

# BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held online via ZOOM platform on **THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 19.00hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Fastnedge (Chair), Cox, Evans, Lambert, Pegler, Pike and White, and Cllr Shaw (DCC).

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: None.

PRESS: None.

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Nicky Langley.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Bass and Powell.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020, as previously circulated, was approved by Council and will be signed by the Chair as a true record at the next face-to-face meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr White declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to planning application - 20/2816/FUL due to his acquaintance with the owners.

ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS:

**a) Police:** No report received.

**b) National Trust:** No report received.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

**a) DCC:** Report received previously. Cllr Shaw mentioned Seaton Hospital becoming a COVID-19 vaccination centre and discussed a potential Council Tax increase, largely due to the costs of the pandemic. He had good news with respect to the progress of the Seaton Wetlands cycle route and not-so-good news relating to planning delays regarding the Seaton Seafront Development.

**b) EDDC:** No report received.

**c) Village Hall:** No meetings have been held.

MATTERS ARISING:

**a) Parish Emergency Plan:** Cllr Pegler has completed the Plan and will circulate to all for final comment before printing and publishing.

**b) EV Charging Point:** Cllrs Pegler and Pike have communicated with the Village Hall Trust Chair and been informed that no further action will be taken until face-to-face meetings are practicable.

**c) Website Accessibility:** A £1,000 grant has been gratefully received from DCC Locality Budget Grants with many thanks for Cllr Shaw's support. Aubergine had been selected as the successful contractor and Clerk will commence work on this project; proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr Pike, all in favour.

**d) Damaged retaining wall by bus stop:** Work has been completed at no cost to BPC. The Contractor is to be thanked.

**e) Mason's Arms staff accommodation:** A response was received from St Austell Brewery who confirmed that the Masons Arms General Manager has removed the rubbish, the blue chairs and weeded the property. This correspondence will be shared with the complainant.

**f) Installation of Telecoms on BT Pole in Parkfield Terrace:** The Council has no objection in principle, but since this is a Pre-Application Consultation no action will be taken at this time.

**g) Overgrowth at "Graham's Bench":** A Working Group organised by Cllr Powell and consisting of Cllr Pegler and the Clerk has cleared the area; many thanks to Cllr White for collecting cuttings.

#### PLANNING:

**a) Update:** Noted.

#### **b) Applications, Appeals & Enforcement:**

i) 20/2805/VAR Hillend Branscombe EX12 3DN - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 19/1089/FUL to allow variation of design including the omission of 2 no. French doors in lieu of window and bi-fold door. Cllr Pegler noted that the variation is a small change to the existing approval; support proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr Pegler, all in favour.

ii) 20/2816/FUL Woodhouse Farm Branscombe EX12 3BX - New agricultural building. This is an additional building to an area, back from the road and behind tree coverage, where there are already three barns; application supported by Cllr Cox, seconded by Chair, all in favour

#### HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS:

**a) Culvert by Village Hall:** A site meeting was held with Steve Kelly, Cllrs Fastnedge, Cox and White, and DCC Cllr Martin Shaw on 9<sup>th</sup> December. Mr Kelly was asked to confirm if any build-up of stones downstream of the culvert, which BPC was awaiting DCC to clear out but the heavy winter rains was currently shifting, would be removed by DCC and was told that would not be the case. DCC did confirm however that the missing grating would be replaced.

**b) DCC Doing What Matters:** Steve Kelly advised at the site meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December that the clearing of drainage on Mill Lane was in a scheme. The Clerk will write to him and ask for a timeline for the work at Elverway.

**c) Road Wardens:** The Clerk has been given approval to utilise the DCC grant to purchase pothole material (Viafix) and liaise with Beer Parish Council on further grants; proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr Evans, all in favour.

**d) Highway Signs:** Cllr Evans and the Clerk has responded to DCC on the location of Branscombe / Weston signs; DCC will send an engineer to check the locations. The sample of both the "private" and DCC signs will be circulated again to Council.

**e) Restricted width Signs:** Cllr Lambert has agreed with NT that BPC can fix a sign to the gate by the cattle grid; Clerk will get written agreement from the NT to that effect in order for Cllr Cox to purchase the sign (as previously approved). Chair will circulate his design for this sign.

A further restricted width traffic sign was suggested at the cattle grid and at Higherlands Farm; approval in principle has already been obtained from the operators of the Airfield. Start Traffic

(suppliers of Viafix) have a sign and post available. Chair proposed Council move ahead once written approval is received from the NT, seconded by Cllr Cox, all in favour.

**f) Footpath 9A through Littlecombe Shute:** Cllr White reported that surveyors had visited the site and he was awaiting their update. Clerk to follow up with Emma Wrench (nee Hellier).

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE: None.

FINANCE:

|                                   |                             |             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>a) Finance Update 2020/21:</b> | Total receipts for the year | £ 9,313.40, |
|                                   | Total payments for the year | £ 6,683.37  |
|                                   | Difference                  | £ 2,630.03  |
|                                   | Current balance             | £ 26,431.36 |

**b) Draft Budget:** Chair questioned the difference in actual Clerk's expenses for 2020/2021 and budget for 2021/2022; Clerk explained that she had paid for materials where purchasing agreements were not in place and claimed the cost back; these materials have their own line items in the budget. The budget was proposed by Chair and seconded by Cllr Evans, all in favour.

**c) Precept Request:** Cllr Evans proposed the 2021/22 precept be raised by £150.00 to £7,850.00 and in 2022/23 further increased to £8,000.00 to account for the cost of living, retail price, inflation and government funding restrictions due to the current crisis; seconded by Cllr Cox, all in favour.

**d) Update on internet banking:** NatWest needs three signatories to sign the approval form electronically. Clerk will circulate to authorised Councillors.

**e) Request to add further signatory due to Coronavirus restrictions;** all in favour, Clerk will arrange to circulate form electronically through NatWest to add Cllr Powell.

**f) Further advice and research indicate that VAT was reclaimed correctly for the installation of the DAA Night Landing Site;** the expenditure was not for the benefit of a third party and contributions made from elsewhere only applies to business activities; this is a non-business activity. Beer Parish Council have taken comparable action for a similar project.

**g) Cheques:** i) Chq. No. 1066 – Maintenance of War Memorial - £100.00

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

Cllr Pike expressed a concern for the reported number of visitors during lockdown; Chair suggested he contact PC Adam Speers direct to ask if any additional actions could be taken.

Cllr Evans mentioned a large extension at Kingsdown; it was clarified this was already approved.

Cllr Lambert reported the owner of Hole House had passed away, which came to light in relation to a tree down at his property. Ali Wilmington had offered to remove the trunk; Clerk had already reported it to DCC.

The next meeting will be called as business dictates and notice will be placed on the website, BPC Facebook page and with EDDC.

Meeting closed at 20.40 hrs.

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