

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall)
on **THURSDAY 4th January 2018 at 19.30hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Bass, Lambert, Evans, Pike, Powell, Walford-Howell,
Fastnedge

NO. OF PUBLIC: None

APOLOGIES: Cllrs, Cox, Shaw (DCC), Rob Skinner (NT), Pook (EDDC)

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Air Ambulance representative could not make the meeting therefore this is discussed under MATTERS ARISING.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 7th December 2017, 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 present

National Trust: Rob Skinner, the new Ranger for our area gave his apologies for the meeting and hopes to be able to make our meeting on 25th January 2018. He reported the following in his email dated 4th January 2018:

“The winter months are a busy time for us in regards to tree works and responding to damage from winter storms. Late in 2017 and in recent days we have been clearing many trees from across our whole patch with the two worst hit places being Branscombe with a handful of trees down and Shute Barton where we lost a huge 600yr old oak. We are also in the final stages of tree safety surveys, where we survey our trees looking for potentially dangerous structural hazards. We have also been busy with construction/maintenance tasks in the village; from filling in pot holes to installing new footpath sign posts. On a personal note I have enjoyed getting to know Branscombe and stunning surrounding countryside and I look forward to attending parish council meetings in the future”.

MATTERS ARISING

Bulb Planting – Cllr Powell advised that she along with Cllrs Bass and White had planted around 75 bulbs at the Fountain Head Garden. Further planting may

take place if appropriate at the following locations:

- Fountain Head Garden area
- Coronation Gardens
- Outside the Church by the bench
- Verge by the new Bus Stop bench

Bus Stop Bench – The Clerk advised that she had ordered the bench to be delivered to Berry Barton with a 4 to 6 week delivery, the fixing had also been ordered. She had also received the signed consent form from Fossway Development.

Play Equipment – Helen Fielden contacted the Clerk to advise that the Village Hall Committee are still waiting for the final quote for phase 1 of the equipment, hopefully this will be received shortly. Cllr Pike to chase this up at the next Village Hall meeting.

Computerised Maps – The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Chris Bass and he had done some work to the maps, she is to arrange a meeting with him and Cllr Bass to go through them.

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. Cllr Bass said he would see if he can assist with help from other local sources.

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

Gazebos and Marquee – DCC Locality budget – The Clerk reported that she had chased this up again and copied in Helen Fielden as it was thought that it may be better if the Village Hall took control of this so that they can store them and book them out. Cllr Pike will raise this at their next meeting.

Parishes Together Fund Air Ambulance Night Landing – The Clerk advised that she had received a response back from DAA and they have offered a meeting with the Chairman and Clerk. This is to be held on Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 12.30 at the Village Hall, the Clerk will confirm with them. Cllr Bass will report to our next meeting of the outcome.

PLANNING

Planning Update – The update was noted.

Appeals - None

Planning Applications –

17/0172/TPO Land part of Ashdown Farm, adjacent to Coombe View Farm, Branscombe EX12 3BT – For info only – This was noted.

Enforcement – Branscombe Beach Car Park – signs and CCTV – a member of the public had reported this to EDDC, currently they are investigating the matter.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

Easst Devon Villages Plan Modifications – The changes/modifications were noted.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

Cllr Shaw (DCC) – Cllr Shaw provided a report via email below:

County Councillor's Report, January 2018

Community meeting on health services in the Honiton area

Crucial decisions on the future of the community hospitals are expected from the CCG in January. In the meanwhile, the following event has been announced. I would encourage parishes near Honiton to take part. It is hoped to have something similar in Seaton shortly.

Honiton's Health Matters - Going Forward Together

Thursday 18th January 2018, Beehive Main Hall, 9.30 for 10am start – 1.30pm

Context: This event is the start of a community conversation with key stakeholder organisations around the future health and wellbeing of residents in response to the new landscape affecting Honiton and its environs as a result of NHS and Government policies advocating placed-based health provision and cross-sector collaborative working.

The aim: To discuss what we know, where there are gaps/challenges and how, as a community we will address these to ensure collaborative approaches to co-design and co-produce local health services/activities that meet the needs of all the people in our communities.

Invitees: Management and senior level employees / volunteers / trustees across the public, private, community, voluntary and social enterprise sector.

Speakers:

Ø Professor Em Wilkinson-Brice – Deputy Chief Executive / Chief Nurse RD&E

Ø Dr Simon Kerr – Chair, Eastern Locality New Devon CCG

Ø Julia Cutforth - Community Services Manager, Honiton and Ottery St Mary

Ø Ways2Wellbeing - Social Prescribing, Speaker to be confirmed

Ø Charlotte Hanson - Chief Officer, Action East Devon

Ø Heather Penwarden- Chair, Honiton Hospital League of Friends

If you're reading an electronic version of this report, you can [book a place here](#)

Road repairs and pothole policy

I have at last made progress on two longstanding issues which I inherited when I was elected:

- Northern Lane, Branscombe, has been comprehensively patched
- Townsend Avenue, Seaton, has been put into the resurfacing programme for 2018-19.

I will have a Pothole Action Fund of £47,000 in 2018-19 for the 9 parishes in the division.

I also expect to see the County's review of its widely-criticised 'safety defect' policy (only filling holes which are 300 mm wide and 40 mm deep at the edge), early in the new year.

Change in bus services from Seaton, Beer and Colyford to Exeter

First Wessex will stop running the X52 from Lyme Regis to Exeter on 21 January 2018. DCC have agreed to subsidise Axe Valley Buses to run one bus per day to Exeter and return (in July

they turned down my request to support a fuller service, but I believe that pressure may have helped in securing support for the new service). Once the timetable, etc., become clear, it may be useful to have discussions on the future of services in the area, involving parish councils and other interested parties.

Impact of Brexit on Devon

As the Brexit talks move to the future economic relationship with Europe, Devon County Council will be discussing the possible impacts on Devon. At the December Council, the Leader, Cllr John Hart, said that 'Until details emerge, it is not possible to answer whether the risks outweigh the opportunities.' I argued against this that the Council should not wait to see what Government produces, but should tell Government what kind of Brexit which would be in Devon's best interests. I agree with Neil Parish MP that 'it's crucial the UK retains a close relationship with the EU market'. The dependence of agriculture on EU exports (7/8 go to the EU), the fact that 70% of Exeter's and 68% of Plymouth's exports go to the EU, the loss of doctors and nurses to Devon's NHS, and the importance of EU staff and students to Exeter University, are some of the reasons why Devon needs close economic links with Europe.

I therefore proposed a motion that Devon should tell Government that the UK needs to remain in the Single Market and Customs Union. This was remitted to Cabinet and will return, with their recommendation, to the next Council meeting at the beginning of February. I recognise that the majority of voters locally and in Devon supported the UK leaving the EU. The current argument is about the terms of Brexit. I am aware that there has not been sufficient discussion locally of the options and I would welcome constituents' views.

Devolution and the link-up of Devon and Somerset

On December 7, Council endorsed controversial proposals to set up a formal Joint Committee Devon with Somerset, with a view to forming an extra layer of bureaucracy, a Combined Authority for the so-called 'Heart of the South West'. I moved an amendment to place the proposals on hold so as to give further consideration to

1. Whether a combination with Somerset is the best framework. I argued that there is no reason for this apart from the 'benefits' of the Hinkley C nuclear project, which are unlikely to come to most of Devon, and that we should consider other options including Devon-only devolution.
2. A more realistic and inclusive economic strategy, which would offer something to the rural, coastal areas of Devon and our small towns as well as to Exeter.
3. How devolved arrangements can secure democratic consent. I argued that people don't know they live in the 'Heart of the South West' and have never been asked their views on the proposals.

Liberal Democrat and Green councillors joined Independents in voting for my amendment, but most Labour members joined the Conservative majority in voting it down.

Cllr Pook (EDDC) - reported by email that planning drawings on line is being worked on by Strata the council IT company to improve quality of scans etc.

HIGHWAYS:

Cllr Fastnedge reported the issues associated with the recent flooding of the Fountain Head and possible links to Higher Coxes Farm where there had recently been problems with debris from the barn washing both onto the road and into Cllr Fastnedges drive etc. This consisted of straw and slurry. It was felt that the measures taken to alleviate flooding by Mr. Burroughs may not have been properly assessed by EDDC as the issue seemed to be that the gate which had a rubber flap at the bottom to prevent flooding had been flattened by the rush of water. During the recent flooding Cllrs Bass and White carried out clearance work to the drains along with DCC, Cllr Powell gave thanks to them for doing this. There also seems to be a pipe that has been blocked with silt. It was decided that we would await the response from EDDC regarding the Environmental Health and Planning condition (flood prevention measures) before we progressed with further work on this. EDDC Environmental Health asked if the Parish were aware of the flood alleviation work that Mr. Burroughs had done,

it was agreed that this was not known by the Council.

FOOTPATHS: Nothing reported.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Dementia information – Brian Norris email, regarding DVDs with Reminiscence Guides available for organisations and sessions for people with dementia. It was agreed that it would be better to forward this to Rev. Hilary Dawson as she was better placed to know of any groups that would benefit from this.

FINANCE:

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

Grand Total	-	£30,799.98
Total Income for the year	-	£7,927.69
Total Expenditure for the year	-	£2,582.03
Balance for the year	-	£5,345.66

Precept 2018/19 – After discussion it was decided that the Parish would keep to the amount of £7,500.00 which had been the same for the last 2 years. Cllr Evans had expressed that he agreed with this and that we should make sure we spend the funds appropriately on further projects. We therefore should progress with the projects we are currently dealing with along with any new ones. Cllr Bass suggested that we put an article in the Parish Magazine asking for ideas, the Clerk will take this on board. Cllr Bass proposed for the precept to be set at £7,500.00, this was seconded by Cllr Evans with **All In Favour**.

Cheques –

Chq. No. 974 - HMRC - £176.80

PART B MATTER – None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

Cllr Evans advised that NatWest branch in Sidmouth is closing and that this may be a good time to change banks. The Clerk agreed to investigate moving to Barclays, HSBC or Lloyds and would report back at a future meeting.

The next meeting is due on 25th January 2017 @ 19:30 in Branoc Hall (Village Hall). Meeting closed at 20.30hrs

Signed..... Date