

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall)
on **THURSDAY 29th March 2018 at 19.30hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs, Bass, Fastnedge, Evans, Pike, Powell, Cox, Lambert, White, Walford-Howell, Shaw (DCC); Pook (EDDC)

NO. OF PUBLIC: 1

APOLOGIES: Adam Speers (D&C Police)

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

Robin Sumer spoke in respect to planning application 18/0539/VAR – The Three Horse Shoes. He handed the Chairman a copy of a letter he had sent to East Devon District Council and the Chairman read it out as follows:

“It is with some regret that we find we have no option but to comment on the proposed changes to the development of the Three Horse Shoes Inn site.

The original application back in 2005 included the removal of the stone wall, hedge and shrubs adjacent to the main road and remove any obstructions to be able to give a visibility distance of 190 metres (according to Devon Highways).

All subsequent applications have included the reduction in height of the stone wall, but the latest application makes no mention of this and having spoken to the developer he informs us that there will be a new fence erected next to the wall, reducing the visibility to even less than Devon Highways states is now 94 metres (because the wall is still in place) instead of the 215 metres recommended by Highway Authority. This is a main road allowing traffic to travel at 60mph, the road has a blind spot capable of obscuring at least 3 cars.

There are two points that have changed since the original applications, the first being that vehicles have become faster, the second, the volume of traffic using the A3052 has increased dramatically. If our maths are correct 94metres covered by a vehicle of 60mph would allow less than 3.5 seconds to safely cross the carriageway. We feel this would change a dangerous exit into a lethal one.

Also included in this application is the erection of a new stone wall extending from the western boundary of Rittenberry Cottage across to the eastern footprint of the former Inn, this would result in the complete blockage of our registered right of way.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Somers and advised that the Parish Council would take this into account when discussing the application later in the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 8th March 2018, 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:

PC Adam Speers reported via email dated 27th March 2018 that he was back at work, but I am still office bound for a couple more months because of his broken hand, and Mike McGauley has been off injured for February but is back again now.

The Seaton Crime and Safety Roadshow on 10th Feb went very well, and there was a good turnout of members of the public (I would like to pass my thanks to all involved – the scouts made some nice cakes!!!)

Myself, Mike and Sgt Squires were around for the ‘half’ Grizzly which went very well considering the snow!! And there were no real traffic issues. Unfortunately, it didn’t spend much time in Branscombe as it was shortened, but at least it went ahead for those crazy people who like running in arctic conditions!

Crime Report for March 18: -

LOGS

2 – Alarm which was all in order

- Found safe (belonging to the burglary at the Old Bakery), SOCO attended but found no evidence to identify any offenders unfortunately. But the keys were found still in the safe.

CRIMES

NO crimes

For note:

We (the police) have decided to go away from carrying a defib in all our cars as we would get used as responders to replace an ambulance being sent! I am building a list of where they are located locally. Could you please let me know of ones in your area, (I know one) especially if you manage to get more!

On this note, I thought I would mention that, whilst in hospital on one of my many physio sessions, I read the DAA magazine all about the Devon Air Ambulance and their NIGHTTIME LANDING ZONES. They have designated zones where they can land at night which are floodlit (turned on remotely by the Heli when needed). Following a recent incident where the lady unfortunately passed away, the Heli had to land in Sidford, Sidmouth and requested blue lighting over to Seaton by police. There wasn’t anyone in Sidmouth capable, so a unit came over

from Honiton to Sidmouth to transfer the crew to Seaton this was quite concerning, so I am looking into contacting them and suggesting trying to get one/more if possible nearer the border with Dorset, either in Seaton or anywhere else if it is viable. There is obviously a financial implication, but DAA try and cover most of this themselves I believe. The thing they need is places/zones which could be used/suitable.

If you don't mind, could you please ask your Council if they can think of any places near you that could be a possible target, and let me know, then I can go ahead and contact DAA with all the different options in all the different Parishes.

Crimes Recorded - 01/03/2018 to 24/03/2018 - kn3f

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/03/2018 to 24/03/2018	Recorded Crime 01/03/2017 to 24/03/2017	Recorded Crime % Difference
Vehicle Offences	0	1	-100.0%
Total	0	1	-100.0%

Incidents Recorded - 01/03/2018 to 24/03/2018 - kn3f

Incident Closing Category	Incidents - 01/03/2018 to 24/03/2018	Incidents - 01/03/2017 to 24/03/2017	Incidents % Difference
Public Safety	2	0	-
Transport	0	2	-100.0%
Total	2	2	0.0%

National Trust: Due to report at the next Parish Council meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

Bus Stop Bench – Awaiting delivery of the bench. Clerk to chase the supplier.

Play Equipment – £3k contribution allocated in budget. Cllr Pike advised that the Village Hall are looking into different equipment.

Computerised Maps – The Clerk displayed the maps that Chris Bass had kindly produced for us and the Parish Council had the following comments that the Clerk will advise him of:

1. Some of the icons overlap so they lose their meaning
2. We can put this on our web pages for public information.

Telephone Kiosk – The Clerk had tried to obtain information on public wifi networks to install in the kiosk but without any luck, we will investigate further.

The Clerk also asked other Parishes if they have done something similar and is awaiting responses.

Defibrillator – The Clerk advised that she is still investigating the most appropriate unit and will advise shortly

Gazebos and Marquee – DCC Locality budget – Cllr Pike advised that he had received a quote of £567 + VAT for a 4m x 6m heavy duty gazebo. Cllr Bass proposed that we should buy one for the village hall and it should be stored in the village hall in a safe and dry location. Cllr Walford-Howell seconded and added that it should be for use by anyone in the village. Cllr White asked if it would be better for the Village Hall to buy it and the Parish Council give the Village Hall the money as it was thought that they could reclaim the VAT. Cllr Bass was happy to withdraw his proposal and proposed that we should ask the Village Hall to buy it and we will pay for it, this was seconded by Cllr Cox with All in favour. Cllr Pike will advise David Lamb.

Parishes Together Fund Air Ambulance Night Landing – Cllr Cox met with Toby Russell from Devon Air Ambulance and advised that it looks like it will all go ahead as planned. Toby Russell will get the costings and advise the Clerk in due course.

PLANNING

Planning Update – The update was noted.

Appeals - None

Planning Applications –

18/0651/FUL – Primrose Cottage, Tithe Barn Cottages, Branscombe – Construction of a rear dormer for loft conversion – After a full discussion this application was **supported** and proposed by Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Lambert with **All In Favour**.

18/0539/VAR – Three Horse Shoes Inn Branscombe – Variation of Planning Condition 2 of Planning Consent 15/1609/FUL to facilitate omission of Plot 6 and amended design of Plots 5 and 7. – Cllr Bass proposed that we complain that the plans were very bad on line this was seconded by Cllr Cox. After a full discussion taking into account the member of the public's objection, it was proposed by Cllr Bass that the application be **Supported**, this was seconded by Cllr Fastnedge with All in Favour with the following condition:

- The proposed development must be behind the original sight line therefore nothing must inhibit the sight line as approved on the original application.

Enforcement – None

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE –

Planning Applications Training Course – The Clerk advised that EDDC were looking for interested parties to attend a training course and asked if any councilor wished to attend to let her know asap.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

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

County Councillor's report, April 2018

Seaton's Health Matters

More than 60 representatives of local councils and voluntary organisations, from Seaton, Beer, Colyton, Musbury and Southleigh, attended the successful launch of this process on March 23rd. A detailed report is being prepared and will be circulated in April, with a follow-up meeting to define our goals more precisely, probably in May.

Hospital services

It was mentioned at the Seaton event that chemotherapy will be offered in Honiton, although I have not seen an official announcement. On the other hand, Dermatology and ENT clinics have closed in Seaton and patients are being booked appointments in Exeter and refused them in Axminster. I am investigating what is happening to these services in both hospitals.

Funding threats to East Devon's NHS in the new Integrated Care System (ICS)

The Devon Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are going ahead with an Integrated Care System system (formerly called an Accountable Care System), which in principle will bring all of Devon's NHS and adult social care under a single Strategic Commissioner.

At the Health Scrutiny Committee, I raised concerns about the CCGs' intention to 'equalise' spending between Eastern and Western Devon. Since they claim that we are 'overfunded', this threatens deeper cuts to the NHS in our area. Yet the RD&E is already behind all its targets and with services disappearing from some community hospitals, we cannot afford more cuts.

The CCGs have said there will be a Local Care Partnership for East Devon, but how these partnerships will work has not been explained. Moreover the combined governance of the NHS and DCC's social care provision will work has not been decided. I supported a proposal that a revamped Devon Health and Wellbeing Board, including councillors and NHS representatives, should oversee strategic commissioning, but this has still to be decided.

Health Scrutiny agreed a motion proposed by my Independent colleague, Claire Wright, which said they should 'defer implementation' of the ICS and have no cuts in any area of Devon.

Potholes and failing repairs

Following the cold and wet winter, potholes have got rapidly worse. Highways' contractor, Skanska, is dealing with them as reported, but I have had complaints at several parish council meetings that repairs have failed within days and have had to be re-done.

I raised this at the County Council and have been told holes are filled in inappropriate weather conditions because of the contractors' 'liability to repair' within a fixed timescale (which can be as soon as 'next day' depending on the fault). I think this highlights the problem of balancing good service with effective control of the contractor in an outsourced service.

Change of contractor and Highways' performance over the last year

At a briefing it was acknowledged that the effects of transferring the contract from SW Highways to Skanska last April were 'greatly underestimated'. A demobilising effect in the last 6 months of the old contract was followed by low operational efficiency in the first months of the new one. Problems in transferring staff and software systems were also greater than expected, and some equipment ordered by the new contractor a year ago is only now arriving.

If this occurs in a carefully planned transfer, I think it highlights a serious problem with competitive outsourcing. I have been appointed to a Task Group on the Highways contract.

Additional funds for repairs

As reported last month, Pothole Action Fund money has been allocated, but I expect two more allocations for the division in 2018-19: (1) from extra capital funding and (2) from recently-announced Government funding to cover problems caused by the recent bad weather. I will consult with parishes on priorities when details are available.

Mobile and broadband coverage

At the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny (CIRS) Committee, I asked how the £2.5 million allocated by the Local Economic Partnership to improve mobile coverage in Devon and Somerset would be spent. I was told that some providers had refused to cooperate but discussions were ongoing with others. The Committee also heard concerns about the slow uptake of connections in Phase 2 of the superfast broadband roll-out.

Staff shortages in social care

At the County Council's Cabinet, underspends were reported in several areas of social care due to staff shortages and staff vacancies. While Cabinet member, Councillor Andrew Leadbetter, said it was testimony to 'good management', I said that it raised serious concerns about whether low pay levels were undermining staffing and the ability to deliver services.

Concerns about how Brexit will affect agriculture

At CIRS Scrutiny, I opposed a recommendation that the UK should aim for full self-sufficiency in food production. I argued that this was completely unrealistic and that we need a close trade arrangement with the EU to ensure food supply and protect our exports.

Update:

- Seaton and Area Health meeting held was very informative and a full report will come out for a follow up meeting in May
- Concerns expressed regarding the withdrawal of clinics had been raised with him and he is looking into this, i.e., dermatology and ENT.
- Discussion on integrated care system governance issue to be explained by East Devon Partnership and we are awaiting information.
- Equalisation of funding on a per capita basis and East Devon seems to be over funded from the Health Care Trust but this is being confirmed.
- Roads – potholes repairs being made and washed out, the contractor has to do them as part of their contract within a certain time. Cllr Bass felt that DCC are chucking good money away after bad. Highways are looking at changes to the system and there has been problems over the past year due to the change of contractor. He has been put on a task group looking at the contract.
- Mobile coverage - £2.5m allocated by the LEP for Devon and Somerset. Some providers have refused to co-operate making it very difficult.

- Cllr Evans said that due diligence should be performed on any new contractor the Council takes on.
- Cllr Walford-Howell advised that there had been adverse press regarding residents filling in potholes themselves.
- Cllr White - potholes in Berry Lane are very bad and numerous people have had punctures.
- The Clerk asked who she should write to to complain regarding these issues, Cllr Shaw advised that it should be Paul Downes (paul.downes@dcc.gov.uk).

Cllr Pook (EDDC) – gave his apologies with the following update via email:

- The discussion on the Health Hub was quite a consultative meeting and he was heartened by it.
- Refuse collection – there were delays due to the snow, but they have now caught up. Recycling is up to 59% now.
- Hulber Gallery was paid for by EDDC and is in Honiton and is a very good exhibition worth a trip.

HIGHWAYS:

- Cllr Powell reported that
 - at Blue Bell Cottage and Pitt Farm where the dumper owned by Emlec collided with it is broken and the fence is owned by DCC. Clerk will report this on line.
 - The Road towards Sidmouth there is a large pothole at Higher Coxes Farm.
 - Dog bin by the Sea Shanty on the footpath is collapsing, this is owned by the National Trust and the Clerk will advise them.
- Cllr White reported that
 - Coxes Barton, water is higher than the pipe, but this is being looked at.
 - Ashton – the edge of the road is very deep and dangerous.
- Cllr Pook advised that we should ask DCC what the liabilities are if we do the work to the potholes ourselves and can we have a statement from Highway.

FOOTPATHS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Barbra Farquason had written regarding a request for funding for some signs for the exhibition. Cllr Bass was not minded to support this as we need to be mindful of dishing out money to organisations. Cllr Cox advised that this is advertising for a one-off exhibition. Cllr Walford-Howell advised that he was uncertain about this. Cllr Bass proposed that we are **unable to contribute** on this occasion, this was seconded by Cllr Fastnedge with **All In Favour**.

Street Trading Policy – Noted.

FINANCE:

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

Grand Total – All receipts	-	£30,801.34
Total Income for the year 2017/18	-	£7,929.05
Total Expenditure for the year 2017/18	-	£4,649.25
Balance for the year 2017/18	-	£3,729.80
Overall Balance	-	£26,152.09

Cheques –

Chq. No. 983 -	National Trust (Allotments)	-	£40.00
Chq. No. 984 -	HMRC	-	£136.00
Chq. No. 985 -	Clerks wages and expenses	-	£604.87

PART B MATTER – None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

Cllr Lambert advised that he is continuing with his annual Jurassic National Trust Walk in the summer, early July.

Cllr Pike advised that Sarah and David Miller had gritted the road from Joan Derns place and wished to give them our thanks.

The meeting closed at 21.20hrs.

Signed..... Date