

MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in Branoc Hall, Branscombe on **THURSDAY 6th January 2022 at 1930hrs**

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

22/001	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
22/002	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received and approved from: Cllrs Powell and White, and R Skinner (NT).</p>
22/003	<p>Public Question Time</p> <p>None requested.</p>
22/004	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None declared.</p>
22/005	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2021 (previously circulated) were approved by the Council and signed by the Chair as a true record.</p>
22/006	<p>Organisations' Reports</p> <p>Held over for the next meeting.</p>
22/007	<p>District and County Councillor's Reports</p> <p>Held over for the next meeting.</p>
22/008	<p>Progress Reports</p> <p>1. New Bins, Village Hall and Bus Stop It was noted that this matter could not be progressed further at this stage due to the review on waste and recycling being undertaken by EDDC and the Council would therefore await further updates on the review from Cllr Pook.</p>

<p>22/008 2.</p>	<p>Bus Stop Benches It was agreed that the Clerk should look at some other suppliers of outdoor recycled benches and circulate a short list of options for all Councillors to consider before the next meeting. <i>(Action Clerk and all Councillors)</i>.</p>
<p>22/009</p>	<p>Planning There were no planning applications for consideration.</p>
<p>22/010</p>	<p>Highways Held over for the next meeting.</p>
<p>22/011</p>	<p>Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (2nd- 5th June 2022) Held over for the next meeting.</p>
<p>22/012</p>	<p>Community Project Grants Scheme Cllr Pellatt reported that he would circulate a draft grants policy for discussion at the next meeting. <i>(Action: Cllr Pellatt)</i></p>
<p>22/013</p>	<p>Council Precept for 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023</p> <p>In introducing this item, the Chairman reminded the Council of the decision that it had taken at its meeting in January 2021 to keep the precept increase for both 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 to £150.00. On this basis the precept to be levied in 2022/2023 would rise to £8,000.00 and Cllr Evans had proposed that this decision should be maintained.</p> <p>The Clerk had prepared the Council’s budget in December (2021) which had taken full account of the current inflation rate at the time (4%) and Council had agreed this budget at its previous meeting (December 2021). Based on the figures in this budget, the Clerk had proposed a precept increase of £400.00 taking the total precept to £8,250.00.</p> <p>Presenting the proposal for this level of precept the Clerk made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inflationary uplift had been included in the budget following the advice given to town and parish councils by DALC • The Council’s ‘operating costs’ had been set as low as possible and did not allow for much flexibility • To keep these operating costs to their minimum several items of necessary expenditure had been allocated to be taken from reserves • Any increase of precept had to be viewed in the context of the impact on individual bands of properties. In this case the difference between the two proposed precepts on a Band D property amounted to £0.77 • The Council also needed to consider the precept increase in the longer term. For example, in the next 2 - 3 years when the reserves should have been reduced to their correct level, the Council will then have to make a larger increase to the precept in order to cover all its operating expenditure.

	<p>Cllr Evans stressed that the Council’s philosophy for some years had been to make small annual increments to the precept. The village had a high percentage of second homes and therefore, in his view, the burden of payment fell on around 60% of the community. Cllr Evans acknowledged that the Council had substantial reserves which it needed to reduce, but that the Council should ‘do good by its residents’ and maintain a low precept increase.</p> <p>Following further discussion around the need to increase the precept more substantially once reserves had been reduced, it was agreed that the current level of reserves should give the Council sufficient time over the next few years to gradually introduce higher percentage levels of increase to the precept rather than implement a sudden substantial increase.</p> <p>The Council therefore resolved that the increase of £150 to a precept of £8,000 agreed at the meeting in January 2021 should be retained; proposed by Chairman; seconded by Cllr Lambert; and all in favour. (Cllr Evans abstained from the vote).</p> <p>The Clerk advised that she would adjust the figures in the Budget (taking further items of expenditure out of reserves) to achieve a balanced Budget. <i>(Action Clerk)</i>.</p>
22/014	<p>Devon Climate Emergency</p> <p>Cllr Peglar gave his presentation on the ‘Devon Climate Emergency - What Can We Do’, that had been previously circulated to the Council.</p> <p>The presentation provided an overview of the Devon Climate Emergency’s objectives and 8-point plan for action; the background to what climate change is and the historical changes to CO2 concentration, global temperatures and sea levels; the real threat presented by changes to sea levels; and the CO2 emission break down for Branscombe and each household in the village.</p> <p>The presentation then looked at the various options that could be considered by the Council, the village, or individual properties to help reduce CO2 emissions and/or combat climate change. These included the installation of electric vehicle chargers, the slowing of traffic through the village, encouraging the use of solar panels on appropriate buildings and the development of a community energy scheme.</p> <p>Cllr Lambert was of the view that there were two key actions that the Council and village could take: firstly to encourage or implement the installation of EV chargers which were essential to the village with its high level of tourists and visitors; and secondly to support the planting of trees wherever possible, including encouraging residents in the village to plant a tree(s) and to request that any new housing or development includes the planting of a tree or trees.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested, given the scale and scope of the subject and the excellent overview from Cllr Peglar, that the presentation should be given to others who might be interested in the village. This could then be used to solicit feedback on what the village would like the Council to do, or potentially might lead to the formation of a separate interest group. <i>(Action: Cllr Peglar)</i>.</p>

<p>22/015</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>	<p>Finance Update</p> <p>The financial position outlined below was noted:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="379 387 1026 533"> <tr> <td>Total receipts for year</td> <td>£9,057.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total payments for year</td> <td>£8,412.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Difference</td> <td>£644.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Balance</td> <td>£23,179.87</td> </tr> </table> <p>Payments</p> <p>The following payment was approved and the cheque circulated for signature.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="379 712 1348 898"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Goods/Services</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1094</td> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Salary and expenses December 2021, plus registration fee for SLCC Conference (Feb. 2022)</td> <td>£326.59</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Cllr Evans reminded the Council of the advice given by Cllr Pook on the personal payment of invoices by the Clerk. Whilst acknowledging that such payments sometimes had to be made, for example where payments had to be made online or within a short timescale, it was agreed that, where possible, any invoice addressed to the Council should be paid by a Council cheque. <i>(Action Clerk)</i></p>	Total receipts for year	£9,057.66	Total payments for year	£8,412.88	Difference	£644.78	Current Balance	£23,179.87	Cheque	Payee	Goods/Services	Amount	1094	Clerk	Salary and expenses December 2021, plus registration fee for SLCC Conference (Feb. 2022)	£326.59
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<p>22/016</p>	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>All correspondence, listed in the appendix to the agenda and previously circulated was noted.</p>																
<p>22/017</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>	<p>Councillor's Reports and Items for Future Agenda</p> <p>Cllr Pellatt raised the issue of the 'run off' (most probably silage) that was occurring from Edge Farm into the top end of the stream. Cllr Pellatt will report the issue to the Environment Agency but wished to make the Council aware of the problem.</p> <p>Cllr Lambert raised the question of when any road repairs were likely to be scheduled, particularly for Northern Lane, which was now in a bad state. Cllr Cox reported that Cllr Hartnell had been in contact with possible dates to meet up and discuss the condition of the roads and he was following this up. <i>(Action Cllr Cox)</i>.</p> <p>Cllr Evans asked that the request for the funding for a basketball hoop (from Nicola Bullock) be included on the next agenda (under Matters Arising). It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Nicola Bullock to request confirmation of the cost of the equipment and amount sought in funding. <i>(Action: Clerk)</i>.</p>																

22/018	Date of Next Meeting Thursday 3 rd February 2022 at 1930hrs (Branoc Hall).
The meeting closed at 2130 hrs.	

Signed	Date
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