

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held in the Branoc Hall (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 31st May 2018 at 18.30.**

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

APOLOGIES: Mike James

NO. OF PUBLIC: 4

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

MINUTES OF MEETING: Held 11th May 2017 – 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:

Cllr Bass reported that it had been another busy year with 16 meetings, well attended by Councillors. We have dealt with 18 planning applications and in September we co-opted Cllr Powell onto the Council following Cllr Mayes resignation. A plaque for Graham Williams was purchased and put on the seat at the Fountain Head Gardens with a working party of Cllr Bass, White and Powell, the area was cleared and tidied and planted with quite a number of bulbs. The Council has worked with Cllr Shaw (Devon County Council) and Cllr Pook (East Devon District Council) regarding the closure of hospital beds which is still ongoing. A number of Cllrs have been on courses regarding planning and new councillors. The Parish Council is in the process of buying a bench for the Village Hall area and we are also looking to purchase and place a defibrillator at the Fountain Head. We have set aside money to purchase some play equipment for the play area refurbishment. We have also been working with Devon Air Ambulance service to secure a Night Landing facility at the playing field, this is ongoing. We are also in the process of purchasing a Marquee to be stored at the Village Hall to rent to organisations holding events on the field etc. Chris Bass has spent time on the Parish Council's behalf sorting computerised maps with information such as defibrillator points, parking, bus stops, post codes etc to be put on the Parish Web site. The Parish Council reported a number of potholes to Devon County Council and are currently pursuing works to be carried out at Hazelwood and Berry Barton to Aston. We encourage anyone to photograph and report potholes to Devon County Council on their web site. The Chairman wished to thank Adam Speers (D&C Police) and Rob Skinner (National Trust) for attending Parish Council Meetings when they can and for supplying regular reports. He also wished to thank Cllrs Shaw and Pook for their work, advice and reports. He gave his thanks to councillors for attendance at our meetings and Cllr

Fastnedge for stepping in as Vice Chairman when Cllr Bass was not available. He also gave thanks to the Clerk and responsible finance office, Gail Llewellyn for all her hard work and without whom this council would not function.

FINANCE REPORT

Year End Budget 2017/18

EXPENDITURE	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Subs/Training	£150.85	£320.83	£235.54	£383.00
Clerk Wages	£2,332.64	£1,922.33	£2,697.32	£2,179.67
Expenses	£228.53	£345.23	£846.09	£482.51
Insurance	£195.02	£187.67	£216.28	£220.21
Ground Maintenance	£96.90	£96.90	£85.00	£350.00
Allotments	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00	£80.00
Meetings	£123.00	£149.50	£149.40	£158.40
HMRC	£583.00	£699.40	£838.40	£577.80
Payroll	£132.00	£160.00	£340.00	-
S137 (Allowed incurred exp.)	£253.65	£2,279.00	£1,800.13	£189.50
VAT	£65.60	£454.16	£293.23	£28.66
Total	£4,211.19	£6,665.02	£7,551.39	£4,649.75

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
INCOME				
Balance carried forward	£15,765.57	£19,560.41	£21,118.54	£22,872.29
Council Tax Grant	£288.00	£245.00	£179.00	£79.00
Precept	£6,712.00	£7,255.00	£7,500.00	£7,500.00
Donations/Sponsorship	£1,000.50	£300.00	£1,622.14	£189.50
Bank Interest	£5.53	£5.43	£4.00	£2.94
VAT	£-	£417.72	£-	£26.66
TOTAL INCOME	£23,771.60	£27,783.56	£30,423.68	£30,801.88

Council Running Costs	£1,163.55	£3,883.29	£7,551.39	£3,045.18
Staffing Costs	£3,047.64	£2,781.73	£3,875.72	£2,757.47
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£4,211.19	£6,665.02	£11,427.11	£5,802.65
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE	£19,560.41	£21,118.54	£22,872.29	£27,946.20

The Net Income/Expenditure is the total Income less expenditure but not including staffing costs.

Income includes £79.00 Council Tax Grant and £7,500.00 Parish Precept.

Expenditure includes as an example (including VAT where applicable): £50 to the Citizens Advice East, £100 donation toward the Parish Magazine, the maintenance of the Fountain Head Garden and bench and the War Memorial and hanging baskets for the Village Hall, totalling £350.00. 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.

Within this year's expenditure it was expected that we would have installed a bench £500.00, bought a gazebo £1,000.00 and donated £3,000.00 towards the new play equipment at the Village Hall, these projects are ongoing and are expected to be completed within 2018/19. Therefore, a total commitment of £3,500.00 has been put by to account for this future expenditure. We also had hoped that we would have got further forward with a Devon Air Ambulance night landing site which would be in the region of £10,000, this we are continuing with and hoping to obtain contribution funding from the Parishes Together Fund which we are working toward in 2018/19.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

- a) **DCC – Cllr Shaw – Division:** Seaton & Colyton, **Parish:** Beer ; Branscombe; Colyton; Farway ; Northleigh ; Offwell ; Seaton ; Southleigh ; Widworthy

County Councillor's Annual Report, 2017-18

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Community hospital beds and health in our communities. I pledged that if elected I would do all I could to save the beds in SEATON and HONITON community hospitals. Sadly, although I launched a last-minute attempt to revive the Judicial Review of the Seaton decision and then took a thoroughly-documented case to the Health Scrutiny Committee in July, that committee voted 7-6 against referring the closures to the Secretary of State for Health. The beds in both hospitals then closed in August.

Since then I have been working to maintain and expand the provision of outpatient services in the two hospitals, and have been involved in both the Seaton and Honiton 'Health Matters Conversations' launched by the RD&E. At the County Council, I raised the protection of community stakes in our hospitals with the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Communities living with traffic and speeding. One of the worst local problems is the terrible pressure of traffic on the A35 on people living near the road in WILMINGTON. I have been working closely with Widworthy Parish Council and the A35 Action Group to get Highways England to implement traffic calming measures including crossings in the village.

In COLYFORD and SEATON, I have also been working with Speedwatch teams, residents and Neil Parish MP to obtain traffic calming measures. A pedestrian refuge is being built in Seaton Down Hill and we have agreement for a crossing and a VAS sign in Colyford. I am still working for improvements in Harbour Road and Pebble Beach.

Our deteriorating roads. Government cuts to County Council funding have been felt most strongly in Highways, and the Council admits that rural roads are deteriorating. I have worked closely with our new Neighbourhood Highways Officer and we have achieved significant repairs in BRANSCOMBE, COLYTON, SOUTHLEIGH and FARWAY. I have allocated next year's Pothole Action Fund to roads in NORTHLEIGH, OFFWELL and SEATON, and further funds are now certain to be available in 2018-19.

Traffic restrictions and signage. I have worked with councils in BEER, COLYTON and SEATON to get parking restrictions and signage right.

Bus cuts. I pressed DCC to subsidise the old X52 from COLYFORD, SEATON and BEER to Exeter. Although they refused at the time, they later supported Axe Valley's new 52 service.

Stop Line Way cycle and walking route. I have been working with local people in SEATON and COLYFORD to get the missing section through the Wetlands completed and to explore the possibilities of completing the section from Colyford to Axminster.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In the 11 months since my election,

- I have got to know our 9 parish councils, their members and clerks, and I have attended 55 town and parish meetings out of a possible 74.
- I have established new traffic groups, for Seaton, Beer and Branscombe and for the Coly Valley, which meet regularly in the Marshlands Centre and Colyton Town Hall respectively.
- I have met and corresponded with over a hundred local residents about individual or local problems.

At the County Council, I have attended almost all meetings of

Council: I proposed or spoke on motions on the NHS, 20 MPH speed limits, devolution, Brexit, service cuts and council tax increases, and asked questions about the X52 bus service and social care.

Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee: I contributed on Highways, broadband and mobile coverage, congestion and air quality, policing, libraries, Brexit, etc.

Health Scrutiny Committee: I spoke several times, and proposed items for the agenda on community hospitals and the Accountable/Integrated Care System.

East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee

I also spoke on some of the above issues at Cabinet meetings.

Locality Budget: I have distributed the £10,000 budget for 2017-18 among the following beneficiaries:

Seaton: The Gateway Theatre (new seating); Friends of Seaton Library (garden project); Seaton Town Council (tourism signage).

Colyton: Promote Colyton Group (Civil War event); Colyton AFC (new mower); Reece Strawbridge Centre (film equipment).

Colyford: Vehicle-Activated Sign on the A3052 near Gully Shoot (to be erected).

Offwell: Parish Council (housing survey); Offwell Playground.

I also made small grants to the South West Youth Games and the Transport for Your Community Spring Conference. A small amount has been carried over to 2018-19, and applications in the pipeline include: Beer signage, Beer FC playground, Colyton Memory Cafe, Living Memories, Colyton Library, Colyton Peace Memorial Playing Fields, and Southleigh defibrillator. Details of the budget and application form (to be returned direct to me) are at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-nav/locality-budgets/>

Communication: Email cilmartinshaw@gmail.com

Website: www.seatonmatters.org (you can sign up to receive email updates)

Facebook: County Councillor Martin Shaw. Twitter: @MartinShawEDA

Telephone 01297 20167 / 07972 760254

b) EDDC – Cllr Pook - Ward member for Beer and Branscombe

East Devon District Council is the largest district council in Devon and collects Council Tax from almost 68,000 homes. For the last financial year, our collection rate was the highest collection rate in Devon and nationally we are ranked as eighteenth best for collecting Council Tax – out of 325 local authorities across the country collecting 99.1%. East Devon also has the lowest Council Tax arrears per dwelling out of all Devon, Cornwall and Somerset authorities.

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 country side 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.

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

	17/18	17/18
Net expenditure	£13,697,720	£14,523,910
Less grants and reserves	£2,386,930	£2,734,260
Budget requirement	£11,310,790	£11,789,650
Funded by		
Revenue support grant	£580,000	£126,000
Business rates CT support	£2,441,000	£2,571,000
Other granth	£802,810	£1,067,900
Council tax requirement	£7,486,980	£8,024,750
Council tax up £5.00 per band D EDDC CT for Band D 136.75		

Branscombe issues: the most common interaction I have with EDDC on behalf of Branscombe is either planning, council housing or bins. All are essential and all cause concern and delight in various measures. For councillors the quality of planning applications passed on electronically for consideration by the PC continues to cause problems, this is being resolved and should not impact on the quality of decision.

Council housing and affordable housing for local people is an issue for all villages. Until a suitable site for either council or community-built affordable housing can be identified this will continue to be a contentious issue. The current affordable site above the Fountain Head has stalled primarily, I believe, due to construction costs on a problematic site and the difficulty in finding a partner housing provider. The s157 agreement safeguards to some extent, existing and some “right to buy” council houses, as houses for local people or people working in the area. Allocation is primarily needs related and until a process taking high local rental cost, driven by holiday home ownership into the decision it will continue to be difficult to prioritise local people living in high cost rental houses over people from outside the area with demonstratable housing need. The real solution is to identify a developable site that can be specifically allocated to people with a local connection.

On a positive note the new refuse contract which has been in operation for over a year now is working well with 3-week collection and increased recycling now up to 59%. The green waste collection has now started as a paid for service.

District Issues

Relocation; probably the most major change in EDDC. Exmouth Town Hall now fully renovated and staff now working from there. The sale of the Knowle building finally completed with the approval of the Pegasus Life planning application. The new building “Blackdown House” is progressing well and will be in use by the end of 2018

Exmouth Queens Drive. This major regeneration project is now underway having completed preparation of the site. Temporary uses were established last year including sightseeing wheel and this and others will be repeated this year. Wayne Hemmingway is contributing to consultation and design of the new water centre. Cllr Evans asked how the Green Bins were going. Cllr Pook advised that at £2/week they needed £19k to make the system work and it appears to be working OK.

c) Police Report

Annual Report for April 2017 – March 2018.

CRIMES ARE DOWN – OVER HALF!

Despite the way we now record some crimes, this has bucked the trend surprisingly, *Violence without injury* for example (includes unwanted / abusive phone messages, texts etc) but this has stayed low in Branscombe.

Also Vehicle Offences also include the main roads, so not always related to the village!



Devon & Cornwall Police

Building safer communities together

Crimes Recorded - 01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018 - kn3f

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018	Recorded Crime 01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017	Recorded Crime % Difference
Violence with Injury	0	1	-100.0%
Violence without Injury	2	1	100.0%
Other Sexual Offences	0	1	-100.0%
Burglary Dwelling	1	1	0.0%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	2	4	-50.0%
Vehicle Offences	3	8	-62.5%
Shoplifting	0	1	-100.0%
Other Theft	4	8	-50.0%
Criminal Damage	0	3	-100.0%
Public Order Offences	1	2	-50.0%
Total	13	30	-56.7%

Non Notifiable Offences | 0 | 3 | -100.0%



Devon & Cornwall Police

Building safer communities together

Incidents Recorded - 01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018 - kn3f

Incident Closing Category	Incidents - 01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018	Incidents - 01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017	Incidents % Difference
Anti Social Behaviour	4	4	0.0%
Crime Not Recorded	0	1	-100.0%
Crime Recorded	6	10	-40.0%
Public Safety	15	13	15.4%
Transport	12	19	-36.8%
Total	37	47	-21.3%

d) National Trust – Rob Skinner, Lead Ranger Devon Countryside

Branscombe National Trust Ranger Report for BPC AGM 2018

Beach activities & Mill Open days:

Manor Mill open days continue to be very successful, opening the working mill every Sunday between the 1st weekend in April and the last weekend in Oct and Wednesdays through the school summer holidays. Visitor numbers are around 1200 visits annually. We also run children's beach activities on Branscombe beach on Sundays and bank holidays throughout the summer months (April to end of sept), promoting our '50 things to do before your 11^{3/4}' program (50 activities to get children out into the outdoors). These trust lead activities are also proving to be very popular with the visitors on the beach.



Both the Mill open days and the beach activities are predominately run by volunteers and in 2018 we have made a big push to expand these two engagement volunteer teams. We have a handful of new recruits but are still actively recruiting – please get in touch with the Ranger team if you or know someone that is interested.

Branscombe Orchards:

This February the National Trust ran an orchard pruning course in the Millennium (Nr Manor Mill) and Branscombe (Old Bakery) orchards. In this day long course we covered fruit tree maintenance, predominantly looking at the correct way to prune. It was an incredibly well received event with people coming from all around Branscombe. We will be looking to expand this in coming years with an annual event, which in turn will lead to ongoing maintenance for the fruit trees of the Branscombe Orchards.

Branscombe orchard & triangle:

Grassland areas around the Triangle (on the valley path) and the Branscombe orchard are now both being monthly cut throughout the summer months to keep on top of the weedy species. This work has been let to a contractor with an aim to get on top of the lush, vigorous weed species, with future thoughts of enhancing the grassland biodiversity with wild flowers. This will not be more aesthetically pleasing but in the long run will be much better for nature conservation in these two grassland habitats.

Forge roofing:

Considerable investment has been made into rethatching the forge this year. Throughout the months of April and early May (2018), local thatchers 'reridged' the roof of the Forge using Comb Wheat grown on National Trust land in Dorset. In the surveys before work commenced it was found that a rare 'Thatch moss' was growing within the thatch. The NT has worked hard in efforts to conserve it by taking a section of old thatch and transplanting it onto a structure in the allotments (parallel to the roof). It's hoped, over time, the thatch moss will find its way back onto the fabric of forge roof thatch.

Routine path works and cutting schedule:

The summer months are a very busy time for the Ranger team, keeping all our miles of path network clear of vegetation and site infrastructure (steps, bridges and signs) in presentable working order. The team have been busy across the whole estate (including Branscombe) throughout the year keeping on top of these annual and routine matters, heavily supported by our team of volunteers without whom we could not operate.

e) Village Hall – Report by Rod Harte - Chairman

David thanked Helen Fielden for the 8 years she had been chairperson for the Village Hall, she is still involved with the new Play Park. He gave thanks to Peter Wilson, Ralph Cox, Glenn Everett and David Lamb and Nicky Lawings for cleaning. The Poster Board is being repaired and they have had excellent feedback regarding the Social Club and Bar. There had been a break in but nothing was taken only damage to doors etc., which have been repaired with increased security by Messrs Sweetland and Fielden. They are continuing their work on the play park and had to have a re think due to the cost. They have now got enough funds available to start works in October and will be looking towards the Spring for the refurbishment to the tennis courts. He reported that they have initiated Gift Aid and gave thanks to Abi Fuell for the work on the Christmas Fair and the proceeds which went towards the Play Park.

f) Branscombe Project – not present

g) Branscombe St. Winifred's PCC – Ross Willmington – Church Warden, reported the following:

The PCC has had another busy and eventful year. Highlights have included finally securing the land for the churchyard extension after a 15 year battle with the National Trust and various agencies. The bishop of Crediton consecrated the new area in December, we also held a luncheon party at the church that day.

Our annual church market was revamped as an open day and moved to a new venue at the church last July. It proved very successful with trips up the tower and historic tours added to the usual stalls and refreshments. This year's open day will be on 14th July. We also held an auction of promises and supper in January at the hall which raised another good sum for church funds.

The balancing the books remains a struggle with increasingly less people attending and partaking in regular Sunday services, however our festival and outdoor services remain very well supported. The PCC continues to do our best to keep the church active and in good repair and is thankful for all the support we receive, particularly from the Friends of St Winifred's.

Thankfully we have lots of ideas so what this space for future events!

h) Branscombe Players – Ross Willmington - Chairman, reported the following:

I am pleased to report another successful year for the Players. Our year involved running stalls at the village Harvest and Christmas Fairs.

We then headed in Pantomime season – with an exciting, new pantomime written and directed by Emily Miller. The show was a huge triumph but of my 25 years in the Players I don't recall more difficult rehearsal period dogged by members dropping out because of illness and other personal reasons. However we weathered the storm and the show went on. Special thanks to those that stepped into the breach and saved the show. We performed once again to marvellous full houses packed into the

village hall – the feedback has been extremely positive and we all enjoyed a happy pantomime.

We have made donations totalling nearly £500 to various charities, a great figure for a small group. Thoughts now turn to the year ahead and we will soon be sitting down to think through our plans.

i) **Branscombe Primary School** – Not present.

j) **Craft Club** – Cllr Bass read out the following on behalf of Joan Pike:

Thanks to the generosity of the Masons Arms providing our venue we have had another successful and enjoyable year. We have supported several community projects such as Fish and Chips baby clothes, fidget muffs, repairs to the altar cloth and recently parachutes for the cuddly toys needed for the The Church Market in July. We also all pursue our individual crafts projects and hope some will be entered in the Autumn Fayre again this year. We have had several new members and we all enjoy the coffee, chat and lunch which makes the whole day a lovely time of getting together with friends.

k) **Royal British Legion (Men's and Women's Section)** – Ralph Cox:

The aim of the Royal British Legion is to raise awareness to both serving, ex service and dependants who may benefit from health and welfare support. Many military charities alone with the RBL have launched a "Veterans Gateway" contact centre along with 21st century IT communications (i.e., smartphones/apps etc.) for younger people.

We now have Branch Community Support which requires us to note what we do at local level and here in Branscombe we record 24 Home, 2 Hospital visits and 9 telephone buddies also 2 bereavement/funeral support in the last quarter.

A small branch with some loyal active members who look out to our ex service members / families along with the Church Visitors Group.

To mark what turned out to be the last 100 days of the Great War on the 8th August is the start of the national "THANK YOU" campaign to all those who did not return but more importantly to the ones who did come back and first went back to work and got on with their lives. Also GP90 is going back out to the Somme area on behalf of everyone with 1152 Standards and 1152 Wreaths to march through the Menin Gate in Ypres on the 8th at 12 noon. There were over 70 men/boys who made it back and it's just as important for them and their families.

We are going to produce a "Roll of Honour" recording them all to be displayed somewhere in the Village. Those names will be read out on Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial before the 12 who did not make it home.

Also along with the "THANK YOU" this centenary year of the end of the Great Wars there is also "Lights On" 7pm the Bells ring again and a Beacon on the beach with the National Trust.

A very busy day as the 11th November is Remembrance Sunday thank you. Our Village Poppy Appeal last year raised £1,689.49 again and thanks to everyone who helped to achieve it.

- l) **Thursday afternoon Club** – Cllr Bass read out the following on behalf of Annette Freathy - Secretary:

The Club has between 40 and 50 members and has continued to meet every Third Thursday of the month in the Village Hall. We have also gone on three outings. Everyone is welcome at any of our meetings.

- m) **Branscombe Cricket Club** – Not in attendance.

- n) **Branscombe C of E School PTFA** - Abi Fuell – Chairperson of PTFA

The PTFA have had another good year fundraising funds for the children of the school. Back in March we held another very successful quiz, with 17 teams entering. We have our biggest event coming up in September, at the Harvest Fair where we will be supplying refreshments again from the Pavilion. We have held a few cake sales over the year, last one being last week at Maypole dancing. We have helped out with school trips for both class 1 and 2. Class 1 went to Bicton Park for their topic which was about gardens and how things grow and class 2 have a trip organised for a couple of weeks' time to Exeter Museum, as their current topic is Ancient Egypt. We are also paying for transport for class 2 to go to Sidmouth Swimming pool and have 6 swimming lessons. Plans for the future are to replace the buddy bench which is situated in the quiet area in the playground. This is where children can go for a quiet time or want a friend to talk to.

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

David Lamb wished to raise the Play Park and thanked Branscombe Parish Council for contributions. He advised that it may require planning permission, if they can make a case for it to be a joint project, it could be permitted development. Cllr Bass found it unbelievable that we must go back to planning when the play area had been there for so many years. It was agreed that we would assist, and Cllr Pook would investigate this.

Meeting closed at 20.45hrs

Signed..... Date