

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 16th February 2017 at 19.00hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Bass, White, Evans, Mayes, Fastnedge, Wallford-Howell, Lambert, Cox, Knight (DCC), PC Richard Jenkins (D&C Police)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Pook (EDDC)

NO. OF PUBLIC: 1

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meetings minutes dated 26th January 2017, which were previously circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record with one amendment under National Trust – “storm clearance” not “Thorn clearance”.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

POLICE AND NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

Police: PC Jenkins advised that there had been 2 crimes in January, both were vehicles broken into via breaking windows. He also advised that Chris has now moved on to another area and probably will not be replaced. Together with this Richard will be retiring on 6th December 2017 so there are likely to be some changes. Cllr Bass asked if the Parish Council would be consulted on any changes, Richard advised the he did not think so but it may be worthwhile nearer the time for the Parish Council to write in to express any views, he will obtain details of who to contact. The Have Your Say sessions are getting more popular by the week coupled with the Post Office.

Crimes Recorded - 01/01/2017 to 31/01/2017 - KN3F

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/01/2017 to 31/01/2017	Recorded Crime 01/01/2016 to 31/01/2016	Recorded Crime % Difference
Vehicle Offences	1	0	-
Criminal Damage	1	0	-
Total	2	0	-

National Trust: Although not in attendance Peter Blythe emailed the Clerk with the following update in an email dated 13th February 2017:

“One amendment on the minutes – it is storm clearance that is nearly complete, not thorn clearance.”

Also in regard of flooding, although obviously, I had left by that point I would take issue with the assertion that the Trust are the main responsible land owner – we have partial riparian responsibility for a short section above the bridge (shared equally with the village hall), and riparian responsibility for a circa 50m section below the bridge (this latter does not appear to need clearance). The bridge itself and the long-piped culvert down Mill Lane are both the entire responsibility of DCC highways making them the principal responsible landowner

I am happy that the Trust should make a contribution to the works in line with our responsibility, but we are not the lead on this and should not be organising the works. Brian Hoare at DCC appears to believe that the Parish Council were organising the work as you could get a better price than DCC contractors, if this is not the case then the responsibility for organising the work should pass back to Brian and the DCC team.”

Cllr Knight advised that he had forwarded Peter Blyth’s email to Brian Hoare and that the only bit DCC are responsible for is the piece under the road (the culvert) which does not need clearing until the other areas are cleared but likely to be self-clearing once this is done. Cllr Bass asked Cllr Knight if they had any funds to clear this and he advised that there would be once the other areas had been cleared, however this financial year the work would need to be done before 10th March 2017. It was agreed for the Clerk to write to the National Trust again expressing the need for the NT to take on responsibility as the Parish Council are not responsible for any part of the stream. The Clerk advised that the Village Hall Committee had agreed to fund £250 for any works to the stream along with the Parish Council’s £250.

MATTERS ARISING – None

PLANNING

Planning Update – The update was noted.

Appeals - None

Planning Applications: None

Enforcement – None

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE – None

REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORTS:

Cllr Knight – Advised that:

- the Fencing near Woodhouse Farm is now complete however there is an area he is not quite happy with yet.
- there will be a 4.9% rise in Council Tax
- Locksley Lane patching is now complete
- the budget for Adult and Schools is overspent but they have managed to top this up with savings from other service areas.
- we have 703 children in care in Devon now.
- Schools funding is £33/pupil less now as this has been directed towards extra special needs. MPs are being pushed to get the same funding as other counties. He advised that we could write again to both MPs, Neil Parish and Hugo Squires, to express our concerns.

- we have £3m for Highway repairs for next year's budget for Devon.
- DCC have donated £2,000 toward Branscombe Village Hall for repairs.

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Pike advised there is a meeting next week.

HIGHWAYS: Cllr Pike advised that Parsons Lane banks have washed away, Cllr Bass advised that this was discussed at our last meeting and the householders are going to fund putting in an extra pipe.

FOOTPATHS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Electoral review of East Devon: draft recommendations – the new area was not as the Parish Council wished but it was noted and no further action was required.

Seaton App and Town Guide – The Clerk advised that the Clerk for Seaton Town Council had requested that we join them in a Parishes Together fund application to do a new App and leaflet for tourists and visitors to the area. It was agreed that we could fund £50 out of our own funds. This was proposed by Cllr. Lambert and seconded by Cllr Cox with all in favour. The Clerk will advise Seaton Town Council.

Election Dates – These were noted with the forthcoming Devon County Council Elections on 4th May 2017.

Safe Place Scheme – An email received from “Devon Link Up” had been received asking for a contribution of £500 to £1,000 towards developing a scheme for Safe Place for vulnerable people. It was decided not to support this on this occasion.

FINANCE:

Finance Update 2016/17 – the Clerk advised the following:

Total Income for the year	-	£9,304.92
Total Expenditure for the year	-	£5,679.24

Cheques – None

Alison Marshall Local Council Administration Services – The Clerk had received an email from Alison, advertising assistance in Council Administration. A quotation of £100 for carrying out Internal Audit and £15.00 per hour plus mileage at 45p per mile for attending meetings and minute taking. She is based in Exeter. It was agreed to keep this on file in case needed. Cllr Fastnedge advised that as he has left the gap in providing the audit services he thinks he may be able to obtain the services of the new people who have moved into Branscombe House and would see what he could do.

PART B MATTER - None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

Cllr Evans –

- advised that he had been in discussion with Declan Turner from Connecting Devon and Somerset (Broadband) and he had advised him that phase 1 has been successful and they are now going on with phase 2. If people wish to engage in this then they should visit their web site <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/>
- he also asked who the person was sitting opposite him. Currently she is a member of the public attending the meeting. Helen Parr introduced herself as the ward councillor for Colley Valley with EDDC.

Cllr Cox –

- Advised that he went onto the broadband site and was told there was a provider already.

Cllr Bass –

- Advised that Dr. Cymerman who attended the last meeting with regards to some planning applications, had questioned the order of our agenda regarding public speaking. John thought that it may be advantageous if public could speak rather than at the beginning of the meeting with respect to planning applications, but before the application was discussed. This was discussed in full and it was agreed that we keep the agenda as it is and leave it to the Chairman's discretion for any future changes.

The next meeting is due on 9th March 2017 @ 19:00 in Branoc Hall (Village Hall).

Meeting closed at 20.20hrs

Signed..... Date