

# BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 19.30hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Bass, Cox, Mayes, Pike, White, Walford-Howell, Evans, and Shaw (DCC)

NO. OF PUBLIC: None

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Lambert, Fastnedge and PC Jenkins (D&C Police)

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017, which were previously circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

## POLICE AND NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

**Police:** Although not in attendance PC Jenkins emailed the following report:

Crime/Incident figures for July attached – nothing of note. However, a burglary occurred on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August between 1300-1630hrs in which a window was forced open and two laptops stolen. Enquiries continue. Only other news is that my replacement is PC Adam Speers from Sidmouth who should start hopefully Sept/Oct time – I'm hoping to introduce him at some point.

Crime figures:

**Incidents Recorded - 01/07/2017 to 31/07/2017 - KN3F**

Incident Closing Category	Incidents - 01/07/2017 to 31/07/2017	Incidents - 01/07/2016 to 31/07/2016	Incidents % Difference
Crime Recorded	1	1	0.0%
Public Safety	0	2	-100.0%
Transport	1	3	-66.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-66.7%</b>

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/07/2017 to 31/07/2017	Recorded Crime 01/07/2016 to 31/07/2016	Recorded Crime % Difference
Vehicle Offences	0	2	-100.0%
Public Order Offences	0	1	-100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>

**National Trust:** Not in attendance and nothing reported.

### MATTERS ARISING

**Fountain Head Gardens Bench Plaque** – Cllr Bass reported that the garden had been cleared again and Cllr Bass will be putting the plaque on the bench in the next few days.

**West Bank Friends – Vicky-Jo Eva** – The Clerk had written to Vicky and had received the following response:

*“Thank you very much for publishing our questionnaire.*

*Sadly, our funding doesn't cover costs for hall hire, so we wouldn't be able to help with the coffee morning or the post office. We have funding to set up sustainable activities and mainly volunteer recruitment. For any initial set ups, we have been working in partnership with other organisations who have helped us with costs such as hall hire.*

*We are looking at volunteer recruitment at the moment for the home from hospital “Neighbourhood Friends”. I am thinking that perhaps a drop-in day in Branscombe might help us find some willing volunteers in Branscombe? Hilary Dawson mentioned that there is an informal visitors group where someone is allocated to keep an eye on their area and support is offered when needed. I was wondering if there might be a way of tapping in to these people for help with the Neighbourhood Friends? I am hoping to meet up with Hilary and discuss but I welcome any ideas you may have.*

*Age UK Devon have a club in Beer called “Beer Best Years” for over 50's. They meet twice a month for activities such as Seated Exercise, New age curling, ping pong etc, but also sometimes they go on a social outing. I am working in partnership at the moment with Age UK and LED Leisure to set up a “Branscombe’ Best Years” at Branoc Hall. This will be starting in September. I would also be looking for volunteers who could help with that activity and with teas and coffees.*

*Would it be possible for us to put something in the Branscombe Magazine about volunteers and also about the club?”*

It was agreed that we would put something in the Magazine and the Clerk would

email Cllr Mayes with the above response.

**Bulb Planting** – The Clerk reported that she had a call from Mr Glasper who had said that he may be able to supply the bulbs and to let him know. She had also emailed the school but is awaiting a reply to see if they would like to do a planting project in the Autumn.

## PLANNING

**Planning Update** – The update was noted.

**Appeals** - None

### **Planning Applications:**

**17/1768/AGR - Alderwood Barn Branscombe Seaton EX12 3BU - General purpose agricultural building (revised location for previously approved building under consent 14/2497/AGR)** – After a full discussion Cllr Bass proposed that the application be supported with the same response as the 14/2497/AGR added as follows:

- Request the outside cladding of the barn should be of such a material in order that it blends in to the surrounding environment.

Cllr Walford-Howell seconded with **All In Favour**.

**17/1007/FUL - The Chapel House & 1 Blue Ball Cottage Branscombe Seaton EX12 3AY - Garden landscaping including the extension of layby and installation of gabion wall and the construction of a subterranean garage with new driveway and sliding gate** – After a full discussion Cllr Mayes proposed to **Not Support** the application on the same basis as our previous response on 01/06/17 as follows:

- Not in keeping with the surrounding area
- The Gabion baskets will be visible and not appropriate for the area
- Proposed garage will not help with parking in the area therefore would they would have to park on the highway in this narrow part of the road, the need to retain parking for Blue Ball Cottages was stressed.

This was seconded by Cllr Cox with **All In Favour**.

**Enforcement** – None

## PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

**Parish Plans** – Devon Communities provided further information on Parish Plans. Cllr Evans proposed that we do not progress with a Parish Plan for Branscombe, this was seconded by Cllr White with **All In Favour**.

## REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

### **Cllr Martin Shaw (DCC) provided the following report and update:**

#### Speed calming in Colyford, Seaton and Wilmington

On 14 July, I took part in a meeting organised by the community Speedwatch teams, to consider measures to calm speeding on the A3052 in Colyford and on Seaton Down Hill, Seaton, and also in Rousdon (which is outside our division). Chaired by Neil Parish MP, the meeting was attended by Councillor Stuart Hughes, DCC Cabinet Member, officers Tom Vaughan and Mike Jones, local residents and town and parish councillors.

Highways offered to install a crossing in Colyford and a pedestrian refuge (island) on Seaton Down Hill, both of which were generally welcomed. After much discussion, officers also agreed to look again at the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Seaton Down Hill - including the junction with the A3052 - from 60 to 40. Colyford activists are also looking for further improvements, and I offered to part-fund a Vehicle-Activated Sign from my locality budget. It was agreed to meet again to discuss progress at the beginning of next year.

At Widworthy Parish Council on 18 July, I agreed to join the council in a new approach to Highways England, to facilitate the overdue installation of crossings and other measures on the A35 in Wilmington.

#### Traffic orders

On 24 July, I attended the East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC). Proposals for new waiting restrictions in Seaton, Beer and Colyton, which will be advertised in September, were noted. There may be scope for one or two additions to the list, if these are brought to me by parishes as soon as possible.

#### Traffic groups

I have been consulting with parishes over how to meet to discuss traffic and highways problems. On 10 July, a traffic meeting for Colyton was held in Colyton Town Hall, and it was agreed that Farway, Northleigh, Offwell, Southleigh and Wilmington will be invited to attend further meetings, from the autumn. In the meanwhile a separate traffic meeting for Seaton, Beer and Branscombe will be held on Monday 25 September at 2 pm in Marshlands.

#### Wheelchair access at Seaton dentists

I have been in discussion with my dentist, Fore Street, Seaton, about access for wheelchair users. One of my constituents finds this very unsatisfactory and I am informed that other patients, including frail people who are not using a wheelchair, find the access difficult. I find it unsatisfactory that in a town the size of Seaton, the only dentists should have such access limitations, and believe this problem deserves wider discussion.

Martin Shaw, 26 July 2017

#### Community hospital beds

When I stood for election in May, I promised to fight for the beds in Seaton and Honiton community hospitals. Sadly on 25 July, the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee of Devon County Council decided by 7 votes to 6 not to refer the closures to the Secretary of State. This means that the beds will permanently close in September and October.

The 7 councillors who voted NOT to refer the decision were county councillors Sara Randall Johnson (Broadclyst, Chair of the Committee), Richard Scott (Exmouth), Rufus Gilbert, Sylvia Russell, Paul Crabb and Ron Peart, and Cllr Paul Diviani (Leader of East Devon District Council, representing Devon district councils). All are Conservatives. The 6 councillors who voted against this motion, i.e. to refer the decision, were my fellow-Independent Claire Wright (Otter Valley), Phil Twiss (Honiton, Conservative), Brian Greenslade and Nick Way (Liberal Democrat) and Hilary Ackland and Carol Whitton (Labour). Two Conservatives, John Berry and Jeremy Yabsley, abstained. Two other Tories, Jeffrey Trail (Exmouth) and Philip Sanders, gave their apologies.

I spoke against the closures, as did Ian Hall (Conservative, Axminster) as well as six public speakers, Cllr Roger Giles (Independent, Chair of East Devon's Scrutiny Committee), Paul Arnott (Colyton), Cllr Jan Goffey (Mayor of Okehampton), and Cllr Mike Allen (Conservative), Bob Sturtivant and Stephen Craddock (all from Honiton)

Claire Wright had prepared a detailed motion to refer the closures and had submitted it to the Chair before the meeting. However when debate began, Cllr Randall Johnson chose not to call Claire to speak but called Cllr Rufus Gilbert who immediately proposed the motion not to refer, which was quickly seconded by Cllr Sylvia Russell.

This meant that the committee never considered point by point, as Claire's motion would have required it to, the 14 questions on which it had asked the CCG to satisfy it. The Committee basically abdicated its scrutiny role and blocked a referral without discussing most of the objections which had been raised. We are considering a complaint about how the meeting was handled. (The meeting is webcast on the DCC site.)

#### X52 bus

In the County Council on 20 July, I asked a question about the proposed reduction in this service, the only direct route from Beer to Exeter and from Seaton to the RD&E, from 5 to 2 (off-peak) services in September. I asked for the County to consider support for peak services. Following the question and a supplementary, Cabinet Member, Councillor Roger Croad, said he would look into my request. (This meeting is also webcast.)

#### Update:

- **North Lane partching** - this should be done in the next few weeks.
- **X52 Bus** – Cllr Croad (DCC) has advised that DCC will be looking at this service again but said it is too expensive to keep running therefore this will have to be cut from 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- **Hospital Beds** – it was very disappointing that DCC chose not to progress with the challenge to reduce the bed numbers. Seaton hospital are due to close 18 beds in September. Cllr Bass asked if the Health Minister had been informed of the decision of DCC. Cllr Shaw advised that Seaton Town Council have asked Neil Parish MP to take this forward. Cllr Mayes asked how much it would cost if EDDC and DCC were to fund the cost per year to keep the beds. Cllr Shaw advised it would be hundreds of thousands of pounds. Cllr Walford-Howell advised that if Neil Parish MP were involved, what would we be asking him to do. Cllr Shaw advised that he has been asked to take it up with Mr. Hunt MP. Cllr Bass asked if it would be helpful for Branscombe Parish Council to write to Neil Parish. It

was agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter.

- **Traffic Group** – There is a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September, Cllr Cox agreed to be Branscombe Parish Council representative and would attend.
- **Emails** – Cllr Shaw asked to be copied in on all emails communicated to DCC.

**Village Hall** – Cllr Bass advised that the request from the Village Hall to pay for the Post Office rent of the foyer was not possible as this would set a precedent for all other users.

#### HIGHWAYS:

The Clerk advised that she had reported the following issues with a response from Stephen Kelly on 24<sup>th</sup> July advising her that he would be inspecting it in the next few days, however the problems still exist as follows:

- Pig Farm and Berry Barton potholes, now very dangerous and deep.
- Gully full of tarmac at end of new surfacing by Hillside, causes flooding of the road
- 1 Chapel Row overhanging hedge, has been cut back but not enough.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write again to Stephen Kelly for an update and copy in Cllr Shaw.

FOOTPATHS: Nothing reported.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

**Devon Communities Together - Summer is here and so is cheaper heating Oil** – It was agreed to put this in the next issue of the Parish Magazine, the Clerk will email this to Cllr Mayes.

**Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator** - Noted

**South West Coast Path Association – Challenge** – It was agreed to send this to Cllr Lambert who may be interested in this.

**Ins. Chamings (D&C Police) email 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017** – The Clerk advised that she has spoken to Ins. Chamings and also received the following email response:

*“Thank you for our conversation earlier. It’s pleasing to see and hear that there is a good working relationship between my local officers and the Parish Council and wider community, and it is my desire that this will continue. As you know PC Jenkins is due to retire this coming autumn. He will be missed by Devon and Cornwall Police as he is a great asset to the community he serves.*”

*You can assure your Parish Council members that local policing in Seaton will not be affected because I already have plans in place to replace Richard. His post has already been advertised and I know of at least two local officers who are interested in the role. We briefly discussed PCSO numbers. As you will be aware the force is reducing PCSO numbers throughout Devon and Cornwall and at this stage it is not clear how this will look in the long term. However as I stated on the phone, there are no immediate plans for any further changes in the Seaton area, and PCSO McGauley remains committed in the role.”*

**EDDC Invite to free Working Together for the future Devon 2017 Conference** – Noted New Premises Licence – an email from EDDC had been received advising of a new premises licence for Westleigh B&B, Beer. This was noted.

**Sandbags** – An email from EDDC was received by the Clerk asking for an update on information and it was agreed as follows:

Number of empty sandbags required	-	100
Contact Details	-	Cllr Cox and Cllr Pike
Collection from	-	Sidmouth

FINANCE:

**Finance Update 2017/18** – the Clerk advised the following:

Total Income for the year	-	£4,137.53
Total Expenditure for the year	-	£1,173.49
Balance for the year	-	£2,964.04

**Cheques** –

No. 969	Brass Plaque – GC Hunt	-	£39.50
No. 970	NALC Journal Subs	-	£17.00

**Bus Shelter** – After the Clerk had discussed this with Local residents she advised that the idea of a bus shelter was not be very well accepted, but they would like a bench over the other side of the road. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

**Play Area Project** – Cllr Bass asked Cllr Pike to raise at the next Village Hall meeting that the Parish Council are willing to contribute to this but we needed to know what we would be purchasing and how much.

PART B MATTER – None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

**Clerk** – Advised that Cllr Pike had asked the Masons Arms if it would be OK to put the notice board up further along away from the bins, and they agreed. The Clerk will write to them to obtain agreement.

**Cllr Mayes** – Advised that he was handing in his notice as Councillor, he said that it had been an enjoyable time and that Sarah Miller would be taking over as Editor of the Parish Newsletter. Cllr Bass thanked him for his work and asked him to put an article in the Newsletter to advertise the vacancy. The Clerk will do the associated paperwork. Cllr Mayes advised that they would be leaving the village on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017.

The next meeting is due on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 @ 19:30 in Branoc Hall (Village Hall). Meeting closed at 21.15hrs

Signed..... Date .....