

MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in Branoc Hall, Branscombe on **Thursday 3rd February 2022 at 1930hrs**

Present	Cllr Fastnedge (Chair), Cox, Evans, Lambert, Peglar, Pellatt, Pike, Powell and White
Members of the Public/Press	None
Clerk in attendance	Adrienne Long

AGENDA

22/019	Welcome The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
22/020	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Hartnell (DCC) and Rob Skinner (National Trust).
22/021	Public Question Time None requested.
22/022	Declarations of Interest None declared.
22/023	Minutes The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 th January 2022 (and previously circulated) were approved by the Council and signed by the Chair as a true record.
22/024/	Organisations' Reports
1.	Devon & Cornwall Police (PC Beth Salter) - previously circulated. The report was noted.
2.	National Trust Rob Skinner had reported that the Trust remained very busy dealing with work on ash dieback in other areas.
3.	Village Hall Cllrs Pike and Cox reported that there is now a new bookings officer, Catherine Newman, at the Village Hall and that Nicola Bullock is coordinating a meeting of representatives from groups/organisations in the village to discuss the organisation of village events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Village Hall has confirmed that it would like to organise a lunch/tea party. It was also reported that the request to install a basketball hoop on the tennis court has been put on hold due to issues around the size of the equipment.

<p>22/025/</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>	<p>District and County Councillor’s Reports</p> <p>Cllr Hartnell, DCC Cllr Hartnell had reported that he had met with Cllr Cox to look at local highways/drainage issues and that he would report back to the Council after he had met with Steve Kelly, Community Highways Officer.</p> <p>Cllr Pook, EDDC No report provided.</p>
<p>22/026/</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p>	<p>Matters Arising (and not covered by subsequent agenda items)</p> <p>Bus Stop Benches The Chairman reported that he had looked at the options circulated by the Clerk but questioned whether the Council should be looking at benches made of recycled materials when wooden benches were considerably less costly to purchase. Whilst acknowledging that benches made of recycled material would not require maintenance, Councillors agreed that wooden benches would look more in keeping in the older part of the village.</p> <p>The Council then considered some options of wooden benches (from Sloane & Sons Garden Benches). The Chairman proposed that the Council should purchase two 1.8m benches (Cambridge 4), together with two ground fixing kits; seconded by Cllr Powell; and all in favour. <i>(Action Clerk)</i></p> <p>Grants Policy The Clerk reported that the drafting of a grants policy had been placed on hold and would form part of a wider discussion at the March meeting on the updating and production of required policies and documents. <i>(Action Clerk)</i></p> <p>Funding Request for Basketball Hoop (Tennis Court, Village Hall) Minute 22/024 item 3 above refers.</p> <p>Parking Dispute at Parkfield Terrace Cllr Peglar reported that the situation at Parkfield Terrace has now been ongoing for over 2 years. Mediation has been offered by EDDC but has not taken place, due to one of the residents involved not engaging in the process. The police are also now involved and are aware of threats that have been made to one of the residents.</p>
<p>22/027/</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>Parish Planning Update - previously circulated It was noted that the appeal at Bungalow 1, Stoneleigh County Holidays, has been rejected and the enforcement notice upheld.</p> <p>Applications, Appeals and Enforcement Actions</p> <p>21/3367/FUL The Chapel House Branscombe Seaton EX12 3AY Landscape Garden with off street parking between The Chapel House and Blue Ball Cottage.</p>

	<p>The Chairman reminded Council of the previous application for this property in which BPC had alerted EDDC to some of the issues in the build of the proposed underground car park. It appeared that the revised plans for car parking now met the required conditions.</p> <p>Cllr Cox therefore proposed that the application should be supported: Cllr Powell seconded; and all were in favour.</p> <p>21/3302/LBC The Masons Arms Branscombe Seaton EX12 3DJ Internal alterations to ground floor to create additional customer seating area including closure of existing openings and insertion of new double doors with steps up and lintel over.</p> <p>After some consideration around the Council’s position in commenting on this application, Cllr Pellat proposed that, because the property is a listed building and the application concerns internal work only, the Council considered it was not appropriate for it to make any comment on the application. Cllr Cox seconded; and all in favour - Cllr White abstained.</p> <p>21/2666/FUL Alderwood Barn Branscombe Seaton EX12 3BU Erection of an agricultural building and erection of two polytunnels for use in horticulture and enlarged field gate access.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that this application had been supported by the Council when it was first submitted in October 2021. The application had been sent out again for consultation with amended plans following an objection letter submitted by a neighbouring resident.</p> <p>After due consideration, Cllr Lambert proposed that the Council should maintain its support of this application; Cllr Cox seconded; and all were in favour - Cllr White abstained.</p>
<p>22/028/</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>	<p>Highways</p> <p>Road Repair Signs (Berry Barton to Weston) It was noted that Cllr White had collected all the road signage following the resurfacing of the Berry Barton to Weston Road and that the Clerk had contacted Steve Kelly (Community Highways Officer) to ask for the signage to be picked up.</p> <p>Update on Meeting between Cllr Hartnell and Cllr Cox Cllr Cox reported he had met with Cllr Hartnell and had taken him around the village to look at all the highways and drainage issues. Cllr Hartnell would be meeting with Steve Kelly, (Community Highways Officer) to discuss what he had seen in the village and to also ascertain the process of highways repairs and the responsibility for oversight.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Cllr Hartnell to request a brief report on the outcomes from his meeting with Steve Kelly at the next meeting. <i>(Action Clerk)</i></p>

<p>22/029/</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>	<p>Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (2nd - 5th June 2022)</p> <p>The Chairman reported that Nicola Bullock, a member of the Village Hall committee, was arranging a meeting of representatives of village organisations and groups to discuss and co-ordinate the village celebrations for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The first meeting will take place on Thursday 10th. February in the Village Hall.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Parish Council should be part of this organising group and that Cllrs Cox and Powell should be the Council’s representatives.</p> <p>Cllr Cox reported that, unlike previous Jubilee celebrations, the beacons would not be lit in sequence but at the set time of 21.45hrs. A bonfire could also be lit as a beacon and this would be a much easier and less expensive than purchasing and erecting a brazier beacon.</p> <p>Cllr Cox also reported that the Parish Council had a tradition of producing mugs for Jubilee celebrations and that at the Queen’s Golden Jubilee a mug had been given to every child at the Village School with the remaining mugs purchased by villagers. Cllr Cox had found a local person who would be willing to print artwork onto existing mugs at a cost of £8.00 per mug with this cost reducing for bulk purchase.</p> <p>The Chairman therefore proposed that the Council should organise the beacon bonfire for the village celebrations and fund the production of a village Platinum Jubilee mug. Cllr Lambert seconded; and all were in favour. <i>(Action Cllrs Cox and Powell)</i></p>
<p>22/030</p>	<p>Devon Climate Emergency</p> <p>Cllr Peglar reported that following the last Council meeting he had been in touch with key organisations and sites where it would be appropriate for EV chargers to be installed. The Airfield were installing 3 chargers and the Sea Shanty have plans to install 6 chargers. The Village Hall was an ideal location for EV chargers, but it appeared that there was no progress on this matter. Cllr Peglar had also written to St Austell Brewery encouraging the installation of chargers at the Masons Arms.</p> <p>Cllr Peglar reported that he had also contacted the Seaton Environmental Action group (SEA) and that this would be a very appropriate group to maintain contact, or work with, in the future. Cllr Peglar also suggested that the Council should put a message out on the Branscombe Facebook Page to ascertain what interest there may be in forming a local climate/environmental group in the village. <i>(Action Cllr Peglar and Clerk)</i></p> <p>Cllr Evans reported that he had been in contact with Oakdown Holiday Park which is also considering the installation of EV chargers at the site. Cllr Cox advised that Kings Down Caravan and Camping had already installed EV chargers at their site.</p>

<p>22/031</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Planning</p> <p>The Chairman reported that he had attended two webinars on Neighbourhood Planning which had given him a lot of very helpful background and information on what is involved in producing a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Council that the key value of a Neighbourhood Plan was that it had legal and statutory weight and therefore had to be taken into consideration by local authorities in any planning development. Another key element of the Neighbourhood Plan was that it was community plan and therefore the local community had to be fully involved and work with the Council in the production of the Plan. The timescale to produce a Neighbourhood Plan was 18 months to 2 years, but many took considerably longer to complete.</p> <p>The Chairman concluded that, given the nature of the village and in particular its lack of a nucleus and the number of second homes, together with the energy and volume of work required to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, the Council would struggle to successfully take a project of this scale through to conclusion.</p> <p>Cllr Evans reported that he had looked at other local parishes that had produced a Neighbourhood Plan: Colyton Parish Council had just completed their Plan which took 5 years to complete; and Beer had taken 6 years for their Plan. Whilst a Neighbourhood Plan could help inform decisions on planning and future development, Cllr Evans did not feel that this was applicable to Branscombe given the low level of possible development in the village/area.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the announcements on the Government’s major review of the planning system were due in the next few months and this review could well impact on Neighbourhood Planning. It might therefore be advisable to defer any further discussion or decision making until further details of the Government’s review is known.</p> <p>Council therefore resolved that the discussion on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan should be pended and revisited once the outcome of the Government’s planning review has been published.</p>
<p>22/032</p>	<p>20’s Plenty For Devon Campaign</p> <p>The information on the 20’s Plenty for Devon campaign to make 20mph the default speed in all residential areas (previously circulated) was noted with the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of vehicles speeding through the village had been considered by the Council before, as the current national speed limit of 60mph is applicable through the village and on surrounding lanes • A survey of traffic speeds must be carried out over a considerable length of time before any application for a 30mph can be made and local people undertaking any survey must be trained to carry out this work • DCC Highways has advised previously that 30 speed limits are not enforceable in the area • The Council cannot erect any advisory signs on any public road or lane.

22/023/	<p>Finance</p> <p>1. Finance Update The financial position outlined below was noted:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Total receipts for year</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£9,058.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total payments for year</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£8,739.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Difference</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£318.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£22,853.78</td> </tr> </table> <p>2. Payments The following payments were approved and cheques circulated for signature.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Goods/Services</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1095</td> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Salary & Expenses Expenses include the following amounts paid on behalf of the Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DALC Training Course (£36.00) • HMRC Tax (£159.00) • Village Hall Room Hire x 3 months (£30) </td> <td style="text-align: right;">£461.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1096</td> <td>Community First Insurance</td> <td>Insurance Premium 2022/23</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£198.74</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>3. Grant to St Winifred's Church The Chairman reported that the Clerk had circulated an email with a Legal Briefing Document issued by NALC in 2018 which advised that parish councils were not permitted under legislation (Local Government Act 1894) to be involved with property relating to a church, including the maintenance or improvement of buildings, land or contributing to the costs.</p> <p>There were some arguments as to whether this legislation has been superseded by subsequent legislation (such as Section 137 funding introduced by the 1972 Local Government Act), but NALC's view is that it probably has not and that any council considering making a payment to a church needs to consider whether it is prudent to do so given it can't be certain it is legally valid.</p> <p>The Chairman also referred to a report produced in 2021 by the Norton Lindsey Parish Council who had conducted a thorough investigation into this issue and had concluded that there were two options for their Council to consider.</p> <p><i>"Option 1 is that NLPC accepts the advice from bodies such as WALC/NALC and in line with its currently 'minuted' position no longer accepts any grant applications from the PCC (or any other religious organisation) for activities that would ultimately maintain 'church' property</i></p>	Total receipts for year	£9,058.16	Total payments for year	£8,739.47	Difference	£318.69	Current Balance	£22,853.78	Cheque	Payee	Goods/Services	Amount	1095	Clerk	Salary & Expenses Expenses include the following amounts paid on behalf of the Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DALC Training Course (£36.00) • HMRC Tax (£159.00) • Village Hall Room Hire x 3 months (£30) 	£461.69	1096	Community First Insurance	Insurance Premium 2022/23	£198.74
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4.	<p><i>Option 2 is that based on the subsequent investigations and research contained in this document, NLPC determines that there is in fact not a definitive legal determination in this matter and therefore it can continue (in line with similar decisions made by other Parish Councils) to accept grant applications by the PCC unless/until there is a clarification of the law.” (If adopting Option 2 the Council would need to pass an appropriate resolution).</i></p> <p><i>(Extract from: A Discussion Paper on Continuing Grant Funding for Holy Trinity Churchyard Maintenance Activities. Version 2 2021, Norton Lindsey Parish Council)</i></p> <p>Cllr Evans reported that had conducted some research into amounts spent by other parish councils on church grants and the total amounts given by BPC were considerably higher than other small parish councils. Cllr Evans therefore suggested that the PCC should be asked to provide a breakdown of how it had spent the previous grants and how it would spend any further grants.</p> <p>After further discussion the Chairman proposed that the Council should postpone the signing of the grant cheque to the PCC for £500.00 and should request the PCC to provide a breakdown of how the previous grants of £1,500 have been spent and how a further grant of £500 would be used. Seconded by Cllr Cox; and all in favour. <i>(Action Clerk)</i></p> <p>CIL Funds The Council noted the requirements re the handling of CIL funds (paper previously circulated) and agreed that going forward the CIL amount would be ‘earmarked’ within the current account and shown in each Financial Update. <i>(Action Clerk)</i></p>
22/024	<p>Correspondence Received All correspondence, listed in the appendix to the agenda and previously circulated, was noted.</p>
22/025	<p>Councillors Reports and Items for Next Agenda There were no further reports or items for the next agenda.</p>
22/026	<p>Date of Next Meeting Thursday 3rd March 2022.</p>
<p>The meeting closed at 21.20hrs.</p>	

Signed:



Adrienne Long
Clerk to Branscombe Parish Council

Dated: 24th February 2022