attending a meeting with Neil Parish MP and Highways officers, arranged at the request of the Speedwatch teams at Colyford and Seaton Down Hill, about the speeding problems in these two areas and possible solutions.

### **Stop Line Way**

On 3 July, I will be meeting Ros Mills of the County Rights of Way team about issues relating to different sections of the Stop Line Way cycle and walk way, brought to me by residents in both Colyford and Seaton.

### **Other issues**

I have intended induction sessions on Children's and Schools and on Health and Adult Care services.

I have circulated details to parishes of DCC's Property Level Resilience (PLR) Grant Scheme, to which householders at risk from flooding can apply for approximately £5,000. Contact Flood Risk on [01392 383000](tel:01392383000).

Martin Shaw, 24 June 2017

### **Update:**

- Community hospital – DCC are trying to get the decision referred to the SOS for Health as an objection to the decision.
- X52 Bus – this is being looked at again as they are looking to cut it from 5 to 2 a day.
- Highways –
  - he confirmed that he had emailed Stephen Kelly (DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer) regarding Northern Lane surfacing and is awaiting a reply and will let the Clerk know of the answer to this.
  - Speeding in Colyford – DCC have agreed to a pedestrian crossing
  - Traffic Group – covering Seaton/Beer/Branscombe – a meeting has now

been set up and it was agreed that the Clerk would ask Cllr Cox if he was willing to be our representative.

- Cllr Bass informed Cllr Shaw about the problems with the Stream by the Village Hall flooding and that we are awaiting the National Trust to clear below the culvert before DCC can do any work under the culvert, which ex Cllr Knight had agreed to do for us. Cllr Lambert advised that the National Trust are going through replacing the Ranger and they may be short staffed in responding to this.

**Cllr Pook (EDDC)** – Reported that EDDC were looking into Community Infrastructure Levy to be paid in kind and would report back the result.

**Village Hall** – Regarding the charging for the Hall for the Post Office, Cllr Pike reported that the Post Master was not happy with paying the £5/week. Cllr White said that surly the Village Hall should not be charging for this as the service is for local residents. Cllr Bass asked the clerk to see if this was something Vicky-Jo Eva from West Bank Friends could assist with.

**Chairman** – Cllr Bass reported that the Garden Party at EDDC offices was very good and Gary Pinnock was pleased with his certificate presented to him for his work with the Cricket Club.

#### HIGHWAYS:

The Clerk advised that she had reported the following issues:

- Pig Farm potholes and Berry Barton
- Gully full of tarmac at end of new surfacing by Hillside
- 1 Chapel Row overhanging hedge

FOOTPATHS: Nothing reported.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

**Abi Fuell** - Possible Funding for Gazebos/Marquees from the DCC Locality budget – Cllr Shaw advised that this would be available for a bid for funding, the Clerk will complete the form once she had been informed of the amount of funding required.

**Cllr Shaw – Traffic Group** – See above.

**EDDC Walking Festival** – It was agreed to put the leaflets in the notice boards and in the Parish Magazine.

#### FINANCE:

**Finance Update 2017/18** – the Clerk advised the following:

Total Income for the year	-	£4,137.44
Total Expenditure for the year	-	£1,279.39
Balance for the year	-	£2,858.05

**Cheques** –

No. 967	Hanging Baskets – L.M. Widger	-	£70.00
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PART B MATTER – None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

**Cllr Mayes –**

- Feedback from the Church Open Day and Market was very positive with a bigger attendance and we made £1,632.00.
- He thanked the meeting for the information gained regarding the dog fouling and advised that the resident who complained was very appreciative.

**Cllr Evans –**

- The new 3 weekly bin collection was getting a positive response from the Weston residents.

**Cllr Lambert –**

- The Jurassic Coast Walk was the best yet with 12 people plus the 4 organisers attending, which included a botanist, and representatives from Beer.
- National Trust – Katie the assistant ranger took them around the Mill which was excellent and advised that the new ranger would be in place mid August.
- Himalayan Balsam – he spent time eradicating this from the Bulstone area and suggested that if all councillors see any then to pick them up and get rid of it including stamping on its roots.
- Allotments – Tim Heart is taking over from Cllr Mayes. They will have a cheque for us shortly and advised that someone is interested in a couple of the plots that are vacant for chickens. Cllr Mayes advised that spaces for the allotment were advertised in the May magazine.

**Clerk -**

- Coffee Morning hall hire – Clerk will ask West Bank Friends if they can assist.
- Bus Shelter idea – send round the information again and gauge opinion.
- Bulbs – suggestion on a possible autumn bulb planting project as an idea and asked for suggestions of areas that may be planted like around the Fountain Head Garden, Weston Car Park, by the bus stop, School area and the Square notice board. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the Head of the School if she would be interested in a project.

The next meeting is due on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017 @ 19:30 in Branoc Hall (Village Hall). The meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 24<sup>th</sup> August have been cancelled.

Meeting closed at 21.00hrs

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