

# BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall) on  
**THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 19.30hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Bass, White, Lambert, Cox, Evans, Pike, Powell and Shaw  
(DCC)[part], Pook (EDDC)

NO. OF PUBLIC: None

APOLOGIES: Cllrs, Walford-Howell, Fastnedge, PC Adam Speers (D&C  
Police), Rob Skinner (NT)

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup>  
November 2017, which were previously circulated, were agreed and signed by  
the Chairman as a true record with the addition of apologies from Cllr Pook  
(EDDC).

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

## POLICE AND NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

### Police:



Crimes Recorded - 01/11/2017 to 26/11/2017 - kn3f

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/11/2017 to 26/11/2017	Recorded Crime 01/11/2016 to 26/11/2016	Recorded Crime % Difference
Violence with Injury	0	1	-100.0%
Violence without Injury	1	0	-
Vehicle Offences	0	1	-100.0%
Other Theft	0	4	-100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-83.3%</b>



Incidents Recorded - 01/11/2017 to 26/11/2017 - kn3f

Incident Closing Category	Incidents - 01/11/2017 to 26/11/2017	Incidents - 01/11/2016 to 26/11/2016	Incidents % Difference
Crime Recorded	1	0	-
Transport	1	1	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2 Logs (1 x traffic obstruction - a ram in the road, and 1 x issues with a customer  
at Masons Arms - which a Common Assault was recorded)

**National Trust:** Rob Skinner the new Ranger for our area gave his apologies for  
the meeting and hopes to be able to make future meetings.

## MATTERS ARISING

**Bulb Planting** – Cllr Powell advised that she had been in contact with the School  
committee and was advised that the path to the school should be looked after by  
the National Trust therefore she had not taken this any further. Cllr Bass advised  
that DCC put the path there with the National Trust. Cllr Powell advised that she

will be concentrating on the bench and gardens and the following sites were provided as a reminder:

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

It was suggested that 500 bulbs would be sufficient.

**Bus Stop Bench** – The Clerk advised that she had received communication from Fossway and they had sent an agreement for putting the bench on their land for the Chairman and Clerk to sign. All agreed that this should be signed and was duly done. The Clerk will order the Bench (Broxap Northchapel) and obtain fixings and instructions.

**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.

#### **Computerised Maps –**

Cllr Bass explained that Chris Bass has offered to prepare a digital map of the village with information on it. The following was agreed to be a good first start to it:

- House names and property locations
- Post codes
- Car Parks
- Defibrillator locations
- Footpaths

The Clerk and Cllr Bass will arrange a meeting in the new year. Cllr Lambert also suggested that we add Bus Stops.

**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 White suggested that we could do this in conjunction with the Fountain Head.

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

**Parishes Together Fund Air Ambulance Night Landing** – The Clerk advised that she had received a response back from DAA but unfortunately this has disappeared from her inbox. She is chasing again for a response but from memory she advised that it may be possible to have the field behind the village hall as a landing site. We await a response.

#### PLANNING

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

## Appeals - None

## Planning Applications – None

## Enforcement – None

### PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

**Planning On Line Service** – Ed Freeman had emailed the Clerk on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 asking for our opinion of the existing system for reviewing planning applications on line. Cllr Bass said that sometimes EDDC are either accepting plans that are not acceptable or they are not being scanned to the right standard. Cllr Pook advised that the more planning applications that are submitted electronically the better the quality will be so this should improve with time. Cllr White said that sometime we receive plans that do not have dimensions or scale. Cllr Bass said that by and large the plans are reasonably clear, if they are not we will advise EDDC.

### REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

**Cllr Shaw (DCC)** –Cllr Shaw provided a report below with the following update:

County Councillor's Report, December 2017

#### Future of the hospitals

At the time of writing we are still looking forward to a workshop to scope the proposed Axminster-Seaton health hub. I do not have up to date information for Honiton-Ottery.

Meanwhile, Devon County Council's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee has agreed to my request to look further at the future of the hospitals. The Committee will ask both NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, which commission services in community hospitals, and NHS Property Services, which now owns the hospitals, to its next meeting on 25 January to report on the future of the hospitals.

I pressed for the contributions to community hospitals made by local communities and Leagues of Friends to be taken into account in planning their futures. I raised particular concerns over the high rents to be charged by NHS Property Services, the fact that the CCG is committed to paying for space only until the end of the current financial year, and that the CCG has said that existing outpatient services are not guaranteed to continue.

*'Many services can be delivered in community hospitals', I said. 'We should be talking about increasing not reducing the provision close to where patients live. If most services are concentrated in the RD&E, patients will continue to face long journeys into Exeter. With deteriorating public transport many will have to drive in and contribute to the city's ever-growing congestion. We need joined-up planning at Devon and local levels to make the best use of the hospitals, which are community assets whoever is the legal owner.'*

#### 20 MPH Speed Limits

Devon's sole Green county councillor, Jacqui Hodgson, proposed a motion to the County Council's Cabinet that we should welcome proposals for new 20 MPH limits. I spoke in support and said that concerns about speeding were one of the biggest issues in several places in our area (Wilmington, Colyford, Seaton).

The Cabinet said that the move was premature as the national Atkins report on these limits is due in February and DCC will review its policy in the light of that. I later discovered that the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee, on which I sit, will be examining the report and its policy implications, so I look forward to having an input on this issue. Let me know your views.

#### Road maintenance and pothole policy

The inaugural meeting of the Coly Valley Traffic Group took place in Colyton on 20 November, attended by Colyton, Offwell, Southleigh and Widworthy parishes. There was general

dissatisfaction with the County Council's pothole policy but some support for the Road Warden scheme as a way of dealing with holes which County policy does not cover. I subsequently criticised the pothole policy at a scrutiny meeting on 28 November, where it was confirmed that the Council is reviewing the policy.

#### On-street parking changes

East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee confirmed changes to on-street parking in the centre of Beer, asked for by the Parish Council, and in Beer Road, Seaton.

#### Proposal to cut Clapham Junction stops from Exeter-Waterloo trains

Southwestern Railways is consulting until 22 December on proposed new timetables. If their plans go ahead, NO trains on this route will stop at Clapham Junction. This will mean longer journeys from Axminster and Honiton to many places in London and the South East. I have proposed a motion to the County Council on 7 December to ask them to oppose this change.

#### Plastic-Free Coastlines

My Independent colleague from North Devon, Cllr Frank Biederman, proposed that the County Council support this campaign and the Cabinet accepted the idea in principle.

#### Ethical Care Charter

I seconded a motion from Cllr Jacqui Hodgson calling for the Council to sign this Charter, proposed by UNISON. The Council's Head of Adult Care produced a paper showing that Devon is already compliant with significant parts of the Charter. The Cabinet recommended that the Council should 'work towards' implementing the Charter as circumstances permit.

#### Devolution

Devon's Cabinet, like EDDC's, has agreed to a proposal to set up a formal Joint Committee between Devon and Somerset, which could be the first step towards a Combined Authority of the two counties, an extra tier of local government. This would support a 'devolution' deal in which the Government would hand over some powers to Devon and Somerset (under the banner of the 'Heart of the South West') and some 'extra' cash (but much less than the Government is reducing Devon's funding by far more than any devolution deal will provide).

In order to sell this deal to Government, the Heart of the South West has proposed a 'productivity strategy' which it is claimed will produce 4 per cent per annum economic growth. I told Cabinet this was 'fantasy economics' (current growth is about 1.5 per cent) and opposed creating the new layer of bureaucracy. A 10-point criticism of the strategy which I proposed was later accepted by the scrutiny committee examining it.

- Highways – Northern Lane work has now been done and Steve Kelly has met with both him and Cllr Cox and identified 18 defects. The Pothole policy is being reviewed as it is coming under a lot of criticism. Cllr White said that the workmen had informed him that the jobs are sent to the contractor by mobile all over the place rather than grouping the areas. £47k for pothole action has been identified for the 9 Parishes next financial year.

- Rail Line Exmouth to Waterloo – the removal of stops to Clapham Junction will add time to journeys from this area and he is working on this with various people.
- Bus X52 will stop running in January. Beer Parish Council are writing to DCC to ask them to re-assess the service and look at smaller buses for our villages. It is a 2 a day service currently and will stop completely in the new year. The route is out to tender currently. Cllr Shaw advised that BPC write to DCC John Richardson-Davis.
- Hospitals – this is at a standstill, expecting a full assessment from higher levels in the new year.
- Devolution – DCC, Plymouth and Torbay plus all local councils are joining together with Heart of the South with a view to setting up a combined authority for Devon and Summerset.

#### **Cllr Pook (EDDC) –**

- **Heart of South West** – he advised that this was discussed about a year ago and he does not feel that it is as far down the road as Cllr Shaw believes. EDDC are in it to see where it is going and influence it.
- **Flytipping** – this is a big issue and he advised that they have taken 3 people to court recently and have been successful. If anyone sees anything to let EDDC know with as much detail as possible.
- **Council Offices** – The Offices are now open in Exmouth.
- **Broadband** – this is being discussed at Council next Wednesday to reinforce the need to progress with quicker.

**Village Hall** – The Christmas Fair went very well. Cllr Bass thanked everyone for their help and Cllr Pike for the mulled wine, no one was sure how much was raised.

#### HIGHWAYS:

Cllr Cox reported on the meeting held with Steve Kelly and Cllr Shaw and advised that some things had been done when they went round. The hedge at No.1 Chapel Row had been cut back, the gully at Street had been cleaned and Northern Lane had been done. It was noted that the pig farm area was a big issue.

There is an overhanging hedge on Honiton Road and the signpost has been flattened. The Clerk will report this.

FOOTPATHS: Nothing reported.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

#### FINANCE:

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

Grand Total	-	£30,799.63
Total Income for the year	-	£7,927.34
Total Expenditure for the year	-	£2,449.43
Balance for the year	-	£5,477.91

**Review of Clerks Wages and Expenses** – After discussion and referring to advice from SLCC, it was proposed by Cllr Bass that the Clerks wages would rise to £9.39/hr this was seconded by Cllr White with All In Favour. This will also be reviewed annually.

**Cheques –**

Chq. No. 974 - CPRE Membership	-	£36.00
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PART B MATTER – None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

- a) The Clerk circulated the dates for meetings next year.
- b) Cllr White – Advised that a tractor had been stolen at the Donkey Sanctuary last week and someone is throwing bailing twine wrap on the main road verges and this has been going on for 3 years.
- c) Cllr Lambert – Advised that he has spoken to Rob Skinner and was more than pleased to continue the Jurassic Walk with us.
- d) Cllr Cox – There will be a Beacon on the Beach at 7.00 and the National Trust has picked this up on the 11<sup>th</sup> November which is a Sunday next year. This will be a big event commemorating locals who fought in the Somme.
- e) Cllr Bass – Clearing out the stream will be brought up with the new ranger when he joins us next meeting. Churchyard has now been dedicated and to thank Giles Slater EDDC for his hard work, Cllr Pook will pass this on.

The next meeting is due on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 @ 19:30 in Branoc Hall (Village Hall). Meeting closed at 20.45hrs

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