



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Branoc Hall Social Room (Village Hall) on **THURSDAY 2nd August 2018 at 19.30hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs, Fastnedge (Chair), Bass (Vice Chair), Cox, Pike, White, Powell, Evans Lambert, and Pook (EDDC) and Shaw (DCC)part.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Walford-Howell, PC Adam Speers, Rob Skinner NT

NO. OF PUBLIC: 0

PRESS: None

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Gail Llewellyn

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2018 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: PC Speers advised by email the following:

The Parish Council wished to raise that fact that some people have been experiencing very long delays of up to 40minutes when calling the 111 number. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the chief constable for Devon and Cornwall to raise this important issue.

0 Crimes

3 Logs –

- Tractor fire / sudden death
- Suspect item on beach (not explosives in the end)

Myself and Mike attended the school sports day to see all 3 schools this month (invited by head Mrs Gray) and it was a lovely afternoon.



Crimes Recorded - 01/07/2018 to 29/07/2018 - kn3f



Incidents Recorded - 01/07/2018 to 29/07/2018 - kn3f

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/07/2018 to 29/07/2018	Recorded Crime 01/07/2017 to 29/07/2017	Recorded Crime % Difference
Total	0	0	-

Incident Closing Category	Incidents - 01/07/2018 to 29/07/2018	Incidents - 01/07/2017 to 29/07/2017	Incidents % Difference
Crime Recorded	1	1	0.0%
Public Safety	2	0	-
Transport	0	1	-100.0%
Total	3	2	50.0%

National Trust: Rob Skinner gave his apologies and the following update:

My report is pretty much the same as the last for the previous meeting, with one addition, which is that works on the valley path have now been completed in all three areas where we had problems with drainage. This has resulted in a completely dry trail and I hope everyone agrees it is an improvement for locals of the village and visitors.

Please also bring the attached letter to the attention of the meeting regarding the sale of Hillend and the National Trusts position in the sale of this property.

The other two matters you brought to my attention (dog bin and Hazelwood hedge), have already been responded to in a previous email to you.

Any further matters arising, please forward them on and I will respond as soon as I can.

Hazelwood hedge has now been cut.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

Cllr Shaw (DCC) – Cllr Shaw provided the following report for August:

County Councillor's Report, August 2018

County Council meeting: Wilmington A35, sexual harassment and Brexit

On 19 July, Devon County Council approved the proposal that they will be involved in discussions with Highways England to secure new proposals for improvements and the earliest possible implementation. I was also involved, with members of the A35 Action Group and the local Speedwatch team, in a BBC Spotlight report on the Wilmington case.

The Council also approved the decision of the Standards Committee finding Cllr Brian Greenslade, former Lib Dem leader of the Council, guilty of sexual harassment and bullying 10-15 years ago. I am satisfied that the Council has taken this extremely seriously and has taken all measures possible against Cllr Greenslade, but we cannot require him to relinquish his seat. In the meeting, I supported the protest by Cllr Emma Brennan against his continuing presence in the Council.

The Council also discussed the threat, as a result of a recent parliamentary vote, that the UK may lose frictionless customs arrangements with the EU. I warned of the threat to 44 per cent of our trade - and more of Devon's, including agricultural goods - which a 'no deal' Brexit represents. However the Council majority voted again not to take a position on the issue.

Speed Limits and Highways Maintenance Working Groups

I am on both these working groups at County Hall and attended the first meeting of the Speed Limits Group on 17 July. I will report on our findings in due course.

Colyton Traffic Group

I chaired this meeting on 23 July with representatives of 5 parishes. Neighbourhood Traffic Officer, Steve Kelly, updated us on forthcoming repairs between Northleigh Cross and Offwell Brook, below Drummerstone Cross, Offwell, and at Kingsdon, Colyton. Councillors made vigorous representations about other issues which I shall be following up with Steve..

Colyford Vehicle Activated Signs

I may be tempting fate, but I am informed that the first sign (funded by my Locality Budget) will finally be erected by 1 August. The new pole required for the second sign is now in place, so when Colyton Parish Council and Colyford organisations have finalised funding arrangements, it can be ordered. I am told design work on the crossing is continuing.

Seaton Down Hill speeding

I met with local residents on site and have made further suggestions about enforcement and signage to the police and Highways respectively.

The future of the community hospitals: decision postponed but the threat remains

On 10 July, I attended a briefing on the Devon NHS Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP), at which county councillors were told that there was 'no rush' to decide the

future of community hospital buildings. Contrary to Dr Simon Kerr's suggestion in April that decisions would be made in July, Dr Sorja Manton (STP) said there was no early deadline. She also confirmed to me that no decisions will be made about buildings until after the conclusion of the 'community conversations' such as Seaton Area Health Matters and Honiton Health Matters.

However Dr Manton was launching the STP's two-year report, which report states: *We know a large amount of space in our community hospital buildings is underused. The revenue cost of our community hospital estates is in the order of £20 million; money the NHS could use to improve other services. Working with other public sector partners, as part of the One Public Estate initiative, we will review the space that is required to deliver care, and plan to consolidate the number of sites to free up estate and generate money, which can be re-invested in technology and infrastructure.* The threat of closure remains and the issue is likely to come to a head around the end of the year.

Seaton Area Health Matters goes forward, developing case for local hospital

I have attended several meetings which have helped the new Seaton Area Health Matters forum take shape (I am also kept informed of Honiton Health Matters). With Dr Mark Welland (Chair of the League of Friends), Geoff Pook (EDDC, Beer), Jack Rowland (Seaton Town Council) and Victoria Parry (HALFF), I am a member of a working group which is considering how the health needs of the area, services which can be provided locally and the community hospital can be matched.

I was informed by the RD&E earlier in the month that they were taking stock of local services and would share the data in a conversation with the local forums, with a view to decisions about the future organisation of services in local communities. However I have heard unofficially that this will not now happen, which is disappointing, and I am seeking clarification.

Honiton maternity services

It also appeared from the STP meeting that midwife-led maternity services are unlikely to be restored in Honiton. References were made to staffing difficulties and also safety issues in case of difficulties during birth.

Seaton care home graded 'Outstanding' by Care Quality Commission

The Check House in Seaton has been rated 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission. I have written to Robin Cannon of Cannon Homes to congratulate him and his staff.

NHS Support worker jobs available now in Sidmouth, Seaton and Axminster

Richard Anderson, the Health and Social Care Community Services Manager for Sidmouth, Axminster and Seaton, has asked me to publicise the fact that NHS Support Worker jobs are available now in the three towns. Good rates of pay, pension etc. Ring Julia Blake on 07592 579919.

Traffic and Highways Issues reported by Cllr Shaw –

1. DCC are trialling a different policy for potholes, if it is one that could deteriorate it will be done within 28 days. Anything else as usual only applies to Cat A and B Roads therefore does not cover our problems.
2. Traffic Coly Valley meeting – roads are in reasonable condition being de-dressed, bad road cost a lot to repair therefore they are addressing the ones that are less expensive first.
3. It is acknowledged that there are communication problems around DCC and their contractors and they are working on improvements.
4. The bottom line with all this is that there is not enough money.

5. Hospitals - £20m being wasted on the upkeep of unused facilities.
6. Kings Down Tail Hedge – now grown and the owners have been told to cut it back.
7. Hazlewood – Paul Downes said it just needs monitoring, no one at the meeting was happy with this and they felt that it was a recipe for disaster, DCC should prepare themselves for a corporate manslaughter claim if there were to be any unthinkable issues occurring in this area.
8. Elverway Flooding – this is with the contractors and programmed in.
9. Cllr White advised that Berry Barton to Ashton Road is still very bad.
10. Cllr Bass willing to do a course on repairing the potholes.

Cllr Pook (EDDC) – Reported that the beach toilets have now been opened and the old ones will be closed at the end of the season. The Shore Management Plan for Sidmouth and Seaton is continuing with Cllr Pook on the committee and he advised he would raise any issues that was felt would affect Branscombe to protect our beach. Good news regarding the public waste bins which are now being emptied regularly.

Village Hall – They are waiting for a final quote from the play equipment suppliers. They are looking for a new Treasurer or Booking Clerk as David Lamb would take it on if someone took on the bookings.

Allotments – Cllr Lambert reported that they all look like they have been abandoned and he has been in touch with the allotment people. We should terminate the license with NT as soon as possible. There are one or two bits of equipment and a shed, that we could offer to the NT if no claimants. Cllr Lambert agreed to follow this up in the Parish Magazine and the Clerk will put this on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

Bus Stop Bench – This has now been delivered to Berry Barton and Cllrs White and Bass are arranging its installation.

Play Equipment – See above re Village Hall update.

Telephone Kiosk – The Clerk has been unsuccessful in obtaining information on public WIFI suppliers from other local parish councils. The Clerk is continuing to investigate and send the Chairman the information he provided to the Clerk.

Defibrillator – The Clerk is putting together options. The Sea Shanty one is apparently out of date and needs replacing as well. This will be taken into consideration when costing however it is not clear currently who supplied it.

Gazebos and Marquee – The Clerk had received an invoice for £715 inc VAT. As it is needed to pay for this in advance it was agreed that we would pay for this and notify on next meeting agenda.

Air Ambulance Night Landing – Toby Russell from the DAA will be attending future meetings and is currently testing the signal strength for the remote switches for the lights although Cllr Cox advised that he was having trouble with the testing equipment. The Clerk will chase him up.

PLANNING

Planning Update – The update was noted.

Appeals - None

Planning Applications – None

Enforcement – These were noted.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE - None

HIGHWAYS:

See under Cllr Shaw's Report.

FOOTPATHS: Cllr Powell advised that she will send a note to Rob at NT regarding the Borne Hill up to Woods, 1st Stile before you to the Woods FP6.

CORRESPONDENCE:

East Devon AONB Draft Partnership Plan 2019/24 – Noted.

FINANCE:

Finance Update 2018/19:

the Clerk advised the following:

Grand Total	-	£29,933.56
Total Income for the year	-	£3,781.43
Total Expenditure for the year	-	£1,341.88
Balance for the year	-	£2,439.55

Cheques – None

PART B MATTER – None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

- Help with for volunteer to assist the Clerk has been published in Parish Magazine.
- Cllr Bass asked if we could send a card to Terry Flays family thanking him for his work for the village.
- Cllr Evans raised concerns about the bin collection an extra one additional brown bin for cardboard use only are a problem regarding space to put them. Cllr Pook advised that it is not possible to use another bin/bag separate to glass and cardboard due to contamination and being trialled.
- Cllr Lambert advised that the National Trust Walk last Sunday was not well attended due to the weather with only one person arriving. She was given a guided tour of the Mill which she was pleased to receive instead.
- Cllr Lambert raised the issue in the CPRE latest newsletter regarding Fracking and wished to draw Councillors' attention to this.
- Cllr Lambert advised that the hedge cutting at Culverwell is still not done and they have been asked to do it. Cllr Powell will speak to them.
- Cllr Fastnedge advised that the temporary help for the clerk should be put on the web site.

The next meeting is due on 13th September 2018 @ 18:30, in Branoc Hall (Village Hall).

Meeting closed at 20.55hrs

Signed..... Date