

# BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held online via ZOOM platform on **THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 19.00hrs.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Fastnedge (Chair), Cox, Evans, Lambert, Pegler, Pike and Powell, and Mr Skinner (NT).

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Bass (Vice Chair) and White.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: None.

PRESS: None.

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Nicky Langley.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 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: Cllr Pegler and Clerk declared an interest relating to 20/1212/FUL & 20/2013/LBC - Annexe Higher House Farm, which is their property.

Cllr Cox declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to 20/1418/CPE - Certificate of Lawfulness for Land South of The Bulstone, which is a location where some equipment of his is stored.

## ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS:

**a) Police:** Report received and noted. Adam Speers will shortly be replaced by Inspector Groves and the police report may only be received quarterly thereafter.

**b) National Trust:** NT attended the meeting and reported on efforts made to maintain paths on NT properties; the Manor Mill path will be addressed at the end of the summer holidays, at which time the bridge on the triangle will also be attended to. The coronavirus pandemic has hit the NT significantly so cost savings are being undertaken, and the Trust is taking advantage of the furlough scheme so will not be fully up to speed until the autumn. The pandemic has also resulted in the Old Bakery temporarily changing to a self-catering unit. NT is reviewing ash trees in the Parish for die back and up to £22,000 worth of work has already been identified in Branscombe and Weston. (Also, see items REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS c) and HIGHWAYS a.)

## REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

**a) DCC:** The previously received report had been circulated. DCC will be approached for potential contributions from the available locality budget.

**b) EDDC:** Belated apologies were received.

**c) Village Hall:** AGM is planned in the Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> August. NT reported antisocial problems with visitors using nearby open areas as bathrooms and asked when the Village Hall toilets may reopen; it was reported that they cannot open at present because of the burden of more regular cleaning due to coronavirus.

## MATTERS ARISING:

**a) Climate Emergency:** Clerk will write to Cllr Shaw to seek an update on what the Parish Council may do to address DCC's declaration.

**b) Parish Emergency Plan:** The draft was circulated before the meeting and was well received. Cllr Bass made comment and Cllr Pegler attended an online Devon Communities Zoom Meeting on a related topic.

**c) Road Wardens:** There are 2/8 buckets of Viafix remaining. Clerk has priced bags, and can purchase 14 for the same price as 10 tubs; this will not be done until September when the holiday traffic reduces, when Sellers Wood will likely be the next area to address. Chris Bass is to be highly commended for his survey of over 9 miles of Branscombe highway and the development of heat maps weighted by depth and no. of potholes, which show the most affected roads are in Northern Lane / Green Lane and in Weston. He has made over 100 reports online to DCC, consisting of width x length x depth of pothole together with photographic evidence.

**d) Electric vehicle charging point at Village Hall:** Cllr Pegler has investigated the DCC proposal for multiple charging points around Devon as part of a Nationwide grant. The company will, on their behalf, survey, engineer, install and maintain the EV point, with the only input from the Village Hall being an agreement to lease two parking spaces. Cllr Pegler is awaiting some clarifications and will prepare a presentation for the Hall; proposed by Chair and seconded by Cllr Lambert, AIF.

**e) Website accessibility:** Chris Bass has run a plug-in on the BPC website and identified areas of non-compliance. Some have been addressed, others will be addressed shortly (e.g. online form to be removed). He has approached a consultant, but they have a £6,000 minimum charge so we have been referred to two other companies who work for Parish Councils. These will be asked to quote to address the last few items, further review the whole site, and potentially draft an accessibility statement; proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr Powell, AIF. The Chair took the opportunity to show his appreciation Chris Bass for all his work in terms of time, effort and energy put in to help the Council meet its regulatory obligations. This was fully supported by the rest of the Council.

**f) Contribution for Branscombe Volunteers:** Cllr Cox will discuss any expenses due to Ross Wilmington for setting up the Branscombe COVID Volunteer scheme with him, if the opportunity arises.

## PLANNING:

**a) Update:** Noted.

### **b) Applications, Appeals & Enforcement:**

i) 20/1212/FUL & 20/2013/LBC - Annexe Higher House Farm Branscombe Seaton. Addition of solar panels to roof. (These applications were discussed at the end of the meeting when Cllr Pegler and Clerk left the Zoom call and Chair took over as Host.) Chair proposed that BPC support the application, seconded by Cllr Cox, AIF.

ii) 20/1418/CPE - Certificate of Lawfulness for Land South of The Bulstone. Change of use of agricultural land for siting of caravan (on site in excess of 10 years). Chair proposed that BPC be neutral in regards to this application with AIF.

**c) Correspondence:** To discuss renovations at Rainbow End Cottage, for which planning permission has apparently not been obtained (as reported to the Clerk via the BPC website). The individual who apparently made the report has not been contactable and is not known to the

Council. Therefore, the Council is not in a position to participate further in a discussion regarding this property at this time.

**HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS:**

- a) The NT Is ready to proceed on clearing the culvert apart from checking for access with the relevant tenant, and is awaiting a response from the Village Hall and DCC Highways. Cllr Pike confirmed that the Village Hall had agreed the requested £90 contribution to clear the culvert, and will seek written confirmation from the Hall committee.
- b) The proposed road closure from Higher Barn to the Old Cider House on 7-11 Sept was noted.
- c) The temporary closure of footpath 9a due to a serious landslip was noted.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a) The public payphone removal consultation was discussed and the Clerk will respond by reiterating the arguments for keeping the payphone that were made last year, and add that the phone is an integral part of the Parish Emergency Plan.
- b) The request to make a donation to TRIP was noted and £50 was approved, being the same amount as was donated in 2019.
- c) Cllr Pike reported that he is already investigating costs and alternatives for the damage to the retaining wall at the bus stop on BPC land.
- d) The Chair and the Clerk will arrange a suitable time and agenda for a Zoom meeting with Steve Kelly of DCC to discuss their “Doing What Matters” initiative. The agenda will be passed to all Council members before it is finalised.
- e) Cllr Evans spoke regarding speeding and signage in the Village, and a recent incident where an elderly resident ended up in a roadside hedge. An email was also shared from Colin Leahy, whose pet had sustained serious injuries from a motor vehicle collision. Cllr Lambert recommended that an “unsuitable for large vehicles” sign be placed by the cattle grid before the school on Northern lane. The Clerk will research the size of signs which may be placed on private land without planning permission; however, if necessary, BPC will apply for such permission. It was clarified that BPC may not put highway signs in place; Clerk will respond to Steve Kelly and advise that we do not intend to put such signs on our highways. Chair will work with Clerk to suggest suitable dates for a Zoom meeting, finalise participants and draft a suitable agenda. Post meeting note: signs larger than 0.3m<sup>2</sup> likely need planning permission;  
[https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common\\_projects/4/adverts\\_and\\_signs](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/4/adverts_and_signs)

**FINANCE:**

**a) Finance Update 2019/20:**

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Total receipts for the year | £ 4,500.15  |
| Total payments for the year | £ 4,105.03  |
| Difference                  | £ 395.12    |
| Current balance             | £ 24,196.45 |

**b), c), d)** Schedule for internal / external audit of accounts, as detailed in the agenda, was noted.

**e) Cheques to Sign:**

- i Chq. No. 1055 - £495.00 – from Branscombe Volunteers fund for face coverings
- ii Chq. No. 1056 - £5.00 – BPC make-up invoice BC00001 for face coverings
- iii Chq. No. 1057 - £19.39 – expenses for samples of face coverings payable to K Orchard

iv Chq. No. 1058 - £3.80 – HMRC for PAYE.NIC

v Chq. No. 1059 - £14.40 – Gift for Hazel Dixon’s 100th birthday (expenses payable to Cllr Powell)

Cllrs Cox, Pike & Lambert offered to make themselves available to sign the cheques, which was gratefully accepted by the Clerk.

**f)** The Clerk was approved to pursue the business banking switch offered by NatWest; proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr Cox, AIF.

**MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CHAIRMAN:**

**a)** Cllr Pegler noted that there was no item on this agenda for the ongoing antisocial behaviour at Bucknell Close, and suggested that the Chair follow up his most recent letter.

Cllr Pegler and the Clerk left the meeting and handed over to the Chair to discuss the planning applications in which they have an interest.

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 21.00 hrs.

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