

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Year Ending: 31st March 2022

c/o Higher House, Branscombe, EX12 3BH

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MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in Branoc Hall, Branscombe on **THURSDAY 1st July 2021 at 19.30hrs**

PRESENT: Cllrs Pegler (Acting Chair), Evans, Pellatt, Pike, Powell and White, Cllr Hartnell (DCC) and Beth Salter (PC 7114)

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: None

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Nicky Langley

- 1) APOLOGIES: Cllr Fastnedge (Chair), Cllr Lambert, Cllr Pook (EDDC) and Rob Skinner (NT).
- 2) PUBLIC SPEAKING: Mike Pellatt spoke in support of his application for Councillor.
- 3) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings held on 3rd June, as previously circulated, were approved by Council and signed by the Chair as a true record.
- 4) DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.
- 5) ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS:
 - a) Police: PC Salter reported on 6 incidents in the last month relating to public safety, antisocial behaviour and transport. Chair enquired if any measures could be taken to protect Branscombe and Weston car parks such as CCTV. Cllr Evans remarked that visitor should take personal responsibility for any valuables left in their vehicles. PC Salter offered to share data we could upload to the BPC Facebook page.
 - b) National Trust: Apologies received.
- 6) REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:
 - a) Cllr Hartnell, DCC: Report circulated 6th June. Cllr Hartnell discussed the various committees he participates on. He reported that he is still following up with Steve Kelly on transport issues. Cllr Pellatt had a query about whether the 899 Bus Service was subsidised, and it was thought that it was. Chair asked about the £5Bn pension fund and relation to the Devon Climate Emergency; Cllr Hartnell replied that the trustees are looking at moving into carbon neutral companies and encouraging other companies to do the same.
 - b) Cllr Pook, EDDC: Apologies received.
 - c) Village Hall: No report.
- 7) MATTERS ARISING:
 - a) Clerk Vacancy – there had been no serious responses to the vacancy to date, and the position has now been advertised in the Sidmouth Herald.

- b) St Winifred's churchyard maintenance – to consider further support in 2021/2022; Cllr Powell proposed a grant of £500.00 be made at this time and a further £500.00 be considered in another six months. Chair supported, all in favour.
- c) Exeter Hospital sponsored staff lottery– Cllr Powell reported that RD&E raised £730.00 in ticket sales and the winning tickets had been awarded.
- d) Recycling / general waste bin at Village Hall – Clerk has asked EDDC for a large bin with part recycling / part general waste and is awaiting their response.
- e) Parking issues at Parkfield Terrace – Chair provided a summary of recent events and reported that EDDC has promised to go forward with mediation.
- f) Coronation Gardens – Cllr Powell had received a quote from Tom Adkin to initially clear the area for £40.00, which she proposed the Council proceed with. Cllr Pike seconded, All in Favour.
- g) Bus Stop Bench – Cllr Pike was thanked by the Council for strimming this area. He then offered to take it on for the present time. It was noted that George the Gardener had offered to maintain it for £20, if required.
- h) Airband presentation on fibre installation – Airband have a contract to supply the area with government funding and are competing with commercial organisations such as Jurassic Fibre. Both will not be permitted to install equipment as this is considered overbuild, although once the infrastructure is in place another provider may be able to purchase access to it. Due to the Councils current understanding of the situation a meeting is not to be pursued with Airband at this time.

8) PLANNING

- a) Parish Planning Update – Noted.
- b) The clerk reported that there had been some missing application notifications due to the Clerk's email address being changed at EDDC to clerk@branscombe-pc.org.uk – cause unable to be determined by BPC or EDDC.
- c) Applications, Appeals & Enforcement Actions
 - i 21/1521/FUL & 21/1522/LBC Replacement of existing porch glazing, flat roof, casement windows and soil vent pipe – Wayside, Branscombe EX12 3BA. Cllr Pegler presented a summary of the application; Cllr Powell proposed the Parish Council support, seconded by Chair, All in Favour.

9) HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS

- a) Culvert by Village Hall – Cllr Hartnell reported that he had discussions with DCC to replace the grating and Steve Kelly is checking upon it this week.
- b) DCC "Doing What Matters" project – Cllr Hartnell reported that the next meeting for the Traffic Group would be 26th July in Seaton and any outstanding actions will be brought up then by Cllr Cox.
- c) Restricted width signs for Northern Lane – These are all with Cllr White to be installed.
- d) Weston Hamlet and Branscombe Village signs – BPC are awaiting DCC to receive them.
- e) Branscombe Signs on Main Village Roads – Cllr Hartnell is corresponding with DCC on these signs and believes some have already been addressed.

10) GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE (as previously circulated)

- a) DCC wrote to the Clerk about someone parking in a passing place in the Village. Cllr Pike had followed this up and it was a contractor working on a property nearby, which

has no parking. The Clerk had already advised this to DCC and no further action is necessary.

- b) Branscombe Airfield had corresponded with the Clerk about a neighbour planting trees in line with the runway, which may interfere with the airfield operations. The Council considered this to be a dispute between two neighbours and no action could be taken by the Council; proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Pellatt, one abstention. Cllr Pegler said he would discuss it further with the Airfield operator and refer to EDDC, who gave planning permission for the Airfield.

11) FINANCE

a) Finance Update 2021/22:	Total receipts for year	£ 4,568.82
	Total payments for year	£ 1,267.55
	Difference	£ 3,031.27
	Current balance	£ 25,836.36

b) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR):

- i The signed AGAR has been returned to external auditor PK Littlejohn by the Clerk.
- ii The 30 working days for exercise of public rights commenced on 8 June 2021 and notices were posted on village noticeboards.
- iii The approved Sections 1 and 2 of the 2020/21 AGAR were published on the BPC website.

- c) Update on internet banking: Clerk had sought advice and had a response on how other SLCC member Councils manage their online banking affairs, and they use Unity Trust which permits several signatories for approval and costs £6/month. One disadvantage of online banking is that it requires approving Councillors to have a mobile phone and be in good signal range while online in order to receive an email and approve a transaction, which is not possible throughout Branscombe. Council decided to pause pursuing this further at this time, and the new Clerk could consider it when appointed.

- d) The Clerk reported that she had received a VAT refund of £643.53.

- e) The Chair signed form P11D (Benefits in Kind) Checklist for the Clerk, which will be returned to Thomas Westcott for Payroll.

- f) Payments approved and cheques circulated for signature:

- i Cheque No. 1079 EDDC Installation of Dig Bin for Village Hall - £216.00

12) MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CHAIR

- a) Cllr Powell noted that a concert is planned at St Winifred's on 10th July and encouraged all to attend.

- b) The Clerk noted that a planning application had been received since this agenda was issued so an extra meeting would be called on 20th July to consider and respond to it in a timely manner. This meeting will be booked at the Village Hall, in the Pool Room.

The next meeting will be 20th July 2021.

Meeting closed at 20.45 hrs.

Signed..... Date