



BRAMSHAW PARISH COUNCIL NEW FOREST, HAMPSHIRE

DRAFT

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 March 2017, AT BRAMSHAW VILLAGE HALL.

Members Present:

Sue Bennison - Chairman (SB)
Martin Vann (Vice Chairman) (VM)
Sally Day (SD)
Kay Harrison (KH)
David Johnston (DJ)
Mark Medley (MM)
Jenny Watts (JW)

Others:

Cllr Edward Heron

031.17 **Apologies for Absence** - to agree any absences of councillors.

NFDC Cllr Diane Andrews had offered her apologies which were accepted.

032.17 **Disclosures of interest.**

There were no disclosures of interest.

033.17 **Minutes** – to agree the minutes of 28th February 2017 as a true record.

Following the correction to the number of members of the public attending (increase from 1 to 3) it was agreed that they were a true record of the meeting held on 28th February 2017.

034.17 **Reports to be received**

- i) County Cllr Edward Heron – he advised the meeting that HCC have appointed Skanska to take over from Amey as the highways maintenance contractor for the county from 1 August 2017. As a company Skanska are keen to grow, particularly in the South of England and impress. The initial contract is for 7 years (starting 1 August 2017) with the option for a 5-year extension on successful completion of the initial contract. The nature of the framework contract will save HCC, time and money by not having to procure separately each time they get the go-ahead for a major project. Skanska have been checked thoroughly on everything from performance and value for money through to their sustainable policies and commitment to apprenticeships, with an emphasis on public service delivery. They are also aware of the unique requirements when working on the roads in the New Forest.

ii)

Cllr Heron also advised the meeting that BBC Radio Solent was running a week of programming on Animal Casualties in the New Forest from Monday 27th March 2017 and suggested to the councillors that they looked at his website - <http://edwardheron.yourcllr.com/> for more information. Unfortunately, because all of this will take place during the 'purdah' period of the May Local Government elections and therefore, to ensure their impartiality is maintained, the BBC is limited in the contributions it can broadcast from those seeking election.

A full copy of Cllr Edward Heron's report on this matter is attached to the end of these minutes.

iii) Councillors' reports.

Sally Day advised she had recently attended at training day at HALC and had found the course very informative and useful. Two particular points she brought to the meetings attention were that the cost of CiLCA training for the new clerk is in the region of £640 and that she had been advised that in HALC's view the minimum number of hours required for a clerk to complete all the tasks now required to meet the requirements of the transparency code is 32 hours/month.

Jenny Watts advised that the canopy and the BBQ area at the village hall were now complete. The kitchen works in the main hall would be taking place between 8th May and 2nd June 2017.

035.17 **Public Forum:** An opportunity for the public to make known the council any issues of concern, or to make comment on items on the Agenda including Planning Applications.
No members of the public present.

036.17 **Planning –**

Planning applications for comment:

[17/00131](#) BELL INN & BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB, LYNDHURST ROAD, BROOK, LYNDHURST, SO43 7HE
Stationing of 6 storage containers for Office use (B1 Class) for a temporary period of 12 months.

Bramshaw Parish Council resolved to recommend permission be granted because they feel this is a sensible, practical, temporary solution that is effective and discrete and will cause no harm to our Parish.

[17/00095](#) 26 CANTERTON LANE, BROOK, LYNDHURST, SO43 7HF
Two storey extension; 2no rooflights; solar panels (Demolition of existing single storey extension).

Bramshaw Parish Council resolved to recommend permission be granted because they believe the proposal is modest, in keeping with the character and appearance of the area and would not harm the neighbouring amenity. It follows that there can be no valid reason to oppose the application.

Planning decisions to note:

[16/01060](#) GREEN DRAGON, BROOK, SO43 7HE – Amended application.
Repair and Display of 2No. non illuminated fascia signs; 1No. illuminated hanging sign; 1No. post mounted double sided illuminated sign. Granted

[16/01059](#) GREEN DRAGON, BROOK, SO43 7HE – Listed Building Consent covering applications 16/01058, 01059 and 01060.
Internal alterations; 5 No. non-illuminated fascia signs etc – Granted.

[16/01058](#) GREEN DRAGON, BROOK, SO43 7HE
New outbuilding; creation of 8No. additional parking spaces and associated landscaping; rear access ramp and steps. Revised proposal put forward with only additional parking spaces – granted.

[17/00021](#) MARICO HOUSE, BROOK HILL, BRAMSHAW, SO43 7JB.
Continued use of land as B1 office; Single storey extension to existing office building. Refused by the NPA at Development Control.

[17/00070](#) STOCKS CROSS HOUSE, FURZLEY COMMON ROAD, BRAMSHAW, SO43 7JH
Creation of new access, closing up existing. Cattle Grid. NO decision at time of putting agenda together.

[16/00793](#) - Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for use of existing outbuilding as a single dwelling. ANNEXE, 2 ROSE COTTAGE, BROOK, LYNDHURST, SO43 7HF. Deemed as unlawful.

iii) **Tree applications for comment:**

None at time of putting agenda together.

vi) **Tree application decisions.** –

v) **Enforcement as per NF NPA's website on 15/02/2017 and as per list published–**

No Enforcement notices in place in Bramshaw.

037.17 Finance and policy

i) Payments for authorisation –

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed by Sue Bennison and Jenny Watts.

Jane Mullan (Clerk) March 2017 -

Salary	£273.50
Home office monthly charge	£ 5.00
Mileage –	£ 10.00
Binders for minutes etc	<u>£ 40.76</u>
	<u>£ 329.26</u>

Chq No 000791 £329.26

HALC (Training Course for Councillor) - Chq No 000792 £108.00

ii) Financial Report.

Expenditure - £6088.50

Income - £7120.00

Bank Balance - £9994.08

iv) Annual review of Bramshaw Parish Council's Standing Orders and Financial Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations.

Sally Day suggested that Bramshaw PC might consider limiting the term that the chairman could stand for – it was agreed that DJ would look further into this and that the item should be on the agenda at the next meeting.

038.17 Annual Assembly – Consideration of format and Agenda for the Annual Assembly 2017 (17th May 2017)

The council resolved to keep a similar format to past years in offering tea and coffee prior to the meeting with possible speakers being PC Richard Williamson, NFDC keeper Sandy Shore, Cllr Edward Heron followed by discussions on plans for next year and an update on Fritham Broadband.

039.17 Consideration of whether Bramshaw Parish Council wish to investigate further the Community Housing Fund from NFDC.

All councillors having had a chance to read the paperwork in more depth felt that this is not relevant to Bramshaw.

040.17 Latest updates on:

Traffic Calming – Due to the purdah period for local council elections, all further discussions have been postponed until after the elections. Tobias Bauer to be asked to attend to the ordinary PC meeting on May 23rd.

Lengthsman scheme- current list attached to the minutes – Clerk to make enquiries with Kevin Bennett as to when he could attend.

Phone box door -Nigel Challis has advised that once there is a period of fine weather, he will arrange to hang the door.

041.17 Consideration of items for next meeting.

Continued review of standing orders.

Approval of Audit papers.

042.17 Confirmation of date of next 3 Parish Council meeting.

25th April 2017, 23 May 2017, 27th June 2017

Meeting closes to public – 9.00 pm

Confidential session

043.17 Appointment of new clerk.

The Council resolved to appoint Lisa Higgins as the new clerk subject to satisfactory references.
The appointment is to commence on 1 May 2017.
The hourly rate for the position is £9.299/hour.

Signed: Dated:

Animal Casualties in the New Forest – Cllr Edward Heron

 22nd March, 2017

BBC Solent will be running a week of programming on Animal Casualties in the New Forest from Monday 27th March, starting with a discussion on the Julian Clegg morning show. This has been prompted by the public debate, reignited by the recent animal casualties on the B3078 (three killed or humanely destroyed in the week commencing 30th January alone), already taking place within the Forest.

Unfortunately, this week of discussions will take place during the 'purdah' period of the May Local Government elections and therefore, to ensure their impartiality is maintained, the BBC is limited in the contributions it can broadcast from those seeking election. This is a shame as I am not aware of this being a party political issue, but I appreciate their position.

This being the situation, I thought that it would be useful to set out my position. I am currently the County Councillor for the Fordingbridge Division of Hampshire County Council (which includes the B3078 between Godshill and Bramshaw), Deputy Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority and a member of the Verderer's Court, and am therefore regularly working with the many organisations and individuals who have and continue to work to reduce the animal casualties.

Partnership working to reduce animal injuries and deaths is a key priority for a number of stakeholders and continues even when not receiving current levels of media and public interest. It is important to recognise work that has already been undertaken over many years to reduce animal casualties and pay tribute to groups, organisations and individuals that have played key roles in this. The Animal Accident Reduction Group, members of which include representatives of the Verderers, National Park Authority and Police amongst others, has been a key driver in reducing animal deaths and its work should be applauded.

Which leads to the need, while obviously being rightly concerned about the level of animal injuries and deaths and in no way being complacent, to recognise that in 2015 casualties were at their lowest since records started. 1962 saw the highest number stock (ponies, cattle, pigs, sheep & donkeys) deaths recorded (until 1985 only deaths, not injuries were recorded) at 313. With 6,484 animal running, this amounted to 4.82% of the stock on the Forest being killed in a single year. 1963, while having slightly fewer deaths (289), with a reduction in the level of stock turned out (4,658) saw this percentage rise to 6.2%.

Thankfully, due to a series of measures since 1963 including the introduction of the 40 mph limits in March 1990 (North) and June 1992 (South), current casualties are at nothing like that level. In 2015, 55 animals were killed. With record levels of stock depastured (10,714) this represented 0.51% of stock.

This is not to say that with 55 deaths and a further 21 injuries to stock, that there isn't more that needs to be done. And while the overall number of casualties have reduced, it is clear that a small number of roads within the Forest are responsible for a large number of the current casualties. In

October 2015 I requested a report be brought to Hampshire County Council's Economy, Transport & Environment Select Committee on 'Animal Casualties on New Forest Roads'.

http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item_ID=7014&tab=2&co=&confidential=

This report confirmed that the majority of animal casualties occur on three routes:

B3078 Cadnam to Godshill (Roger Penny Way)

B3054 Hatchet Pond to Portmore

B3056 Beaulieu to Lyndhurst

This leads to the conclusion that, while work needs to continue to seek to reduce the overall number of animal casualties and that current measures such as the Verderer's funded speed camera van and Commoners Defence Association led education and social media campaign 'Shared Forest' are vital, further targeted measures on these three routes is also required.

In the Spring of 2016 a revised signage scheme was agreed and implemented on the B3078 which, while reducing the number of signposts along the route, increased the number of warning signs by placing them 'back to back' so that they could be viewed by traffic travelling in both directions. At the same time a greater variety of messages were introduced such as "Ponies don't dent they die". It is too soon to establish whether these measures have led to any reduction in casualties as, to account for any statistical anomalies, data needs to be collected over a number of years, but information from speed monitoring (Speed Indicator Devices, traffic monitors and the Police Camera Van), indicate that any effect is likely to be minimal.

I have therefore asked the Executive Member for the Environment & Transport at Hampshire County Council to consider allocating funding for a feasibility study as to the technical, legislative and financial practicalities of installing an average speed camera system on the B3078. At the same time as any feasibility study is undertaken it will also be necessary to consider the potential impact on the landscape and grazing within the Forest and establish whether the proposals would have public support.

I don't believe that average speed cameras on the B3078 will stop all animal casualties, but ensuring adherence to the current 40mph speed limit would certainly help. But this needs to be combined with enforcement of the by-laws against feed of stock, which encourages them nearer to roads; greater awareness amongst drivers of the unpredictability of stock, that they may wander or even run onto the road at any time and the need to pass slow and wide; and the investigation and prosecution of those unspeakable individuals who 'hit and run', who may have also been committing other offences at the time such as drink driving, driving while disqualified or not having insurance.

I am sure the debate will also touch on other measures, such as reducing the 40mph limit to 30mph or fencing more Forest roads. Personally, I don't support a reduction of the New Forest speed limit to 30mph for a number of reasons (which I would be happy to expand upon at another time), but I understand the position of those who do,

Fencing more roads however, is likely to destroy the very things we are trying to protect, reducing the New Forest from ancient open grazing where stock can move freely to a series of large fields. Those who advocate fencing often say that it is time to consider 'radical' solutions and that fencing is the only way to ensure the stocks safety. But what they mean is, that it is the only way to ensure the animals safety but have no adverse impact on drivers.

Not that I would advocate or support it, but closing roads as through routes would reduce traffic, forcing it onto the existing fenced roads such as the A31 and, along with introducing aggressive traffic calming, or even return the surface of some roads to Hoggin (local gravel), it could achieve the same reductions in animal casualties as fencing. These measures would adversely impact the lives of those living and working within the Forest and damage the local economy, but would have no adverse impact on the stock and undoubtedly reduce animal deaths. I don't believe we need to go down the route of considering 'radical' solutions, but if others do, let's not just consider those that are most advantageous to the Forest's human inhabitants.