

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 9th March 2017 at 19.00hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Bass, White, Evans, Cox, Fastnedge, Wallford-Howell, Lambert, Knight (DCC), Cllrs Pook (EDDC)

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mayes, PC Richard Jenkins (D&C Police)

NO. OF PUBLIC: 7

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

Dr Cymerman – in respect to planning application 16/2964/FUL – Expressed that he is extremely concerned about this application. EDDC are still setting modifications and it is a slow process and he was unsure what the outcome would be on the enforcement. Changes have been made to the previous application and the use of the site to A and B planning usage. Engineering works are too extensive and there is a late introduction of a deer fence plus he is still concerned regarding water contamination. He hopes that Branscombe Parish Council will ask EDDC for more details and feels that the application should be re-advertised giving the opportunity for consultation again.

Mr Crow – commented that he felt it was not fair or appropriate to continue to make unfounded remarks and that discussion should keep to planning law and not make false or exaggerated claims.

Cllr Pook – advised members of the public that he was speaking as a private individual and EDDC Ward Councillor Member. Ease Devon and Branscombe is a rural area and we need our farming industry. There are many houses being sold that were part of farms and this has been going on for generations. We need viable businesses to provide economy for the area to work the land and this has also gone on for generations. The application will be determined by EDDC planning officers unless their decision is different to his own where he has requested that the application be determined by EDDC Planning Committee. It will not be brought back to Branscombe Parish Council for any further discussion.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meetings minutes dated 16th February 2017, which were previously circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record with one amendment to the attendance adding in Cllr Cox.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr Fastnedge – 17/0408/FUL – declared a non-pecuniary interest as he is a neighbour.

Cllr Bass – 17/0480/FUL – declared a non-pecuniary interest as he has worked for them in the past.

Cllr. White 17/0408/FUL – declared a non-pecuniary interest as he is in the same industry.

POLICE AND NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

Police: PC Richard Jenkins gave his apologies to the meeting via email and reported as follows:

No Crimes for February. Only one incident – an injured deer. Kayak thefts investigation is drawing towards a conclusion – he will update next time. And Mike and I are keen to put together some form of kayak protection awareness campaign in the not-too-distant future – posters, stickers etc.

National Trust: Not in attendance

MATTERS ARISING

Village Hall Flooding – Devon County Council have dredged the spring and either side of the bridge. Cllr Bass personally thanked Brian Hoare and Cllr Knight for this. Cllr Knight advised that they were hoping to have a jetter to clean under the culvert but unless the stream is cleared it will not resolve the problem. Cllr Knight does not think the current work has been done satisfactorily and will be taking another look at it. Cllr White suggested that we write again to the National Trust asking them to clear the area they are responsible for. It was agreed that the Clerk would do this.

PLANNING

Planning Update – The update was noted.

Appeals - None

Planning Applications:

17/0407/FUL - Plovers Branscombe Seaton EX12 3BL - Rear single storey extension and porch – After a full discussion Cllr Cox proposed to **support** the application with Cllr Lambert seconding and **All In Favour**.

17/0408/FUL – Higher Coxes Farm Weston, Sidmouth EX10 0PG – Retention of agricultural livestock, fodder and machine store. – Cllr Bass advised that there has been reports of straw and chaff blowing across the road and a strong smell coming from the barn. Cllr Fastnedge advised that there have been complaints in the past regarding the smell, he was advised by the Clerk that this was not a planning matter and encouraged this to be reported to EDDC Environmental Health. Cllr Pook suggested that Branscombe PC also wrote to EDDC Environmental Health about this. It was suggested that the cattle could be kept at the upper side of the barn and the lower side as storage. Cllr Wallford-Howell advised that in reporting the smell the question will arise as to what the cause is. Cllr Bass reported that there are cattle in the barn at the moment and it may be better if local residents reported the issue regarding the smell to EDDC Environmental Health. Cllr Bass proposed that we **support** the application with the request that the side of the barn nearest the road be covered in to prevent spoil going over the road. This was seconded by Cllr Wallford-Howell with **All In Favour**.

16/2964/FUL – Alderwood Barn, Branscombe Seaton EX12 3BU – Retention of temporary agricultural worker’s dwelling, temporary farm office and storage container. – Additional information had been received from EDDC Planning regarding the “Agricultural Appraisal” and an email regarding drainage. Cllr Bass advised the one main reason for objection was the drainage and possible effect on the drinking water supply. The Clerk advised that we should

only be assessing this additional information and advising EDDC Planning on our thoughts regarding this. Cllr Evans said that it appeared that the applicant had answered the questions requested by EDDC and asked if Branscombe Parish Council would be consulted on the application again. Cllr Bass advised that we would not be consulted again and proposed that we note comments received and wait EDDC Planning decision. Cllr Cox seconded this and asked if EDDC to look at it quickly. Cllr Pook advised that there is a standard timescale for dealing with applications and that it would only go to committee if the officer's decision was any different to his opinion. **7 were in favour** and 1 abstained.

Enforcement – None

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

Greater Exeter Strategic Plan Consultation: Issues – Cllr Pook advised that EDDC have their local plan and this plan covers a greater area for major developments and should not affect Branscombe however it is important. Cllr Knight advised that it is really dealing with the area around Skypark etc. – The Parish Council noted this consultation with no further comment.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

Cllr Knight – Advised that there was not a lot to report this month, the main issue is regarding the school funding as Devon is still short of the national average. Neil Parish MP has responded as follows:

“As a member of the f40 campaign group, I have fought for fairer funding for Devon schools since I entered Parliament in 2010. If you would like to learn more about my work on the subject of fairer funding, you can do so here: <https://www.neilparish.co.uk/campaigns/fairer-funding-devon-schools> . I was pleased, therefore, when last year - fairer funding was included in the Queen's Speech. An announcement followed that fairer funding will be implemented, under a new National Funding Formula (NFF), in 2018/19.

However, following a release of the draft figures for funding under the new NFF – I understand that many schools are unhappy with the proposed settlement. Over 70 per cent of schools in my constituency will see a funding increase under the current formula, however, a funding decrease for many of our worst funded schools nationally does not seem fair. As such, I have written to the Secretary of State for Education to make this point.

As you will no doubt be aware, Stage 2 of the National Funding Formula consultation can be found online at this link: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/> . It runs until March 22nd and I am urging all parents, teachers and schools to take part in order to get the best possible deal.

There is also a Stage 2 consultation on the make-up of the formula model itself – and I have spoken to representatives from Devon County Council to stress the importance of identifying and challenging the specific weightings within the formula. We must ensure that Devon

schools are better off than the current draft settlement.

I have also arranged a meeting for all Devon MPs with representatives from DAPH and DASH to discuss the issue of school funding further, including the immediate funding pressures on the High Needs' Budget. At the meeting, the impact of changes to pensions, the National Minimum Wage and the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy will also be discussed.

I hope this information helps. Thank you again for taking the time to contact me - and I can assure you that I will continue to fight hard to achieve fairer funding for Devon schools."

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Pike advised that they are actively raising funds for the new children's play area. The Clerk advised that the scheme had been accepted by EDDC to include in their schemes list for Community Infrastructure Levy.

HIGHWAYS:

Cllr White reported that the potholes in Berry Hill are getting very bad now. These have been reported.

Cllr Wallford-Howell reported that there are potholes outside the church and Church Living. The Clerk agreed to report these to DCC.

FOOTPATHS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Schools Funding – Neil Parish MP response – discussed above.

National Plant Monitoring Scheme email npms 24th Feb. 17 – This was noted and it was suggested that it be put in the Parish Magazine. The Clerk will progress with this.

Hackney Carriages and private hire licensing policy review – Noted with no comments.

Highway Community Enhancement Fund Applications – Noted with no comments.

FINANCE:

Finance Update 2016/17 – the Clerk advised the following:

Total Income for the year	-	£9,304.92
Total Expenditure for the year	-	£5,679.24

Cheques – None

Appointment of Internal Auditor of account 2015/16 – Cllr Fastnedge had considered who may be willing to do this and David Lamb was suggested. All agreed to this appointment.

PART B MATTER - None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

Cllr Lambert – advised HGVs keep going down Deepway Cut and asked if there could be a sign put up advising that it was not suitable for HGVs. Cllr Knight agreed to look into this and also advised that in future it will be law that HGVs will require specific sat nav's to help prevent these situations in the future.

Cllr Cox – Reported on the “Winter Update” from DCC:

Highlights were:

- Our first snow on the night of 17th November
- Storm Angus 20th November
- First call for selected treatments of secondary routes 28th November
- Recorded our lowest road surface temperature so far for this winter -6 on 29th November
- Second call for County wide treatment of secondary routes and further widespread snow fall 12th January
- Storm Doris that wasn't Storm Doris 3rd February
- Storm Doris that was 23rd February with snow on Dartmoor.

The next meeting is due on 30th March 2017 @ 19:00 in Branoc Hall (Village Hall).

Meeting closed at 20.30hrs

Signed..... Date