

# BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall) on  
**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 19.30hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Bass, Fastnedge, Walford-Howell, Lambert, Cox, Evans, Pike,  
Powell and Shaw (DCC)

NO. OF PUBLIC: 1

APOLOGIES: Cllrs White, Pook, PC Adam Speers (D&C Police)

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup>  
October 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:**

Good reading, up until 30/10/17, when Mr Miller had his trailer stolen.  
We have been trying to do some checks / enquiries around our patch to raise  
awareness that some of these people are around and to check on their items /  
report any suspicious activity. Other than that, it is positive news.



**Devon & Cornwall Police**

Building safer communities together

Incidents Recorded - 01/10/2017 to 31/10/2017 - KN3F

Incident Closing Category	Incidents - 01/10/2017 to 31/10/2017	Incidents - 01/10/2016 to 31/10/2016	Incidents % Difference
Anti Social Behaviour	0	3	-100.0%
Crime Recorded	1	0	-
Public Safety	0	2	-100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-80.0%</b>



Crimes Recorded - 01/10/2017 to 31/10/2017 - KN3F

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/10/2017 to 31/10/2017	Recorded Crime 01/10/2016 to 31/10/2016	Recorded Crime % Difference
Burglary Non-Dwelling	0	1	-100.0%
Other Theft	1	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

### National Trust:

Sarah Baker from the NT e-mailed to let us know that the new Lead Ranger, Rob Skinner who will be starting in December. Rob is currently working as an Area Ranger for the Trust on the Quantock & Blackdown Hills & will bring with him a wealth of experience, having spent over 10 years working in Countryside Management. We are all looking forward to him starting.

### MATTERS ARISING

**Bulb Planting** – The Clerk advised that she had e-mailed Abi Fuell after discussing this at the Harvest meeting and is awaiting a response. Cllr Powell offered to take this forward before the planting season got too late and will contact the school. She suggested that the wild daffodils may be better to plant and will advise of progress. Suggested locations:

- the footpath to the school
- Fountain Head Garden area
- Coronation Gardens
- Outside the Church by the bench

It was suggested that 500 bulbs would be sufficient.

**Bus Stop Bench** – Stephen Kelly (DCC) e-mailed on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 in response to an e-mail sent by the Clerk on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017. He advised that the verge is not owned by DCC so we cannot give permission for the bench, however if the owners of the land which is Fosseyway Developments do give permission then the visibility from the junction at Mill Lane must be free from obstructions.

Visibility splays should be clear of any obstructions that are higher than 300mm above the channel level. This will then allow any planting to grow a further 300mm, but in any case, the overall height should never exceed 600mm at any time of year. Vertical obstructions to visibility such as lamp columns and trees will be accepted provided that in combination they do not create a solid visual barrier.

As long as visibility is not compromised then we would not have an issue, but we cannot give permission as it is not DCC land.

The Clerk obtained 3 prices for benches and this was circulated to Members. After discussion it was decided that the bench from Broxap – Northchapel Bench at a price of £348.00 inc. delivery plus VAT would be purchased. Cllr Bass offered to install the bench and requested installation instructions. Before purchase the Clerk is to write to Fosseyway Developments to obtain their permission to put the bench in.

**Play Equipment** – Helen Fielden informed via e-mail dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 that she will be discussing the equipment phasing at a meeting to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The Clerk will e-mail her for an update.

**Post Office** – Helen Fielden informed via e-mail dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 that this is now resolved for the time being.

**Defibrillator** – It was agreed that it would be a good idea to obtain one to be located at the Fountain Head. Cllr Bass has spoken to the Landlord and he has agreed to this with the location to be agreed. The Clerk will obtain prices etc.

**Parishes Together Fund Air Ambulance Night Landing** – The Clerk advised that she had received a response back from DAA but unfortunately this has disappeared from her inbox. She is chasing again for a response but from memory she advised that it may be possible to have the field behind the village hall as a landing site. We await a response.

## PLANNING

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

**Appeals** - None

**Planning Applications** –

- **17/2382/FUL** – Edge Farm Stables Branscombe Seaton EX12 3BL – Proposed farm dwelling – After a full discussion with the following comments:
  - Cllr Bass – it is on a raised elevation on the village
  - Cllr Cox – the dwelling position would preferably be in line with the stables
  - Cllr Bass – we could ask for it to be less in the middle of the field
  - Cllr Walford-Howell – asked if the lie of the land was flat
  - Cllr Bass – advised that it is reasonably so.

It was proposed to **support** the application by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Walford-Howell with **All In Favour**.

**Enforcement** – None

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE - East Devon District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan – This was noted.

## REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

**Cllr Shaw (DCC)** –Cllr Shaw provided a report below with the following update:

- Hospital issue is at a standstill. Seaton beds are now closed, the rest of the hospital is used for clinics, there is no guarantees as there is still a shortage of money.
- Highway issues – he advised there are none directly affecting Banscombe.
- Broadband - Rural broadband issues are still a problem and he is now on a working group to monitor the roll out of the programme of improvements.
- Mobile phone issues are ongoing with O2 withdrawing their App at the end of the month.
- School funding – we are losing £33/pupil, not being supported by Devon County Council therefore sustaining pressures
- Local policing review – withdrawing some PCSO due to funding cuts, the number overall will be less. There will be local instead of neighbourhood policing and we won't necessarily have an officer in our area. They are encouraging more people to become specials. Cllr Bass advised that there may be no more Wednesday sessions as they are spread thinly.
- DCC are supporting plastic free coastlines
- 20mph speed limits – DCC are reviewing these.

#### County Councillor's Report, November 2017

##### Hospitals update

1. At Devon County Council on 5 October, I made a final attempt to get the Seaton and Honiton bed closures decision scrutinised properly and sent to the Secretary of State. It was voted down by 40 (all Conservatives) to 16 (Independents, Liberal Democrats, Labour, Green and one Conservative, Ian Hall of Axminster).
2. The proposed steering committee for a Health Hub based on Seaton and Axminster hospitals is due to meet shortly, and the RD&E has agreed to appoint to a Project Officer to develop it, which is a positive sign.
3. I called a meeting of hospital campaigners in Seaton on 24 October, which set up a new **Axe Valley Hospitals Campaign**, to support bringing new services into Seaton and Axminster and to oppose any proposals to sell off the sites.

##### Highways issues

1. On 27 October, I joined Neil Parish MP, district and parish councillors at a meeting called by the A35 Action Group with Highways England, to discuss remedial measures on the A35 in Wilmington. Some progress was made and I shall continue to press strongly on the dreadful situation faced by Wilmington residents.
2. On 25 October, I joined residents in meeting the acting manager of Tesco, Seaton, to discuss traffic calming and safety measures and other improvements to improve the quality of life of people living in Swan Road and Royal Observer Way. I also brought the harm caused by 'boy racers' at a meeting of the Axe Valley Local Action Group attended by the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager, PC Adam Speers.
3. I have authorised funding from my Locality Budget for the erection of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) at the western entrance to Colyford, which will flash up '30, Slow Down' to anyone driving over the speed limit. We have agreed in principle that it is desirable to erect a second VAS at the other end of the village. I am paying in full for the first VAS in order to make progress in the current financial year, on the understanding that funding for a second sign will be a matter for Colyton Parish Council to consider in budgeting for 2018-19.
4. I met with Highways to discuss reducing the speed limit on Seaton Down Hill to 40
5. I am still negotiating with Highways about how the additional funds for road patching which were recently made available should be used. Some roads have been confirmed for the programme and parishes have been informed, but others remain under discussion.
6. I am also working to ensure that repairs on several roads agreed before I was elected, but which have not yet been completed as promised, get done.
7. New waiting restrictions in Beer and in Beer Road, Seaton, are included in the new Traffic Order which is out for consultation. After discussions with Colyton Parish Council, I agreed that proposed yellow lines at Prospect Terrace should not be included.

##### Reports from Devon County Council meetings

1. **Locality budget.** Most of my £10,000 budget for 2017-18 is still uncommitted so new applications from parish/town councils and community organisations are welcome.
2. **Rural broadband coverage.** This is a big issue for our rural areas. The Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee (CIRS), on which I sit, has set up a standing Task Group to monitor this issue. Roll-out of broadband by Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS), which has public funds to fill the gaps where commercial providers will not go, has been slow, they say because of the providers. At the 26 September meeting, East Devon broadband campaigner, Graham Long, complained about the issue being dealt with by a task group which meets in private. I urged the committee to be aware of the frustration felt by those still without access to reliable broadband and the need to be seen to be urgently seeking progress.
3. **Mobile phone coverage.** This is also of great concern in rural areas of the division. Following complaints by constituents in Branscombe, I protested to O2 about the withdrawal of their TuGo services which enabled people to make mobile calls and send texts via WiFi; people will now be forced to upgrade their phones to get a similar service. O2 has declined to postpone the change. (CIRS was told that mobile phone providers would not agree to talk to us. However it emerged that the Heart of the South West Local Economic Partnership, LEP, has earmarked £2.5m to address phone coverage issues, although they have not yet decided how.)
4. **Schools funding cuts.** The County Council meeting heard that Devon schools are losing £33 per pupil this year owing to cuts in Government funding. I supported a Liberal Democrat proposal to restore this funding from Council reserves, but this was defeated by the Conservative majority. On top of this, it has been confirmed that under the Government's new funding formula, local schools will see under-inflation rises: Seaton Primary, the worst hit, will get only a 1 per cent cash rise over two years (inflation is currently 3 per cent p.a. = 6 per cent over 2 years).
5. **Reductions in Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).** I attended a Local Policing Spotlight Review at which speakers included the Chief Constable. The police said that, although they didn't wish to cut neighbourhood police, like other forces they are reducing the numbers of PCSOs because of funding cuts. They are switching from 'neighbourhood' to 'local' policing, with more staff supporting local policing based in HQ. They have a 'rural policing engagement group' which is looking at measures like recruiting Special Constables to maintain the neighbourhood presence.
6. **Urban congestion and air pollution task group.** I am a member of this group which CIRS has set up. I will emphasise that centralising services in Exeter contributes to congestion; we need to retain facilities in towns and villages.
7. **EU workers in Devon's health and care services.** Following concerns by Council officers about the loss of EU workers in health and care services, I asked a question in Council as to whether figures were available. I was told the Council does not collect them; in response, I suggested they should do so, and in the meanwhile should also reassure EU citizens working in Devon that their presence is valued.

**Village Hall** – Cllr Pike advised that there is a Christmas Fair on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Cllr Powell said she would have a word with the Fountain Head regarding the mulled wine recipe. Cllr Bass said that if there were any need for help with the

wine etc., to let him know.

#### HIGHWAYS:

**Notification of Road Closure o/s Wootans 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2018** – this was noted, Cllr Bass also advised that there is likely to be another one in the new year for thatching works.

**Branscombe and Seaton Traffic Group 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017** – Cllr Cox reported that nothing seemed to have been done from the reported issues and Cllr Shaw advised that he would try and set up a meeting with Stephen Kelly, the Clerk to send him Cllr Bass and Cox's email addressed. The next Traffic Group meeting is on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

**Northern Lane – Cllr Shaw e-mail dated 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017** – nothing further has been done.

**Storage of furniture on highway – David Lamb email dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and email's to Steve Kelley asking for this to be dealt with.** – The Clerk advised that she had a quiet word with the resident and he apologised and advised he would not do this again.

FOOTPATHS: Nothing reported.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

**Telephone Kiosk Contract of sale** – Cllr Bass advised that they should not sign the contract until we knew more about if BT could provide the wifi we want.

**CPRE Devon request to join organisation – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 letter** – Cllr Lambert advised that his family had been members for many years and would recommend that the Council join. He proposed that we join for a fee of £36/year, 7 were in favour 1 abstained, the motion was carried to join CPRE. The Clerk would prepare the necessary paperwork.

#### FINANCE:

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

Grand Total	-	£30,799.63
Total Income for the year	-	£7,927.34
Total Expenditure for the year	-	£2,413.43
Balance for the year	-	£5,513.91

#### **Cheques –**

Chq. No. 970 - Clerks Wages and expenses	£1,087.34
Chq. No. 971 – HMRC PAYE	£132.50
Chq. No. 972 – British Region – Wreath	£20.00

PART B MATTER – None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

**Computerised Maps – Chris Bass e-mail**

Cllr Bass explained that Chris Bass has offered to prepare a digital map of the village with information on it. The following was agreed to be a good first start to it:

- House names and property locations
- Post codes
- Car Parks
- Defibrillator locations
- Footpaths

It was agreed that this was a good idea and the Clerk will discuss with Chris Bass on a way forward.

The next meeting is due on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 @ 19:30 in Branoc Hall (Village Hall). Meeting closed at 20.55hrs

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