

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 7th January 2016 at 19.30.**

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bass, Cox, Evans, Pike, Mayes, Hall, PC Richard Jenkins (Devon and Cornwall Police), Janice Alexander (Devon Community Together)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Lambert, Willmington, Pook (EDDC)

NO. OF PUBLIC: None

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn (nee Kenyon)

PUBLIC SPEAKING – None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting minutes dated 26th November 2015, which were previously circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record with a small amendment on item 7.2 a) Branscombe airfield, regarding the number of accidents amended from 3 to 2.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

POLICE AND NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

Police

PC Richard Jenkins reported on, firstly, December 2015 and secondly, 2015 crime figures for Branscombe as follows:

01/12/2015 to 31/12/2015			
Offence	Recorded Crime Current Period	Recorded Crime Previous Period	Recorded Crime % Change
Criminal Damage	0	2	-100.0%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	0	5	-100.0%
Other Theft	0	1	-100.0%
Vehicle Offences	0	1	-100.0%
Violence without Injury	0	1	-100.0%
Violence with Injury	1	0	%
	1	10	-90.0%

01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015			
Offence	Recorded Crime Current Period	Recorded Crime Previous Period	Recorded Crime % Change
Criminal Damage	0	2	-100.0%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	4	5	-20.0%
Public Order Offences	0	1	-100.0%
Other Theft	3	1	200.0%
Vehicle Offences	1	5	-80.0%
Burglary Dwelling	0	1	-100.0%
Violence without Injury	0	3	-100.0%
Violence with Injury	3	0	%
	11	18	-38.9%

PC Jenkins reported that there was one crime in December 2015 being an assault where both parties were known to each other. Incidents were reported to be 40% down on the year, with burglary mainly in outhouses. He has issued advice to people on how to better protect possessions in outhouses, e.g., keeping any valuable equipment in the main dwelling and/or out of sight, suitable locks on outhouses and checking them regularly for damage.

Cllr. Hall advised that she believes the figures are false as people are unable to report crimes when using the 101 number. They are unable to get through and they are giving up. Richard advised that the 101 number can only deal with a limited number of calls and that if the incident required an immediate presence then you should call 999 not the 101 number and they will grade the call, but he does take her point on the 101 number. He advised that he can only report on the incidents that have been reported, as above.

Cllr White advised that previously he used to be able to call the local PC when he saw any suspicious vehicles to provide him with the registration numbers. PC Jenkins advised that these should be 999 calls but takes his point regarding the ability to follow up promptly.

Cllr. Hall advised that she felt the system needs upgrading and this should be reported back to his superiors.

National Trust – Nothing reported

MATTERS ARISING - none

PLANNING

Planning Update – The update was noted and the Clerk advised that the Airfield enforcement complaint had not been registered on EDDC web site.

15/2833/FUL – Borcombe Farm (Land at Normans Grave) – Erection of agricultural livestock building and provision of new access track – After a full discussion, the following concerns were raised:

- The building is very sizable
- There will be increased tractor movements
- Drainage concerns
- The building is close to residential buildings

- The detrimental effect this will have on the visual aspect of Lower Watercombe
- Water run-off from the roof and its management
- Concern regarding future development that may be required to manage the live-stock close by the barn
- Disposal of animal waste concerns
- It is a greenfield site and the barn is set apart from supporting buildings
- This area already floods

Cllr Bass proposed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the council **IS NOT IN SUPPORT** of the application. This was seconded by Cllr Cox with **ALL IN FAVOUR**.

15/2678/VAR – The Donkey Sanctuary – Variation of Condition 2 – **response date passed, for info. only** - noted

15/1291/MOUT – Outline application with all matters reserved for construction of 10 no. dwellings (6 affordable, 4 open market) including site access and service road parking turning areas and footpath – amended plans only submission of Archaeology Report, Viability Report (confidential) and historic significance information) - **response date passed, for info., only** – noted.

15/2613/LBC – The Masons Arms Branscombe - Dismantle and re-construct external toilet block and improve ladies toilet facilities within main building. – After a full discussion Cllr Cox proposed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the council **SUPPORTS** the application. This was seconded by Cllr. Mayes with **ALL IN FAVOUR**.

15/2624/FUL – Hooken, Branscombe – Construction of two storey side extension. – After a full discussion Cllr White proposed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the council **SUPPORTS** the application. This was seconded by Cllr. Pike with **ALL IN FAVOUR**.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

Housing Needs Survey – Janice Alexander (Devon Community Together) was welcomed to the meeting. Janice reported on the recent survey carried out on housing needs for Branscombe. In summary she advised that:

- There is a need for affordable housing
- The average house price for Branscombe is £433k with only 14 sales and 1 private rent in the past year, and 22 council/housing association owned properties with only 4 re-let in the past 2 years.
- There was a 25% response rate to the survey
- 79% were in favour of a small development
- 34 respondents had no plans to move
- 1 respondent needed affordable housing with the reason being to downsize and smaller bills
- Those who responded to the Housing Need element of the survey, 8 returned, 2 were excluded which has shown a need for 6 Affordable Housing units, 1 shared ownership and 4 for rent

- There are currently 8 people on the register for social housing

Janice asked the Parish Council to note the contents of the Housing Needs Survey Report, accept the conclusions and publish the report on the Parish web site.

Janice advised that although the Fountain Head planning applications had the right number of affordable housing, they were not the right size and affordability is not quite right either therefore there will be a need to discuss this application with EDDC Planning and the applicant.

Cllr Bass felt that the Parish Council have advised in the past that people wanted 2 and 3 bedroom houses back in 2009.

All Councillors were **IN FAVOUR** of accepting and publishing the report. Janice will send the final version to the Clerk and a copy to EDDC Planning Service for them to use with future planning applications.

Enforcement Issue - Branscombe Airfield not complying with conditions (take-off and landing after 16:00) – the response from EDDC Enforcement Officer was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk will draft a letter for Cllr. Bass saying that the Parish Council request that the complaint is investigated further.

With respect to the issue of the plane landing and the reasons supplied, this was generally accepted by the Councillors, although Cllr. Bass maintains that the landing time was between 16:40 and 16:45hrs not the 16:21hrs stated in EDDC email dated 9th December 2015.

The Parish Council however do believe that there should be further investigation on the alleged take-off incident. It is considered that EDDC should contact the military to justify the account of the said incidents. There are a number of witnesses both members of the Council and general public who are willing to provide witness statements which the Clerk can co-ordinate if this is was required.

It was also noticed that this complaint was not registered on the Planning web site and wondered why this has not been done, the Clerk will ask for advice from EDDC on this.

Furthermore, it is felt that it is not the responsibility of Branscombe Parish Council or its residents to provide evidence to ensure that the conditions for this site are being adhered to and there should be a managed regime of monitoring for this site.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS: None

HIGHWAYS:

Signs – The Clerk advised that the signs all been installed and that the invoice is now due for payment. Cllr. Evans reported that 2 of our Weston residents thanked the Council for putting up the Weston sign. He also reported that there is a footpath sign at the edge of the lane to Ashton is very worn and needs replacing. The Clerk will write to the Public Rights of Way Team at EDDC.

Potholes - Cllr. White asked that at the same time we report the Berry Hill potholes as well, they are very deep again and are a danger to motorists.

Road Closure – Road from Higher Barn to the Old Cider House, Branscombe – Monday 28th March 2016 to Friday 8th April 2016 – to clean and replace manholes (South West Water) – Noted and to be published on the Parish Web Site.

FOOTPATHS: As under Signs above.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Putting Devon Air Ambulance at the heart of your community...day and night – Email from Tony Russell – Devon Air Ambulance Trust – Cllr Cox advised that there was already a Helipad at the Village Hall. The Clerk gave the email to Cllr. Pike to take to the next Village Hall meeting.

The National Trust Lease of Branscombe Allotments (Weston Estate) – Signing – The Lease was signed for the Clerk to send off for completion to the NT Legal Team.

SLCC letter dated December 2015 – 2016 Regional Roadshow – Saltash, Wednesday 9th March 2016 – Noted

Healthwatch Devon questionnaire – Noted and handed to Cllr. Hall if she wished to complete it.

Defibrillator – Cllr Cox attended the course at the Masons Arms. He advised that The Village Hall committee are going to ask for a unit to be installed at the Village Hall as well as The Masons, The Seashanty and Oakdown Holiday Park. Cllr Cox will provide the Clerk with the NHS contact details.

FINANCE:

Finance update and correction on accounts – the Clerk advised that there needs to be a correction on the accounts regarding cheque no. 918 which has been cancelled to Thomas Westcott, the reason is that payroll quarter end Sept 15 £99.60 less £39.60 re Jun.15 was paid twice therefore the amount owed to Thomas Westcott is £60.00 which will be re-issued below. The revised statement of accounts was noted.

Cheques to sign - The following checks were signed:

Cheque No.	Description	Amount
922	Thomas Westcott – payroll qrt end Sept 15 £99.60 less 29.60 re June15 paid twice	£ 60.00
923	SWH Signs	£648.00
924	HMRC Qtr to 5 Dec. 15	£352.00
925	Clerk Wages and Expenses Nov.15 to Jan. 16	£500.66
926	Branoc Hall booking 2016	£149.60
927	SLCC fees	£ 77.00

Parish Precept – After discussion on the accounts, it was agreed that the claim to EDDC would be £7,500 for the Parish Precept, deferred and delegated to Cllr. Bass and the Clerk to complete the forms. This was proposed by Cllr. Cox and seconded by Cllr. Evans all were in favour.

PART B MATTER - None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

Cllr Evans - thanked the Parish Council for the Weston sign and advised that 4 people had thanked him for putting this back up.

Cllr Mayes – No. 6 Bennetts Close parking – Cllr Mayes reported that a meeting had taken place today with Cllr Knight and Brian Hoare – DCC Highway Neighbourhood Officer, regarding parking on the road adjacent to these properties. DCC are looking at proposals for possible residents parking along the bank which is NT land which will require a retaining wall to widen the road and land from the NT, this would be very expensive. They also looked at extending the Footpath behind the houses but this was dismissed as not a feasible options. Therefore they are looking at how much it will cost to do the works described above.

The next meeting is due on 28th January 2016 @ 19:30 in Branoc Hall (Village Hall) Social Room.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed.....*Cllr. John Bass*..... Date28th January 2016.....