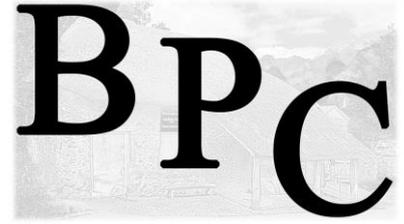


BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 24th September 2015 at 19.30.**

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bass, White, Evans, Pike, Lambert, Cox, Willmington, Mayes, Hall, Knight (DCC), Pook (EDDC)

APOLOGIES: None

NO. OF PUBLIC: Nineteen

PRESS: Clarissa Place

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Kenyon

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mr. Tremlow had requested to speak and permission had been granted by the Chairman. Mr. Tremlow spoke with regard to planning application 15/2046/VAR which consisted of the Variation of conditions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of planning permission 14/2140/VAR to enable amendments to the number of flights, type of aircraft flight paths, times of flight, noise restrictions and numbers of aircraft to be parked on the ground. He provided background into the history of the airfield and the business that were run on the site, particularly with regard to Sky4 Aviation where the incredible skills in the Branscombe community had been recognised. They have sponsored 2 apprentices on a programme with Exeter University/Collage. Mr. Tremlow made note of the lack of employment in the area. He advised that they had improved the campsite in 2015 which had doubled the number of visitors and gives educational talks to children. They carried out a survey in August this year and advised that the customers of the site were spending £500/week in the area. Mr. Tremlow advised that they had improved safety, demarcation of the airfield and firefighting facilities. They have now found that the existing planning conditions were not written for the current aircraft facilities and that they are erroneous. Mr. Tremlow advised that they have asked a little more than they need and that yesterday they submitted a new planning application to address and answer questions but unfortunately it was now ready for this evenings meeting. Mr. Tremlow would like to make it clear that they are open to discussion and change.

Mr. Gary Rivers had also requested to speak on the above planning application 15/2046/VAR and advised that he strongly objects to this application on the grounds of the fact that it is in an AONB, noise, disturbance and it should be left as a private airstrip. He also advised that we must protect amenities. He advised that he believed the Planning Case Officer is confused by the wording of amended Condition 1 regarding the flight numbers. Mr. Rivers felt that the village begs to differ on the stunts and aerobatics over the village and that a relaxed flight plan avoids neighbours were possible (sic). He advised that in the planning officers report for the 2014 application is stipulated that it should be a once and for all permission with no amendments unless they are small, and these are not small amendments.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr Lynn Hall – declared a personal interest on item 6.1 a) and d), planning applications 15/2046/VAR and 15/1507/FUL (Amended Plans) as she lives close to the site.

Cllr Evans - declared a personal interest on item 6.1 a) planning applications 15/2046/VAR as he lives close to the site.

Cllr Cox - declared a personal interest on item 6.1 a) planning applications 15/2046/VAR as he lives close to the site.

Cllr White - declared a prejudicial interest on item 6.1 a) planning applications 15/2046/VAR as he owns a business adjacent to the site that may be compromised.

Police Report:

No report provided.

National Trust:

Cllr Bass advised that Mr Blythe was unable to attend the meeting however he provided him with an update via email on 20th September 2015 as follows:

Two points ref Hedge-cutting which may be germane:

- a) Cllr Bass spoke to Mr Blythe about maintenance of the roadside hedge at Hill End , in particular its infringing on the grit bin , this is the responsibility of the tenant but I have asked our Rural Surveyor, David Jenkins, to contact them and remind them of the responsibility.
- b) Several councillors have asked about hedge cutting along the old road near Stockhams (the one that is closed) , this is the Trust's responsibility where it adjoins the Hazlewood, tenancy then swaps to being the Westlake's responsibility where it adjoins their tenancy – however neither of us can realistically do anything about it until Highways respond to my repeated requests for a key for the bollards so we can get a tractor and side arm flail in. (If Cllr's Pook or Knight could do anything to expedite this that would be very helpful)

Also one point of note for councillor's information, many of you will be aware that Mr Bentley is giving up his tenancy on the Old Bakery tearoom from end of October. We do remain committed to keeping this as a tearoom and will be seeking a new tenant to continue the operation, we will be advertising this shortly on Rightmove/Daltons and other avenues. If anyone knows or hears of anyone who is interested please ask them to contact Rural Surveyor Katie Stein on katie.stein@nationaltrust.org.uk.

MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Hedge cutting responsibilities around road signs** – Cllr Bass advised that both himself and the Clerk had met with Cllr Knight and Devon County Council Neighbourhood Highways Officer on a number of issues and the advice given on this is as follows:

DCC should cut warning & regulatory signs when carrying out the Rural & Urban grass cutting programme. Directional signs are generally only cut on the Principal Routes (i.e. generally A & B roads with some C roads that are gritted). If there are specific sites/signs(warning & regulatory) that have not been pared out please report via the on line web site <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>.

PLANNING

Cllr White left the room

- a) **15/2046/VAR** – Branscombe Airfield Campsite Ltd (Mr. Andrew Twemlow) - Variation of conditions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of planning permission 14/2140/VAR to enable amendments to the number of flights, type of aircraft, flight paths, times of flight, noise restrictions and numbers of aircraft to be parked on the ground.

The above planning application was fully discussed going through each amended condition as follows:

Con. No.	Summary of Current Condition	Summary of Proposed Change	Discussion
1	250 take offs and 250 landings in any one 12 month period	1200 take offs and 1200 landings.	<p>Cllr Willmington felt there would be more noise with bigger planes.</p> <p>Cllr. Evans expressed thanks Mr. and Mrs. Tremwell for attending. He felt that they are entrepreneurs and that they have a number of other businesses. He is concerned that the airfield and campsite application is disingenuous and it severely affects the public right of way. It only needs one thing to go wrong and he has a nagging doubt on safety.</p> <p>Cllr Bass – advised that there was no supporting documentation of safety, it would have been more helpful if it was part of the application. Safety is paramount therefore he is not convinced this has been duly attended to.</p> <p>Cllr Lambert – Living at Brookside he is fully aware of movements and does not feel the applicant has considered residents. He is totally against the change in this condition due to safety. He advised that there has been very few complaints.</p> <p>Cllr Mayes – advised that he felt safety was an issue and therefore is against the change in this condition.</p> <p>The Parish Council members took a vote on this variation of the condition as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favour of supporting the condition change – 0 • Not in favour of supporting the condition change – 7 • Abstained - 1
	Max 6 movements in any one day	20 movements daily with a winter seasonal reduction to 6 per day between November and April.	
	No more than 20 movements in any one week	Although not stipulated this amounts to 140 movement per week.	
3	The airfield shall only be used by propeller driven single engine aircraft with an	Unlimited weight and HP limit for 50 movements per annum applying only to single engine propeller	<p>Cllr Bass felt that we have not received any supporting facts on if this is an extra 50 movements on to the 2400 asked for. He also felt that bigger aircraft meant bigger risk with</p>

	engine power not exceeding 231kw and a max total weight not exceeding 1542kg.	aircraft.	<p>the campsite.</p> <p>The Parish Council members took a vote on this variation of the condition as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favour of supporting the condition change – 0 • Not in favour of supporting the condition change – 6 • Abstained – 2
4	The airfield will not be used by gliders, micro light aircraft, helicopters, for parachute landings, aerobatics or touch and go manoeuvres.	<p>Removal of no Touch and Go manoeuvres.</p> <p>Removal of Aerobatics – The operators should not allow its aircraft to perform aerobatics in the direct overhead of the airfield that would as such create a breach of air law.</p>	<p>Cllr Hall felt that the new operators would do anything they could to ensure safety concerns are met, however if it is sold on the new owners may not be so conscientious. She also advised that aerobatics should not take place anywhere near Branscombe.</p> <p>Cllr Lambert advised that we must respect the pilots' knowledge and experience in dealing with matters and that aerobatics over the sea would be acceptable.</p> <p>Cllr Bass advised that the applicant had agreed an aerobatic practice area with Exeter ATC but Branscombe Parish Council had not been informed. However there are no problems with the amendment of this condition on safety grounds.</p> <p>The Parish Council members took a vote on this variation of the condition as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favour of supporting the condition change – 0 • Not in favour of supporting the condition change – 3 • Abstained - 5
5	The operating hours of the airfield shall be restricted in summer (BST) between 08.00 – 20.00hrs and in winter (GMT) between 08.00 – 16.00hrs, except in emergencies.	Variation to hours – 1 st April to 31 st October 7.45-21.00hrs and 1 st November to 1 st April 08.00 to 16.00hrs with the number of post 20.00 arrivals would not exceeding 20 movement per annum.	<p>Cllr Bass did not believe that the extended hours sounded a lot but it is an increase and the current flying hours current are not unreasonable.</p> <p>Cllr Evans believed that changing this conditions would be a domino effect as there is likely be more take off and landings therefore he understood why the request for extension of time.</p> <p>Cllr Mayes advised that if it was just a question of 15 minutes it may be ok but it has an effect on all the activities on the site.</p> <p>Cllr Cox felt that he had no real feeling for summer evening extension but 8:00 is reasonable.</p> <p>The Parish Council members took a vote on this variation of the condition as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favour of supporting the condition change – 0

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not in favour of supporting the condition change – 8 • Abstained - 0
6	The airfield shall be used for the operation of private aircraft only and no instruction, training flights or commercial uses will take place at any time.	The operator wishes to have the ability to operate pleasure flights from the location to a max of 300 flights per annum.	<p>Cllr Bass explained that it was not clear if these movements were on top of the 2400, there being no supporting documentation as to if 600 movements are in addition to ones requested. There was also no confirmation on refuelling at Branscombe and if fuel will be stored on site.</p> <p>Cllr Mayes would like to see some evidence that it will help the village revenue and tourism, however it is an increase in flights.</p> <p>Cllr Evans was pleased the flights appear to be commercial, 300 flights would not be acceptable but can understand that it's a great thing.</p> <p>Cllr Hall advised that pleasure flights are great but not at Branscombe.</p> <p>Cllr Bass also reiterated that pleasure flights are at Dunkweswell therefore do we really need them at Branscombe.</p> <p>Cllr Willmington asked if there are any restrictions on timing.</p> <p>Cllr Bass advised that the application does not say.</p> <p>The Parish Council members took a vote on this variation of the condition as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favour of supporting the condition change – 0 • Not in favour of supporting the condition change – 8 • Abstained – 0
7	No more than 5 aircraft to be parked on the ground at any time, the aircraft shall be stationed under cover or in the area previously agreed with the LPA.	15 aircraft on site spread between the parking spaces to the eastern area of the airfield on a hard standing (by the 10 runway makers) with the rest in the hangars and on the apron.	<p>Cllr Bass advised that we had not received any supporting plans, and it is expedient for the applicant to provide them.</p> <p>Cllr Willmington advised that there is a lot going on at the 15/20 acre site, camping, horses, flights and no plans.</p> <p>Cllr Bass advised that it was questionable if there was room.</p> <p>Cllr Mayes asked if the parking was for restoration and/or interest, if they are not flying it seems ok but would be helpful to have plans.</p> <p>Cllr Cox advised that from local knowledge, 4, 5 or 6 are stored in hanger 4 or 5 on parked off area, there are trees now to screen, and it is reasonably acceptable.</p> <p>Cllr Evans wondered if any of them were advertised for sale.</p> <p>Cllr Bass advised that to his knowledge 15 are</p>

			<p>for maintenance and restoration parts of airfield are visible from the coastal path and surrounding area.</p> <p>Cllr Willmington asked where the camping area was situated.</p> <p>Cllr Bass advised that he believed that it was between the hanger and end of the runway and the field below it.</p> <p>Cllr Hall advised that she believed that the caravan area was cordoned off therefore no planes was near where the caravans are.</p> <p>The Parish Council members took a vote on this variation of the condition as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favour of supporting the condition change – 8 • Not in favour of supporting the condition change – 0 • Abstained – 0 <p>Cllr Bass requested that we ask EDDC that they request the applicant to screen off the parking area with trees to keep visual impact to a minimum.</p>
8	<p>Aircraft taking off shall take a route which avoids the need to over-fly nearby residences and shall wherever possible choose a height of 400ft or more before crossing the airfield boundary. On final approach aircraft should prepare to “land deep” in order to maintain as much height as possible over nearby residences.</p>	<p>An aircraft on departure should safely depart the airfield avoiding local residences when possible and climb to the highest altitude to reduce departure noise. Similarly the land deep consideration is unreasonable, any Pilot should always land on or just after the airfield markers (numbers) to allow plenty of space for the aircraft to stop short of the runway end, this condition should be removed.</p>	<p>Cllr Hall advised that they tested the 400ft but since then she believed that not a single aircraft has been able to meet the existing condition. She advised that the condition needs to be written differently.</p> <p>Cllr Cox advised that take off of 400ft does not seem feasible, landing deep is worse than a normal procedure. There is some work needed to be done on this condition. With re wording a sensible approach on this could be made to work.</p> <p>Cllr Bass advised that we are not in a position to advice on this but the applicant could be asked to work with EDDC to achieve a better condition. He felt that it was not unreasonable to leave this condition in.</p> <p>The Parish Council members took a vote on this variation of the condition as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favour of supporting the condition change – 0 • Not in favour of supporting the condition change – 0 • Abstained - 8
9	<p>All aircraft movement to and from the airstrip shall be carried out in accordance with</p>	<p>This condition should simply read “and aircraft on arrival or departure should avoid local residences when possible</p>	<p>Cllr Bass advised that he believed a noise attenuation flight plan was introduced in 2007.</p> <p>Cllr Hall advised that they never did stick to this condition and that all these conditions should be monitored and they are not</p>

	<p>Noise Attenuation Flight Plan which shall be submitted to the LPA.</p>	<p>(and safe to do so) to reduce arrival and departure noise.”</p>	<p>currently. She agreed with what’s been said but should there be a change of ownership it could be interpreted in a different way. Cllr Bass advised that the Parish Council had not been privy to any flight logs and EDDC could discuss with the applicant how this can be done. Cllr Hall advised that she believes they have to stick to certain areas and they do contact Exeter Airport which the previous owners never did. Cllr Mayes asked if Air Traffic Control would know the flight paths. Cllr Hall advised that to her knowledge they would not know, and that we must make sure this condition is airtight. Cllr Bass advised that the current flight plan is not unreasonable for the applicant to use and all know that sometimes changes have to be made by them. The Applicant should discuss with EDDC to put something in place to protect Branscombe. Cllr Evans expressed that he felt the applicant was obviously working to do his best. Cllr Bass felt that this condition does require rewording.</p> <p>The Parish Council members took a vote on this variation of the condition as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favour of supporting the condition change – 0 • Not in favour of supporting the condition change – 0 • Abstained – 8
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Cllr Pook commented that he felt the discussion was very interesting and the Parish Council had a good understanding of the application, however in its technical issues we do not have an understanding. He advised that the applicant had submitted a new application today. He said he would be happy to organise a meeting with the Applicant, EDDC, Parish Council representatives and Exeter Airport to address the issues.

Cllr Bass felt that the Parish Council had dealt with the application fairly and proposed to take on board what Cllr Pook advised and we will decide who to attend at that time. It is down to the applicant to put any further application before us and he may revisit with a fresh application.

Cllr Lambert said this application has created unrest and has raised a great deal of concerns for the population of Branscombe.

Cllr Bass proposed that the response to this application be deferred and delegated to himself and the Clerk to formulate a response and email this to all councillor for their comments/input. All were in favour of this and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that overall the Parish Council does not support this application. This proposal was seconded by **Cllr Evans**.

Cllr White returned to the room

- b) **15/2030/COU** – Miss Khan and Mr. Delestre, Cliff View House. Change of use of post office and shop to residential use.
After a comprehensive discussion regarding this change of use Cllr Bass advised the meeting of additional information received from the applicant to support their application, specifically a letter from the previous Post Master. It was felt that it was a great loss to Branscombe as some of its residents relied of the Post Office as they did not have access to a computer or emails; it was their way of life. It was felt that the applicant had good intentions with the Post Office but they had not materialised as they had hoped. Cllr Cox proposed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the council **SUPPORTS** the application. This was seconded by Cllr Hall with **ALL IN FAVOUR**.
- c) **15/2103/LBC** – National Trust (Mr. L Mitchell) – The Bakery Branscombe Seaton EX12 3DB - Proposed change of roofing material from water to reed back to native Devon wheat reed.
After a short discussion Cllr Cox proposed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the council **SUPPORTS** the application. This was seconded by Cllr Lambert with **ALL IN FAVOUR**.
- d) **15/1507/FUL** – (**Amended Plans**) - Mr & Mrs L Pratt – Land at Higherlands Farm Branscombe Seaton EX12 3BL – Proposed stabling/field sheltering, feed store and tack room.
After a short discussion Cllr Pike proposed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the council **SUPPORTS** the application. This was seconded by Cllr Willmington with **ALL IN FAVOUR**.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Update on Housing Needs Survey** – The Clerk advised that the documentation was now with the printers and will be delivered to her on 14th October for distribution to Councillors at its next meeting on 15th October. The closing date for the return of the questionnaires is 20th November 2015.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

Cllr Knight

- Advised that the additional signs for parking was discussed with Cllr Bass and the Clerk and the locations were agreed. However his budget for supporting Parishes is limited and a request had come in from another applicant. Discussed later on the agenda.

- Advised that the salt is being delivered to the grit bins within the next few weeks.
- Potholes – some have been done recently but Berry Hill is still outstanding.
- Advised that the County Council had been threatened with legal action from a resident in Weston as they declined to erect a new village sign.

Cllr Pook

- Buses – Beer PC have analysed the data and written to Devon County Council and Dorset regarding the problems. Cllr Knight advised that it is a service bus not an assisted bus therefore little the County Council can do.
- Universal credits come into action on 9th November, it was agreed to publish help on our web site.
- Toilets – at Cabinet on 7th October these will be discussed and a decision made, if agreement is made then we will have our toilets.
- Sandbags – he will be picking these up and will deliver them to Cllr Cox.

Cllr Pike

- Advised that he is working with others on the Christmas Fair

Cllr Evans

- Advised that there was not going to be any additional keys made for the village hall and that one of the key holders will ensure the hall is opened for each booking.

HIGHWAYS:

- Bus Service – Seaton and Axminster areas** – it was decided that these changes be noted and no further action taken.
- Potholes** – Cllr Knight visited the area again. Cllr White advised that up towards Weston on the left hand side passing place is very deep, he has reported it to DCC. Cllr Knight advised that we could approach any workmen in the area and they may fill it in for us.
- Car Park Signs** – the locations are to be at the top of Castle Hill plus on a post in the Square plus one in the Old Bakery for Disabled Parking and Access to Beach. The Clerk advised that she is awaiting a response from the sign manufacturer to discuss costs.
- Bennett Close** – Cllr Knight advised that one disabled bay will be put in on the seaward side of the road for a local resident.

FOOTPATHS: Nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Refugees** - Noted
- Licensing and Gambling Act Consultation (EDDC)** – Noted
- Invite to free East Devon event – Voluntary and Community Groups 9th October 2015** – Cllr Hall will check if she can attend.
- TRIP** – Request for support will be discussed when the Parish deals with its Precept.

FINANCE:

The following checks were signed:

Cheque Number	Description	Amount
912	DALC – Course for Cllr Mayes	£30.00
913	HMRC – PAYE	£213.00

PART B MATTER - None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

- Cllr Mayes – advised that the New Councillor day course by DALC was very good and useful
- Cllr Cox – advised that the Seaton Coastal Rural Policeman is Richard Jenkins
- Cllr. Evans – requested that an introduction is needed on the new web site on what the Parish does and perhaps an article in the Parish Magazine and the Notice Board.
- Cllr Evan wished to thank the Chairman Cllr. Bass for handling this meeting very well, it being a most difficult job and to keep it going.

Next meeting Thursday 15th October 2015 @ 19:30 in Branoc Hall (Village Hall) Social Room

Meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed.....Cllr. John Bass..... Date ...15th October 2015.....