

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 25 August 2016 at 19.30hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Bass, White, Mayes, Lambert, Cox, Pike, Evans, Wallford-Howell, Cllr. Knight (DCC), Peter Blythe (NT)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Hall and Pook (EDDC)

NO. OF PUBLIC: Two

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

PUBLIC SPEAKING - None

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting minutes dated 14 July 2016, which were previously circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

POLICE AND NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

Police – Not in attendance

National Trust:

Peter Blythe advised the meeting of the following:

- Information Centre – the cabinets are currently being build and due for completion in September
- Bakery – the equipment is in store having been refurbished/cleaned and cabinets are being built to hold them. A budget of £5k for this year and £2k next year has been allocated.
- The key to the lane has still not been found – Cllr Cox had a key but it was the wrong one, Brian Hoare is trying to sort this out for us. Peter Blythe will see if they have a smaller vehicle that they can use to alleviate having to move the bollard.
- Colliers Bench – Peter Blythe advised that the response to this is still the same. An article is in the Parish magazine giving the same information. He advised that the NT are happy to put the bench back at cost approx. £100 but no plaques, however initials can be carved into the bench. Cllr Bass informed the meeting that it is a shame the NT have taken this policy. Peter advised he will try to get this noticed by his HQ. Cllr White thought the policy is short sighted as people will not want to donate to a bench with only initials on it which is meaningless. Cllr Mayes asked if we could donate a plaque, Peter advised that this was also not allowed. Cllr Walford-Howell asked what the reasoning behind this policy was. Peter advised that in some cases the plaque can be off putting to visitors, Sidmouth Town Council had had this issue, therefore plaques are not allowed. Cllr Evans advised that he felt the NT are missing out on income, e.g., look at how the Donkey Sanctuary have been able to make this a success. Peter Blythe advised that if we do replace the bench, he suggests that it be placed in a different location so that it is closer to the Bakery, perhaps in the Orchard.

Peter also advised that they have looked for the plaque in their store but had no luck in finding it. Peter advised that we write to David at the NT to express our dissatisfaction on this policy. The Clerk will do this.

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Bass - Shoreline Management Plan – It was noted that a consultation on the Shoreline Management Plan was to take place and that Branscombe Beach will be included this time. We await consultation on this.

Cllr Bass – Green Lane Hedges opposite the School – Cllr Bass had received a copy of a letter sent to the National Trust from the Headmistress at the School, explaining that the hedge opposite the school has got so high now that the view has been obscured, requesting that it is cut back. The Airfield hedges have been cut one side of the road but not the other. Cllr Knight advised that DCC would only cut hedges/trees back if they were a danger to the public. Discussion took place on what could be done about the restrictions on landowners/farmers cutting back hedges out of season, if there could be anything done with the NFU and DCC as the hedges are becoming a danger to cyclists and walkers having to go into the hedges to avoid all traffic and the stinging nettles. Cllr Bass suggested that Branscombe Parish Council write to the NFU for advice on this. The Clerk agreed to do this.

PLANNING

Planning Update – The update was noted.

Appeals - Noted

Planning Applications – none to review this session.

Enforcement – Correspondence from a Mr Turvey via email on 12th August 2016 regarding land owned by Mr. Crow being used for caravans etc. The Clerk had contacted EDDC enforcement team and they had advised that they were aware of this and that they are allowing Mr. Crow to live on the site during which time a planning application will be submitted by him. Mr. Crow had advised EDDC that he had now employed a planning agent to progress with this.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

Branscombe Airfield – A response to Branscombe Parish Council letter dated 31st May 2016 was received on 3rd August 2016. There were no tangible issues to report. Cllr Bass was concerned over the close proximity of the caravans and tents to the end of the runway and this being a possible H&S issue. Tony Fastnedge also email EDDC and was advised that they are not taking any action regarding the flight log. Local people are reporting issues (Article 3) but EDDC are not taking any action. Cllr Bass advised that the Parish Council could approach the Ombudsman on the whole issue and this may be something we may wish to consider in the future. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to EDDC regarding the concerns of the Parish Council on the proximity of the Airfield to the Camping/Caravan site.

EDDC – East Devon Village Plans – It was noted that Cllr. Knight felt that Branscombe was in a stronger planning position with it not having a village boundary.

DCC – Devon Minerals Plan – A consultation on this was taking place, this was noted with no further comments.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

Cllr Knight – reported that a gang had filled in the potholes in the area and that Vicarage Hill should have been inspected. The phase 2 drainage works by the Fountain Head funding by DCC may be removed. The Probation people have been working up by the main road layby picnic area. When inspected by Brian Hoare, (along the area by the cattle grid) Cllr Knight reported that he had raised 17 pothole issues but only 1 had been done. Cllr Knight was advised of a large pothole in Berry Lane past the Farm which he will report to Brian Hoare to repair.

HIGHWAYS:

Sellers Wood Hill Pothole – this has been reported by two members of the public, Cllr Knight will get this looked at.

Northern Lane (Western end) downgrading – Cllr Knight advised that he needed support and agreement for this lane to be downgraded to a Public Right of Way the same as the one at the back of the Masons Arms. After some discussion it was agreed that the lane should be downgraded. This was proposed by Cllr Mayes and seconded by Cllr Lambert with all in Favour. The Clerk will write to Cllr Knight advising him of this.

FOOTPATHS: Nothing reported.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Devon Hedges – an email had been received from EDDC for nominations for any hedges in our area of particular note for their beauty to be put in for a competition. This was noted.

FINANCE:

Finance Update 2016/17 – the Clerk advised that there was no change to the spreadsheet from last month.

Asset Register – Cllr Evans asked if this had been done. The Clerk advised that it had but not been published as the value of the two small pieces of land were not known. Cllr Knight advised that other councils put a figure of £1 against similar assets. It was agreed that this would be done and the register published.

Audit 2015/16 - The Clerk reported that the Auditors, Grant Thornton had requested further information on the Audit which she is currently compiling. It was agreed that the final submission would be delegated to the Chairman and the Clerk.

Cheques – There were none published in the agenda however the Clerk had omitted to include a payment to the HMRC. It was agreed that this could be issued under Matters Brought Forward with Permission of the Chairman as an urgent matter.

PART B MATTER - None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

Raised as an Urgent Mater by the Chairman:

Cheques signed –

HMRC £132.40 - Chq. No. 943

Cllr Mayes –

- Advised that he has fantastic broadband with EE.
- Village Hall notice board – asked if the agenda could be put up in the Village Hall notice board. Cllr Bass will ask Wilf if he is willing to do this and Cllr Pike advised he will endeavour to obtain permission from the Village Hall Committee at its next meeting.

Cllr Lambert – Advised that the Jurassic Coast walk went well last week.

Cllr Bass – Advised the meeting that Cllr Lynn Hall will be resigning from the Parish Council and she had been advised to write to him and the Parish Clerk with this respect. No further action can be taken until she has done this and in the meantime she is still a councillor.

The next meeting is due on 15th September 2016 @ 19:30 in Branoc Hall (Village Hall).

Meeting closed at 20.00hr

Signed..... Date