

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in the Branoc Hall (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 11 May 2017 at 19.30.**

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bass, Evans, Pike, Lambert, White, Cox, Walford-Howell, Mayes, Fastnedge, Cllr. Pook (EDDC)

APOLOGIES: Cllr Martin Shaw (DCC), Helen Fielden (Village Hall)

NO. OF PUBLIC: 8

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

MINUTES OF MEETING: Held 26th May 2016 – The minutes were noted with no further comments.

MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman, Cllr Bass reported the following:

- Another busy year with 16 meetings dealing with approx. 15 planning applications, down from 45 last year.
- In November Tony Fastnedge was co-opted onto the Council after Lynn Halls resignation.
- After the October flooding at the Village Hall, Cllr Bass met with Devon County Council (DCC) and the National Trust (NT) to resolve the stream levels, DCC have cleared higher side but we await the NT to clear the lower section.
- In December, we discussed the possibility of installing a bus shelter at the Village Hall, this project is ongoing.
- Following the loss of a PCSO from Seaton and the news of PC Jenkins retirement later this year, we have written to Devon and Cornwall police to state that we require the present level of policing to remain as it is at present. We are glad to hear that the drop-in sessions on Wednesday afternoons are proving successful.
- There have been boundary reviews for both EDDC and DCC.
- The Parish Council has purchased equipment to allow us to go paperless plus a new laptop computer.
- The Parish Council has contributed £50.00 to CAB which provides useful help to parishioners.
- The PC has written to Neil Parish on a couple of occasions regarding school funding and hospital bed closures at Seaton, also to Seaton Town Council regarding this matter.
- The garden at the Fountain Head has been cleared and we are looking into the

possibility of putting a plaque in remembrance of Graham Williams on the seat with a donation from the Fountain Head.

- We are also purchasing the BT phone box for £1 at the above location.
- We hope that Branscombe will be included in EDDC shoreline management plan and be consulted in the future.
- The Parish Council donated £250.00 towards the cost of the defibrillator at the Village Hall, this was also match funded by £250.00 from Cllr Knight's locality budget. This budget also helped to pay for work to be carried out to the church entrance gates.
- Finally, the handover of the graveyard extension has been completed.
- We give our thanks to Cllr Jim Knight and Geoff Pook for their help through the year.
- Cllr Bass gave his thanks to all councillors for their attendance and work during the year.
- He also gave his thanks to the Police and National Trust for their reports through the year.
- Cllr Bass also gave his thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to the Clerk, Gail Llewellyn for her hard work during hard times.

FINANCE REPORT

Year End Budget 2016/17

EXPENDITURE	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Subs/Training	£150.85	£320.83	£235.54
Clerk Wages	£2,332.64	£1,922.33	£2,697.32
Expenses	£228.53	£345.23	£846.09
Insurance	£195.02	£187.67	£216.28
Ground Maintenance	£96.90	£96.90	£85.00
Allotments	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Meetings	£123.00	£149.50	£149.40
HMRC	£583.00	£699.40	£838.40
Payroll	£132.00	£160.00	£340.00
S137 (Allowed incurred exp.)	£253.65	£2,279.00	£1,800.13
VAT	£65.60	£454.16	£293.23
Total	£4,211.19	£6,665.02	£7,551.39

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
INCOME			
Balance carried forward	£15,765.57	£19,560.41	£21,118.54
Precept	£6,712.00	£7,255.00	£7,500.00
Donations/Sponsorship	£1,000.50	£300.00	£1,622.14

Bank Interest	£5.53	£5.43	£4.00
Council Tax Grant	£288.00	£245.00	£179.00
VAT	£-	£417.72	£-
TOTAL INCOME	£23,771.60	£27,783.56	£30,423.68
Council Running Costs	£1,163.55	£3,883.29	£7,551.39
Staffing Costs	£3,047.64	£2,781.73	£3,875.72
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£4,211.19	£6,665.02	£11,427.11
NET IN-COME/EXPENDITURE	£19,560.41	£21,118.54	£22,872.29

Income includes £650 from Devon County Council from the Locality Fund towards the Village Hall Picnic Benches and £40 from the Allotment Society, £60 from The Fountain Head PH for the car park sign and £850 from East Devon District Council from the Parishes Together Fund for the provision of computer equipment etc. to assist the Parish Council in going paperless.

Expenditure includes as an example (including VAT where applicable): The purchase of computer equipment, projector and screen to support the Parish going paperless £907, the provision of 3 picnic benches at the Village Hall £650 and donations of £50 to the Citizens Advice East Devon and £100 to Seaton Friends Hospice Care at Home. A full account of all income and expenditure can be found on our web site: <http://www.branscombe-pc.org.uk/finance/4590221750>

Running Costs includes Insurance, subscriptions, war memorial and gardens and computer costs, training and maintenance. There were no audit costs.

Staffing costs include salary for 6 hours per week, PAYE, National Insurance and Payroll services.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

EDDC – Cllr Pook - Ward member for Beer and Branscombe

Finance: Local government finance are yet again squeezed by central government whilst expecting LG to do more.

To summarise EDDC finances for this coming year:

	16/17	17/18
Net expenditure	15,927,580	13,785,060
Less grants and reserves	4,455,000	2,386,930
Budget requirement	11,472,580	11,398,130
Funded by		

Revenue support grant	1,202,790	533,000
Business rates CT support	3,118,890	3,290,810 (includes parish support reserve)
Council tax requirement	7,150,900	7,574,320

Relocation: this is proceeding although failure to obtain planning on the Knowle has slowed matters. Issues are being resolved and work to Exmouth Town Hall is going ahead. Council recently took the decision to proceed with the building of the new headquarters in Honiton even though the sale of the Knowle had not been completed. The implications of not moving from the Knowle were fully explored and even though some additional borrowing will be required it was agreed that moving out of the Knowle would be beneficial in net cash terms and efficiency and working environment for the staff. The target is to be in the new building in Honiton by early 2019.

Refuse and recycling Contract: The new contract has started and cardboard and mixed plastics with a 3-week residual waste collection has commenced in Exmouth and will be rolled out to the rest of the district in May/June this year. The contract not only provides a cost saving but provides a better service and increases our percentage of recycled waste which should be well in excess of 60% once the whole district is on the new scheme.

Specific Branscombe issues resolved:

The long running planning application to reinforce the beach defences by importing rocks has finally been resolved with Mr Sellick getting a 10 year licence to import material subject to strict conditions. On expiration of the license period the position will be reviewed. Car Park Toilets, an agreement should soon be confirmed where EDDC continue to operate the toilets until March 18 when the new dual use toilets in the Sea Shanty will be complete. This will provide toilets available to the sea shanty and the public.

East Devon DC has various statutory duties including waste collection, planning, environmental health, benefit payment, social housing and democratic services to name a few. It also provides numerous discretionary services that all go to make East Devon a great place to live. These include the countryside services which includes Seaton Jurassic and the wetlands, parks and gardens, health and wellbeing through LED and the arts service based at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery.

EDDC has an Economy and Development department that looks to encourage industry and commerce to East Devon giving job opportunities and wealth to East Devon. EDDC is the main player in the development of Sky Park and the Science Park and is actively looking at ways to help emerging business develop.

East Devon has recently set up a Housing Company that will deliver houses outside of the social housing (council house) structure investing funds into local housing that will not be lost to the right to buy schemes.

EDDC continues to provide a very good service to its residents and users of services, for example; benefits claims are on average [processed in 4.6 days, 94% of supplier invoices are paid within 10 days, 99.75% of council rent is collected on time and fly tipping is dealt with in 3 days.

Police Report

Massive increase in damage and thefts from vehicles in Branscombe and across all East Devon. We're desperately trying to get the message out to the public to not leave any valuables in their cars and to try to show that there is nothing of value in there (e.g. leave the back area of hatchbacks and estates completely on view – we are still having incidents where the 'rascals' are breaking in to have a look in hidden boot areas).

We are placing letters (copy below) on vehicles with 'goodies' on show, hoping to educate.

Also, Thefts of kayaks this year – the offender has been caught and charged with theft offences and is due in court in the next few weeks – a kayak crime prevention initiative will be taking place in the Summer.

Neighbourhood Team: A few changes over the last 12 months but, you've got me and Mike McGauley. Supt De Reya has assured me verbally that she intends to replace me when I go at the end of the year.

Police Station: latest is we're staying, with work due to take place later in the year to reduce the size of the building.

Have Your Say: Seen a big increase in popularity over the last 12 months with regular and non-regular visitors (and not just for a free tea and biscuit). We still urge people to come and see us or, if not, send an email.

Sample Letter:

"Dear car driver,

THERE ARE VALUABLES ON DISPLAY IN THIS VEHICLE

Devon and Cornwall Police Neighbourhood Teams are working hard in this area to prevent and detect thefts from unattended motor vehicles. We frequently patrol this car park both in marked and unmarked Police vehicles.

Whilst checking your vehicle we noticed that you have left the following valuables clearly visible through your window:-

Car thieves are prolific in this car park and it would take them less than twenty seconds to smash your window and steal your possessions, causing you a great deal of inconvenience.

*Please **DO NOT** leave valuables on display in your vehicle in the future. By working together in this way we can deny these criminals the opportunity to commit crime. We enclose a leaflet for your information which also incorporates a notice you can display on your dashboard.*

If you see anyone acting suspiciously please make a note of their vehicle, registration number and description and report it to us straight away.

*Many thanks,
Devon and Cornwall Police"*



Devon & Cornwall Police

Building safer communities together

Crimes Recorded - 01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017 - KN3F

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017	Recorded Crime 01/04/2015 to 31/03/2016	Recorded Crime % Difference
Violence with Injury	1	3	-66.7%
Violence without Injury	1	0	-
Other Sexual Offences	1	0	-
Burglary Dwelling	1	0	-
Burglary Non-Dwelling	2	2	0.0%
Vehicle Offences	8	1	700.0%
Shoplifting	1	0	-
Other Theft	8	1	700.0%
Criminal Damage	5	0	-
Public Order Offences	2	0	-
Total	30	7	328.6%

Non Notifiable Offences	3	1	200.0%
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Devon & Cornwall Police

Building safer communities together

Incidents Recorded - 01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017 - KN3F

Incident Closing Category	Incidents - 01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017	Incidents - 01/04/2015 to 31/03/2016	Incidents % Difference
Anti Social Behaviour	4	3	33.3%
Crime Not Recorded	1	0	-
Crime Recorded	10	2	400.0%
Public Safety	13	28	-53.6%
Transport	19	17	11.8%
Total	47	50	-6.0%

National Trust – Nothing reported

Village Hall – Report by Helen Fielden - Chair

The ongoing maintenance of the Village Hall continues throughout the year and I would like to thank everyone involved, in particular Ralph Cox, Glenn Everett and Mike Fielden. Also a thank you to Glenn Everett who oversees the feed in tariff for the electricity, Alice Tremlett for her meticulous work on the accounts, Viv Lamb for production of the minutes and David Lamb for his hard work dealing with the bookings.

New poster boards have been designed, made to order and fitted by Glyn Jones. Further maintenance is required for them as damp has damaged the cork backing but is in the process of being rectified, but I would like to thank Glyn for his work with this.

New interior doors to the entrance of the main hall were kindly donated by Howdens Joinery in Honiton as they donate to Charities regularly. A formal letter of thanks was sent to Howdens and they were fitted by Mike Sweetland.

A new defibrillator was purchased and fitted with the funds kindly received by the Grizzly Committee, DCC, PC and the Art Show. There was enough funding provided to ensure that as well as the purchase of the equipment, sufficient training sessions can be organised and paid for, plus ongoing upkeep of the unit. Training sessions have taken place for this and have proved to be very popular.

After the very sad passing of Graham Williams a new bar sub-committee was formed consisting of Jill and Tony Johnson, Janet Selley, Lynley Douulton, Glenn Everett (as a Village Hall representative), John Ardern (as continuing treasurer) and David Lamb (for booking liaison). The bar has recently been refurbished with added refrigeration, shelving, wash area and work surfaces. A new wine list has been introduced, a more effective system of serving ale directly from the barrel and a new pricing structure throughout. This has proved very successful and has had some very positive feedback from the customers. The Committee continue to make improvements based on customer feedback.

Branoc Hall Committee are in the process of planning a regeneration project for the Play Area and Tennis Court. We have been in talks with a local company called Rubicon with Nick Sneller designs which are based in Newton Poppleford and provide timber framed equipment. Plans have been drawn up and quotes are in the process of being completed. A Sub Committee consisting of Myself, Nicola Bullock and David Lamb has been created to oversee this work. Nicola has done some extensive work sourcing funding for this project and I would like to thank her for all her hard work with this. Nicola has also applied for Tesco “bags of help” and also the Waitrose Green Token Scheme so keep your eyes peeled! This particular project will be very costly and it has been decided that it will be done in phases as and when the funds will be available. So far Branoc Hall Committee has agreed that they will donate £15,000 towards phase one of the project. Councillor Jim Knight has very kindly donated £2000, The Variety Club has donated £1000, Cath Sparks has closed the old Netball Club account and donated £400 and the Players have kindly donated £100 which gives us a total so far of £18,500. We have also had some other promises of funding. These will be half of the profit made from the Church Auction thanks to Ross Wilmington for offering this. An “Alternative Cocktail Party” will be held at Hooken and the proceeds of this will be donated thanks to Ian Barlow for the use of his house and gardens. Abi Fuell, Nicki Bullock, Jo Gib-

bins, Andrea Bass and Emily Hughes are doing a Rainbow Fun Run and have promised half of the proceeds to go towards the playpark so a big thank you to all concerned. At present the Playpark Sub Committee are putting together a business plan for all the regeneration and will be applying for Lottery Funding. Other funding ideas are still in the organising stage for example a Race Night at the hall which in the past has always been very well attended.

Branscombe Project

An interesting year for the Project – winter talks always well attended - there will be a new series of Talks for 2017-18 starting on Monday Nov 27.

A decade after the event we had a rerun of the Napoli exhibition which also included a couple of the original motor bikes with Branscombe pebbles still clinging to their wheels; there was an excellent Napoli tea party with reminiscences and a sing-along.

At the tea we launched new booklet by John Torrance, 'Take 300 Snails - An old recipe book from Branscombe', based on a Tucker family eighteenth century Branscombe recipe book. The Project is sponsoring The Great Branscombe Potato Challenge at the Harvest Fair.

This coming year we're researching Branscombe pubs – any stories, histories etc much welcome (ring Joan or Barbara).

Branscombe PCC – Ross Willmington reported the following:

Branscombe Church has had another good year with congregations being very good for the size of the village. The congregation has raised a lot of money for many worthwhile charities, as well as becoming more financially secure. Fund raising activities have included a Lent Charity Lunch, concerts, Church Market, a Barn Dance, a Flower festival, coffee mornings and a Cocktail party. The Friends of the church continue to support the fabric of the church for which we are very grateful. We have an Open Day and Church Market on 15th July with trips up the tower.

WI – Report by Joan Pike

Branscombe WI has had another busy year. We hosted the Sidcombe Group meeting in June with a savoury cream tea and our speaker, Stephen Hoyle, was welcomed. Stephen gave an interesting talk on the North American Indian tribe, who have adopted him. He also gave a brief history of the Lakotas, the Sioux people and the “Pine Ridge Reservation” in South Dakota, which reservation covers land the size of Devon and Cornwall.

Several members put together flower arrangements supporting the Branscombe Flower Festival at St. Winifred's. Members also supported the Harvest Fair in September by helping and demonstrating in the craft tent along with Sidford WI. Then in December we were in action doing afternoon teas at the village Christmas Fair, all in fancy hats, as the theme was the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

Our WI was represented by three members at the Spring Council meeting, and we have attended various other WI/group events.

Branscombe WI gave a plaque to the school. It will be presented for Achievements in Arts

and Craft, with the name of the prize recipient to be recorded in a book which goes with the plaque.

There was no pie feast this year as so few members were available to help, but as Friends of Branscombe WI a very successful Pink October afternoon tea was held. Our Craft Friday group continues, with a current project of making Fiddle Quilts and Comfort Mitts for people with dementia.

Our speakers during the year have covered subjects on Jewish Weddings, life on a farm, amazing Australia, the cleverness of scarves, crafting eggs in the Faberge style and a life in theatre and television. We have also entertained ourselves with a Harvest Supper and garden visit, then in December we took the theme of 'Deck the Halls' and created Christmas wreaths from willow sourced locally. There was an outing for lunch, in September, on the train from Exmouth to Teignmouth.

Branscombe WI have sadly reduced in number down to fourteen. This is due to members moving house and ill health for others, meaning they are no longer able to attend our meetings. They will be missed and we wish them all well.

Branscombe Players – Ross Willmington - Chairman, reported that he was pleased to report another successful year. In August 2016, we staged a summer production called Murder at Branoc Hall, the show was very well received. The Players donated over £500 to the British Heart Foundation, New Village Playpark fund and the Parish Magazine. The pantomime will be returning in January 2018.

Branscombe Primary School – No report received.

Branscombe Pre-School – We were advised by a member of the audience that there is not a pre-school any more.

Craft Club – Continuing being a success and meet at the Masons Arms and publish in the Parish Magazine the events for the month.

British Legion (Men's and Women's Section) – Emma Cox – Chair

We strive to promote the aims of the Royal British Legion raising awareness that it is both serving and ex-serving forces personnel and their dependents who may benefit from health and welfare support. Together with many other military charities the RBL is part of the newly launched Veterans' Gateway with the RBL providing the contact centre infrastructure as the welfare sector extends its reach via 21st Century IT communications.

We are a small branch who benefit from a few loyal very dedicated members who help to keep the branch going. Whilst no one wants to see Branscombe branch close we will have to face that eventuality if we are unable to find new members to join us.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the formation of Branscombe Branch which we hope to mark in a small way later in the year.

This past year the RBL has faced an unexpected and unwelcome setback over the confusion surrounding the re-organisation of the Women's Section. It was very sad to see the closure of

Devon County's Women's Section especially after the pleas to holdfast. Throughout the Legion community there is a strong feeling about why the Women's Section must survive. It is recognised that in the case of some very small Women's Section branches such as ours in Branscombe it is inevitable that these branches may close. As this is the end of an era for the Branscombe Women's Section branch I would like to put on record our thanks for all their hard work over many years and for their invaluable support working so closely with Branscombe RBL branch.

As an aside the Branscombe Branch chairman is working with the national Women's Section headquarters' representatives to try and rebuild the Women's Section in Devon.

Last year Branscombe branch provided welfare support throughout the year from daily visits to beneficiaries in need to wider outreach supporting beneficiaries in care. We also as ever remain focussed on the Remembrance Events and the Poppy appeal.

Thank you to everyone who supports the RBL and the Poppy appeal.

Thursday afternoon Club – nothing reported.

Branscombe Cricket Club – Another successful and enjoyable year for Branscombe Cricket Club, with over 20 fixtures played.

Highlights were the hugely popular Six-a-Side Tournament and the Memorial match for the much-missed Richard Maskrey.

It has been agreed that proceeds from this year's Memorial Match for Richard Maskrey, Graham Williams and Martha Cole will be donated to St Winifred's.

Membership remains high and the youth section continues to thrive.

We continue to promote the Village of Branscombe, attracting large numbers of visiting players and supporters to the village and more specifically the Village Hall.

They always comment on the warm welcome, the wonderful location, and the resplendent playing surface that we work very hard during the summer to maintain.

We would, however love to welcome more local spectators to our matches which take place mainly on Friday evenings; fixtures can be found on our website at www.branscombecricket.com.

MATTERS ARISING FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Ross Willmington asked if a report on the Harvest Fair could be on the agenda for the next Annual Parish Meeting. This was agreed.
- Joan – advised that the BT phone at the Village Hall is out of action, she was advised to let BT know as this was not a Parish issue.

- Cllr Mayes – advised that nationally it should be that 999 is always contactable.
- Karen Luxton (not in attendance) – a letter had been received with various issues from highways, mobile phone signal, hedges, refuse collection, land gulls, public transport and closing of the hospital beds, which would be passed onto the various responsible organisations.
- Cllr Mayes – wished to thank Devon County Council for the work they have done on the highways around Branscombe over the past years, they have done a remarkable job regarding the potholes.

Meeting closed at 20.00 pm

Signed..... Date