

## **BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL**



### **Minutes of the Braunton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Chaloners Road, Braunton.**

	<b><u>Present</u></b>	Cllrs: M Shapland in the Chair, R Shapland, V Cann, E Blackmore, M Cann, L Childs, T Kirby and A Bryant.
	<b><u>In attendance</u></b>	Officers: T Lovell, Parish Clerk & RFO  County and District Cllr Pru Maskell  Ben Byrom, Braunton Flood Warden  1 members of the public.
209/2024/25	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>	Received from: Cllr Derrick Spear – personal reasons Cllr Liz Spear – personal reasons Cllr Roger Byrom – prior engagement Cllr David Relph – no reason given
210/2024/25	<b><u>Items not on the agenda, which in the opinion of the Chairman should be brought to the attention of the Council</u></b>	There were none.
211/2024/25	<b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b>	Cllr T Kirby declared a Non Registrable Interest (NRI) in Minute Ref: 217/2024/25 and 224/2024/25, as he is the Council's representative on the North Devon Environmental Trust (NDET).
212/2024/25	<b><u>Public Participation</u></b>	None received.
213/2024/25	<b><u>Request for Dispensation</u></b>	None received.
214/2024/25	<b><u>Minutes</u></b>	a. RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 12 November 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

b. RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 25 November 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

c. RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parks and Gardens Committee Minutes held on the 4 December 2024 be ratified and adopted by the Council.

(NC)

215/2024/25

**Action Sheet**

Cllr A Bryant raised concerns that the extension of the Tarka Trail from Knowle to Willingcott had not made much progress. The first planning application was approved in 2015, and subsequent planning approved in 2018. It has been almost a decade and the extension to this section of the Tarka Trail is still not completed.

RESOLVED: That the action sheet be noted.

(NC)

216/2024/25

**Police Representation**

The Council noted the last police newsletter, their Summer Edition.

Cllr L Childs had attended a recent Councillor Advocate meeting the Police Crime Commissioner will announce the new temporary Police Chief Constable on Friday.

The Clerk updated members regarding the Police Crime Commissioner attending a future Council meeting. Unfortunately, her diary is extremely busy but the Deputy Police Crime Commissioner has accepted the Council's invitation to attend a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk to liaise with the Deputy Police Crime Commissioner and invite him to attend a Council meeting in the New Year, subject to his availability.

(NC)

Cllr T Kirby declared an NRI.

217/2024/25

**Braunton Countryside Centre**

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Ken Rutherford, Chairman of the NDET to speak.

Ken explained that the NDET's Connect 2 Nature Lottery Funding would end on the 31 December 2024. Part of the funding is to provide information boards regarding the Tarka Trail. It is proposed to attach two boards to the exterior of the North facing Countryside Centre building. The boards will be the same size and no bigger than 175cm x 150cm. They will be 3mm thick Aluminium Composite, fixed with screws.

The information boards feature maps of the Tarka Trail, images of wildlife, points of interest on the route and the code of conduct of the trail. At a later date it would be possible to add information about the Knowle to Willingcott route, once completed by the County Council.

Cllr G Bell was impressed by the information boards but felt the project could go further such as improving directional signage to the trail. He also expressed concerns that the lighting in the area was poor and requested if the installation of lighting could be included in the project. Ken Rutherford explained that boards could not be made any larger as they needed to fit between the pillars. He agreed that improved signage and lighting would complement the boards but this was not part of the NDET remit and should be installed by the relevant council as it is their land. The Clerk reminded members that the Braunton Masterplan prioritised improvements to existing waymarking particularly cycle routes.

Members agreed that the information boards were excellent and included a lot of information.

Ken Rutherford explained that the Lottery funding would end in December 2024. The community walks working with Live Well in Braunton have proved to a great success and it is hoped that these will continue when the funding ends. Other benefits of the funding include an increase in volunteers at the Countryside Centre and attracting experienced Trustees to join the NDET. Mark Ward a Marine Biologist from Somerset Wildlife will be working more closely with the Countryside Centre next year.

After serving 10 years Ken Rutherford would be stepping down as Chairman and leaving the NDET, along with his wife Libby. They had both served on the Trust for the past 10 years. The Countryside Centre is financially stable and the Trust is doing well with volunteers. Ken and Libby both feel it is time to let someone else take the lead.

The Clerk informed Ken that the NDET's Parish Grant had been approved and an official letter would be received shortly.

The Council thanked Ken and his wife Libby for their 10 years hard work serving on the NDET.

**RESOLVED:** The Council

- a. approves the information boards and gives consent as Landlord to affix the boards to the exterior of the Countryside Centre building.

b. agreed that if planning permission was required that it would pay any fees incurred.

c. Reinstate Standing Orders.

(NC)

218/2024/25

**Braunton  
Community  
Emergency Plan**

The Chairman welcomed Ben Byrom the Community Flood Warden to the meeting.

During the recent storm Darragh many residents in Braunton and the surrounding area were without power. This identified a need within the Plan as the current Plan did not address prolonged power cuts. Many of the public houses had power during the power cuts. Ben suggested that the Council write to the public houses and ask if they would be willing to provide electricity and a safe refuge for vulnerable people if a similar incident resulting power cuts for a considerable time were to occur.

Ben proposed holding an awareness workshop in the new year. He has contact a colleague in West Down Parish who has experience dealing with emergencies and would be willing to run the workshop. This would raise awareness of the Braunton CEP and might help to recruit more volunteers.

RESOLVED: That the Council

a. writes to public houses in Braunton requested if they would be willing to be in the Braunton CEP, as detailed above.

b. to hold an awareness event open to the public in the New Year. Ben Byrom to help organise the event.

c. thanked Ben Byrom for everything he done for community during storm Bert and Darragh.

d. The Braunton CEP to next be reviewed in October 2025.

(NC)

219/2024/25

**Report from  
Devon County  
Cllr**

The County Cllr's report was circulated prior to the meeting attached as – **appendix one**.

The Council congratulated Devon County Council and the utility companies for working around the clock to get the power back for Braunton residents following storm Darragh.

Cllr L Childs thanked Cllr Maskell for sorting out the signage on Exeter Road regarding works to the disabled parking bay and taxi bay.

Cllr M Cann was impressed with the County Cllr regarding how she had efficiently dealt with local enquires.

220/2024/25

**Report from  
North Devon  
District  
Councillors**

North Devon Cllr Pru Maskell's report was circulated prior to the meeting attached as – **appendix one**.

North Devon Cllr Graham Bell's report was circulated prior to the meeting attached as – **appendix two**.

221/2024/25

**Planning**

(a) 79482

Proposed: Demolition of extensions and erection of new extensions to included raising the roof to create additional accommodation and associated works

Location: Combe Wood Church Hill Lane Knowle  
Braunton Devon EX33 2ND

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Burrell

Moved by Cllr A Bryant, seconded by Cllr M Cann to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval there is no change to the existing footprint and the proposal is in keeping with Policy BE1 in the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan.

(b) 79508

Proposed: Prior notification for erection of one slurry lagoon

Location: Field part Ash Farm Buttercombe Lane  
Braunton

Applicant: Stapleton Farm Ltd

Moved by Cllr G Bell, seconded by Cllr E Blackmore to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval.

(NC)

(c) 79526

Proposed: Demolish single storey garage and conservatory, and erection of a single storey side and rear extension

Location: Vai Hiva Colley Park Road Braunton  
Devon EX33 2AR

Applicant: Mr and Mrs J Taylor

Moved by Cllr R Shapland, seconded by Cllr V Cann to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: Braunton Parish Council have no objections and wishes to recommend approval. The proposed development is in keeping with the area and supported by Policy BE1 and the Design Guide in the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan.

(d) 79294

Proposed: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 76830 (Variation of condition 2 (plans) attached to planning permission 70637 (conversion of barn to create 5 dwellings and associated parking and garaging) to modify: plot 1 & 2 accommodation, garaging to all plots and site layout)) to allow various design amendments  
Location: Park Farm Lower Park Road Braunton Devon EX33 2LQ  
Applicant: Mrs Caroline Chugg

The Council made no comment as the application was incomplete as it did not include information regarding why the variation had been requested.

222/2024/25

**North Devon**  
**Council**  
**Planning**  
**Decisions**

79336

Description: Part-retrospective erection of garage with ancillary accommodation above (amended description)  
Site Address: Combe Wood Church Hill Lane Knowle EX33 2ND  
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Burrell  
Decision: APPROVED  
Decision Date: 22/11/2024

74280

Description: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a tree preservation order in respect of Felling of 3 Beech trees  
Site Address: 17 Tatra Lodge Seven Acres Park Braunton Devon EX33 2PD  
Applicant: Mrs Debra Almond  
Decision: APPROVED  
Decision Date: 28/11/2024

79427

Description: Approval of details in respect of discharge of conditions 7 (LEMP) & 10 (Archaeology) attached to planning permission 72558 (Conversion of 4 barns to form 5 holiday lets)  
Site Address: Land at Inclendon Farm Braunton Devon EX33 1HU  
Applicant: Henry Bury  
Decision: APPROVED

79470

Description: Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission 72778 (Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 57649 to allow amended design) in respect of relocation of garages G3, G4 & G5 and minor house plot boundary modifications plots 21, 22 & 23  
Site Address: Land adjacent 86 Velator Bridge Braunton Devon  
Applicant: Guy Greenfield Architects

Decision: APPROVED  
Decision Date: 28/11/2024

- 223/2024/25      **Finance Matters**      (a) RESOLVED: That the supplier payments on the schedule from 13 November to 10 December 2024 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £5,445.76.  
(b) RESOLVED: That the Council's November 2024 direct debits and standing orders for the sum of £13,904.28 be retrospectively approved.  
(c) RESOLVED: That the PAYE, NI and pension contributions for December 2024 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £19,301.42.  
  
(NC)  
Cllr T Kirby declared an NRI.
- 224/2024/25      **Representatives on Outside Bodies**      Members considered and noted Cllr T Kirby's and Cllr Derrick Spear's report as the Council's representatives on the NDET attached as – **appendix three.**
- 225/2024/25      **Consultation Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting**      The Council considered the Government consultation on Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Council Meetings.  
  
Following discussion, the Council concluded that it was supportive of allowing parish and town councils to meet remotely but did not support Proxy Voting.  
  
RESOLVED: That the Clerk be instructed to respond to the both parts of the consultation expressing the Council's views.      (NC)
- 226/2024/25      **Budget 2025/26**      The Clerk, prior to the meeting, circulated a revised budget 2025/26 including the recommendations from the Parks and Gardens Committee at its meeting held on the 4 December. The proposed amendments to the budget included:
- 8% increase in parking permits.
  - 2.2% increase in employers NI contributions.
  - Reduce 'Elections' budget to £2k, with an earmarked reserve of £6k.
  - Reduce 'Bakehouse Centre' budget to £2k.
  - Reduce 'Public Conveniences' budget to £7k.
  - Reduce 'Motor Fleet; budget to £10k, with an earmarked reserve of £15k.
  - Reduce inflation across all headings to 2% as UK inflation in November was 1.7%.
  - Reduce improvements to Anchor Area to £12,500.
  - Reduce replacement of fences to £1,500.

Following discussion, the Council agreed to increase its precept by 34%. Based on the 2024/25 Council Tax Base (3091), and the estimated increase of 133 second homes that would pay 100% Council Tax in 2025/26 this would equate to an increase in the Band D Equivalent of 45 pence per week.

RESOLVED: That the

- a. Council's budget for 2025/26 be set at £584,507 as detailed in – **appendix four**.
- b. Council's precept to be set at £337,332.

(NC)

227/2024/25

**Directional Signage in the Village**

Members considered a request from local businesses in the Caen Precinct for directional signage on the Village Green directing visitors to their shops. The Council noted that there used to be a directional sign previously but it was unsure what had happened to it.

RESOLVED: That the Council

- a. to reinstate a temporary directional sign directing visitors to the shops in the Caen Precinct.
- b. to clear the vegetation on its side of the river Caen to open up the Caen Precinct area.
- c. as part of its Masterplan to consider village wide directional signage for all commercial premises.

(NC)

228/2024/25

**Land Adjacent to Velator Bridge: Braunton Footpath 3 Diversion Order 2024**

The Clerk updated members that the North Devon Council Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer had contacted the Council to explain that there were some errors in the Order and that the correct Order would be re-issued at a later

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred until a future meeting once the correct Order has been re-issued.

(NC)

229/2024/25

**Hire of Recreational Ground**

RESOLVED: That the Council grants permission for Ben DeVay's Fun Fair to use the Recreational Ground for their annual Fun Fair from the 23 June to 6 July 2025. This be subject to the Fun Fair not operating past 8.30pm to prevent noise disturbance to neighbouring properties.

(NC)

230/2024/25

**Devon County Council (ND HATOC) (Traffic Regulation) Amendment Order**

Members considered the information regarding the Traffic Amendment Order for Church Street and Severn Acre Lane in Braunton. Members expressed concerns regarding the proposed Amendment Order for Church Street as it was unclear whether this would supersede the previous Amendment Order in this area.



RESOLVED: That the Clerk to obtain clarity from Devon County Council and report back to members.  
(NC)

231/2024/25      **Braunton  
Community  
Mens Shed**      RESOLVED: That the Council grants the Braunton Community Men’s Shed permission to use an area within the Stoney Bridge Depot to carry out maintenance work on their second carriage.  
(NC)

232/2024/25      **Exclusion of  
Press and  
Public**      RESOLVED that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following matters be taken in the absence of press and public (Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960) as the items contain exempt information as defined by the Local Government Act 1972 Sch. 12a Pt. (3).

233/2024/25      **Land Adjoining  
Velator  
Roundabout**      The Clerk explained that the Council’s solicitor had not received the lease from Devon County Council prior to the meeting. It was noted that the perimeter fence was rotten and would require funding to repair/replace the fence. It was also advised that Mary Breeds be asked to carry out a wildlife survey prior to any clearance works taken place. The Council will be sub-letting the land to a community group it was suggested to prevent further delay the Clerk to arrange for the sub-let to go through at the same time as the Council taking on the lease.  
  
RESOLVED: That this item be brought back to the next Council meeting.  
(NC)

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed by the Chair: .....  
(Cllr M Shapland)

Date: .....