

BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held online via ZOOM platform on **THURSDAY 25th June 2020 at 19.00hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Fastnedge (Chair), Evans, Lambert, Pegler, Pike, Powell and White, and Cllr Pook (EDDC) and Shaw (DCC).

APOLOGIES: Cllr Bass (Vice Chair) and Mr Skinner (NT).

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: One.

PRESS: None.

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Nicky Langley.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 13th May 2020, as previously circulated, was approved by Council and will be signed by the Chair as a true record at the next face-to-face meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS:

a) Police: No report received.

b) National Trust: No report received.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

a) DCC: The previously received report had been circulated. Cllr Shaw had put forward Devon as a beacon council for the first phase of the track and trace software. It was noted that half the COVID-related death toll in Devon occurred in care homes. He reported that e-consultations were being successful, but was concerned that such a method may exclude those without good internet access. The Traffic Group is scheduled to meet online on 6th July 2020.

b) EDDC: Parish Council was thanked on behalf of all the voluntary efforts undertaken in Branscombe. The Council is actively working the situation with Bucknall Close (see item 7a). Cllr Pook noted that there were grants available for installation of electric vehicle charging points and spoke of the changes with the Democratic Alliance formed within EDDC.

c) Village Hall: First meeting planned since lockdown will occur on 16th July. Cllr Pike was asked to raise the clearing of the culvert by the Village Hall (item 9a) at the next meeting such that the work both upstream and downstream could be coordinated with the National Trust. The Clerk will approach the NT to determine a ballpark figure for cost.

MATTERS ARISING:

a) Placement of tenants in Bucknall Close: Cllr Powell thanked Cllr Pegler for his efforts so far. Chair has drafted a letter to EDDC in support of the complainants.

b) Climate Emergency: This item will be carried forward.

c) Parish Emergency Plan: The draft will be circulated before the next meeting.

d) Road Wardens: Eight buckets of Viafix had been received and three have been used to date as a trial on Village roads. The performance was good. Chris Bass will continue his sterling voluntary efforts by creating a system to map potholes and allow them to be addressed by the Parish Council / reported to DCC, prioritised and tracked. Chair proposed that the Clerk be given authority to purchase 10 additional tubs as needed, seconded by Cllr Powell, AIF.

e) Electric vehicle charging point at Village Hall: Will be carried forward until face-to-face meetings are possible so that Chair can discuss the principle with the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Pegler will discuss the possibilities of grants with Cllr Pook.

f) Website accessibility: BPC website needs to meet regulations or have a statement of intent in place by September 2020. Chris Bass is again assisting with this as original website designer and is working through the process. BPC is close to being compliant but may need to use the services of a paid consultant. Although this is understood and approved in principle, the actual cost will be brought to and approved in a future meeting as applicable.

g) Update website with tribute to Gail Llewellyn: Approved in principle; Clerk to draft appropriate wording and place on website.

h) Further electrical improvements to DAA installation: MAT Electrics has fixed the issue whereby the landing lights could be isolated at the Tennis Court; Chair will sign grant form.

i) Second home owners breaking COVID regulations: While the Chair sympathises with those potentially affected by persons flouting the rules, he believes Cllr Lambert has fulfilled his duty to the full extent possible by reporting the excursion to the Police.

j) Contribution for Branscombe Volunteers: Clerk presented a paper whereby the £495 grant received from DCC could be supplemented by BPC in order to buy locally produced face coverings that could benefit the whole community. Chair proposed this paper be supported, seconded by Cllr Evans, AIF.

PLANNING:

a) Update: Noted.

b) Applications, Appeals & Enforcement:

i None.

HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS:

a) The Village Hall contribution to clear the culvert will be brought up at their AGM.

b) Proposed road closure from Higher Barn to the Old Cider House on 7-11 Sept 2020 – noted.

c) No action will be taken on the suggestion of polite notices for parking in Weston and similar for reduced speeds through the Village.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Reallocation of road space for active travel: not largely applicable to Branscombe, no comment.

b) Invite to Councillor Advocate Scheme (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner): Cllr Pegler was nominated.

- c) Nominations for Queen’s Birthday Honours: noted and one proposed candidate was declined.
- d) Impacts and Use of Devon's Bus Network: online survey will be circulated via BPC FB page.

FINANCE:

a) Finance Update 2019/20:

Total receipts for the year	£ 4,349.64
Total payments for the year	£ 3,567.44
Difference	£ 782.20
Current balance	£ 24,583.53

b) Graham Walford-Howell completed his review of finances for 2019/2020 financial period and found no errors.

c) Chair will sign Form P11D HMRC Benefits in Kind on behalf of the Clerk.

- d)i. Clerk will pass AGAR/exemption certificate to Chair in order to obtain wet signatures.
 - ii. The 2019/2020 accounts were approved by the Council with AIF. Draft accounts will be passed to the Chair to sign.
 - iii. The public inspection date will commence on or before 01/09/20 for 30 working days.

e) Cheques Signed:

- i. Chq. No. 1052 - £180.00 – MAT Electrics (for work in 2019)
- ii. Chq. No. 1053 - £449.64 – MAT Electrics (for work in 2020)
- iii. Chq. No. 1054 - £1,156.20 – Clerk’s wages & expenses (inc. purchase of Viafix for potholes)

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

a) Regarding asking EDDC to extend the dates that holiday parks, etc can open for the year to make up for the deficit experienced due to COVID-19; to be clarified with Cllr Bass.

b) Cllr Pegler asked if BPC could follow the lead of Sidmouth Town Council and encourage business growth in the Village; Chair felt this was a two-edged sword by encouraging visitors as most businesses are leisure related. Post meeting note: Cllr Pook asked any businesses not yet in receipt of COVID-related government grants to get in touch with him.

c) Cllr White reported that the public footpath near Littlecombe Shoot was out of use due to a landslip; “path closed” signs are in place. He also reported a tree down near the airfield bridle path. This had already been called into DCC.

d) Cllr Lambert mentioned the state of Footpath 18 leading up to Hill Arrish. This section needs urgent clearing and cutting back for walkers. This will be reported to DCC by the Clerk.

The next meeting will be called as business dictates and notice will be placed on the website, BPC Facebook page and with EDDC.

Meeting closed at 20.40 hrs.

Signed..... Date