

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Braunton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12 August 2025 at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Chaloners Road, Braunton.

	<u>Present</u>	Cllrs: M Shapland, V Cann, R Shapland, M Cann, R Byrom, E Spear, D Spear, G Bell. T Kirby, L Childs, A Bryant and D Relph. Officers: T Lovell, Parish Clerk & RFO 6 members of the public.
089/2025/26	<u>Apologies</u>	Apologies were received from Cllr E Blackmore who was away.
090/2025/26	<u>Items not on the agenda, which in the opinion of the Chairman should be brought to the attention of the Council</u>	The Chairman welcomed back Cllr T Kirby and Cllr E Spear.
091/2025/26	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	Cllr R Byrom declared an Non Registerable Interest (NRI) in Minute Ref: 102/2025/26(a), as the applicant is known to him. Cllr L Childs declared an NRI in Minute Ref: 102/2025/26(a), as the applicant is known to her. Cllr L Childs declared an NRI in Minute Ref: 107/2025/26, as she is named in the complaint.
092/2025/26	<u>Public Participation</u>	There were none.
093/2025/26	<u>Minutes</u>	RESOLVED: That the a. Minutes of the extraordinary Council meeting held on 4 August 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

(NC)

- b. Minutes of the Property Committee meeting held on the 16 July 2025 be ratified and adopted by Council. (NC)
- c. Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee meeting held on the 23 July 2025 be ratified and adopted by Council (NC)
- d. Minutes of the Parks and Gardens Committee meeting held on the 28 July 2025 be ratified and adopted by Council (NC)

094/2025/26

Action Sheet

Cllr A Bryant reported that he had walked part of the proposed Tarka Trail extension between Knowle and Foxhunters with the North Devon MP. He explained that the works to extend the Tarka Trail had continually been delayed by the County Council. John Grimshaw of Greenways and Cyclerooutes approached Devon County Council to offer his expertise but DCC had been reluctant to engage with him. The ND MP had agreed to contact DCC on their behalf.

The bridleway running from the Nethercott Road towards Heddon Mill has a brand new strip of tarmac. Cllr A Bryant requested why the footpath that continues on from the newly surfaced bridleway could not be utilised instead of building an expensive bridge over the River Caen and a series of embankments. He further commented that there had been little communication between DCC and the parishes affected by this project.

The Chairman advised that Cllr A Bryant emails our County Cllr Graham Bell with his concerns. Cllr Bell explained that the section between Heddon Mill and Spreacombe is progressing well. He assured members that the County officers are actively working on all parts of the project. He has been in discussions with Cllr A Bryant regarding this matter and advised that he is doing all he can to progress the works.

District Cllr Liz Spear had provided the Clerk with an update from Cllr Malcolm Wilkinson regarding the Tarka Trail extension, she requested that this be circulated to all members for their information.

The Council congratulated the Clerk for the work she had done to open the Pavilion public conveniences at such short notice.

RESOLVED: That the action sheet be noted.

(NC)

095/2025/26

Police Representation

- a. There was no police representative present.
- b. The Clerk prior to the meeting circulated Cllr L Childs report attached as – **appendix one**.

Cllr Childs requested that members contact her with

any policing issues they may have and she will bring them up at the next Cllr Advocate meeting.

096/2025/26

Braunton
Football Club

The Chairman welcomed Curtis Netherway from the Braunton Football Club.

Curtis thanked the Council for its support with the Club's planning application to extend its car parking at Lobb Field. There had been some delays with the planning department the Club were required to provide a Biodiversity Net Gain Report which the Parish Council kindly funded. The Local Planning Authority have also insisted on consulting Sports England even though the Club confirmed that the additional parking would not encroach on existing pitches. Funding for the project had now been secured from Section 106 money and Fullabrook.

There are four pitches at Lobb Field the Club has a membership of 400 children and are struggling to accommodate all matches on the existing pitches at Lobb. The Club would like to start using the pitch on the Recreational Ground for the under 13's girls' team. The pitch size will be smaller than the adult pitch and they would need to purchase new smaller goalposts that would be easier for the youth teams to carry and install.

They will need to use the Recreational Ground at least every fortnight during the season but friendly games may increase use to every weekend on a Sunday and the occasional Saturday. Curtis commented that the facilities at the Pavilion are great and modern and much better than they have been used to when hiring the Astroturf at Braunton Academy. He requested if the Council might be able to cut the pitch area weekly, he understood that the Recreation Ground is cut every 2-3 weeks. If the Council's are unable to cut the pitch area weekly the Club will have to see if its groundman at Lobb would be able to cut it. He requested if the Council would be able to provide a ride on mower for them to use. The Club will arrange lining of the field prior to all games.

Dog faeces left on the pitch is a concern the Club have responded to the Council's consultation requesting that dogs are banned from the Recreational Ground.

Members agreed that it would be great to see the Recreational Ground pitch being used again at weekends for football.

RESOLVED: That the

- a. Clerk to check with the Council's grounds team regarding their capacity to cut the Recreational Ground weekly during the football season.

- b. Council to arrange its contractor to cut back the hedgerows on Locks Close and Wrafton Road at the end of bird nesting season.

(NC)

097/2025/26

**Cultural Music
Event in
Braunton 2026**

The Chairman welcomed Helen Cooper to the meeting.

Helen explained that she was working with local venues to provide a music event next May call 'Braunton Beats'. The idea came from attending the Appledore Cultural Festival the organisers of this event had been very helpful sharing information, documents etc. It was agreed that the 15, 16 and 17 May 2026 would be the best dates as it wouldn't conflict with other events happening in the local vicinity. The idea is to pepper the village with different experiences and genres of music providing a variety for people to enjoy.

Braunton Beats is a not for profit organisation they aim to start the event small and hope that it grows. They have started to engage local venues, businesses and organisations for funding and their support.

The Council is fully supportive of this event it will be good for the local businesses, residents and visitors to the area. Its parish grants for 2026/27 would soon be open for applications.

The Chairman thanked Helen Cooper for updating members regarding Braunton Beats.

098/2025/26

**Chivenor Scouts
request to site
porta cabin on
Parish land.**

The Chairman welcomed Mark Johnson from 1st Chivenor Scout Group. Mark explained that the 1st Chivenor Scout Group was established 18 years ago to include females in the scouting community. At present they pay rent to hire meeting space at Southmead School their outdoor equipment is stored elsewhere in a units behind Tesco. They have been given notice on this storage space and are looking for a temporary site (approx. 2 years) to place a porta cabin to store their equipment. They would need access approx. once a month and proposed that the Recreational Ground in Braunton maybe a suitable site.

The Clerk advised that a porta cabin on the Recreational Ground would require planning permission. It would need to be sited as to not obstruct access to the football storage adjacent to the Pavilion and to allow space for a tractor and flail to carry out routine maintenance to the boundary hedgerows. They may also have difficulty obtaining planning permission as it would be contrary to Policy BE6 in the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk proposed that Stoney Bridge Depot might be a more suitable site. The 1st Chivenor Scout Group had considered but ruled it out due to the difficulties that the Mens Shed had with obtaining planning permission. It

was noted that this would be a different use that would require less access to the Depot than the Mens Shed required.

Mark Johnson had approached the Chivenor Base but had not received a response and Heanton Punchardon Parish Council had referred him to Braunton Parish Council, hence his request. They have also looked into self storage at Chivenor Cross but rent would be £2,400 per annum a third of their annual income. They have already increased their fees by 20% charging £60 per term and don't want to increase them further and price out families from being able to attend the group.

The Council agreed that the Stoney Bridge Depot would be a more appropriate site to place a porta cabin for storage. The Clerk advised a suitable location but it would need clearing first. The Council would also be interested in buying the porta cabin if it was no longer needed for storage by the 1st Chivenor Scout Group. The Clerk explained that the site is classed as 'Sui Generis' and would probably require planning permission to site a porta cabin.

RESOLVED: That the Council agrees that the 1st Chivenor Scout Group can place a porta cabin at the Stoney Bridge Depot subject to them obtaining planning permission.

(NC)

099/2025/26

D-Day
Commemorative
Event 2026

The Chairman welcomed Chris Horrell to the meeting.

Chris introduced himself, he is Barnstaple Town Councillor but today he is attending as member of the public who would like to provide a D-Day Commemorative Event in Braunton next year. He has experience providing events of this nature he organised a VE Exhibition in the Barnstaple Pannier Market. He produced a World War 2 video with projection and sound which was very well received being fully booked for all showings. The event involved a significant number of school children and hopes to involve the local schools with his event in Braunton.

D-Day has always been commemorated at Saunton Beach up until recent years. It involved planes landing and remembered how important this local area was to war efforts in WW2. Unfortunately due to limited parking, health and safety and other restrictions the Saunton Beach D-Day event can no longer happen. Chris proposed bringing the D-Day event back to Braunton by utilising the Recreational Ground. This is a brilliant site in a central location and would allow everyone to safely attend the event. The event would include a black marquee showing a video about Braunton in WW2 and

featuring the importance of the Braunton Railway. Laying of wreaths, reenactments and a Parade. They would visit local schools prior to the event to engage the children. Dates proposed are 5, 6 and 7 June 2026.

The Council were fully supportive of this event and welcomed the D-Day Commemorative Event being held in Braunton again showcasing Braunton's history during the war efforts.

100/2025/26 **Report from
Devon County
Councillor**

County Cllr Graham Bell's report was circulated prior to the meeting.

The County Cllr's report covered many topics including Local Government Reorganisation, Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, highways issues, Lime trees on Exeter Road and St. Brannock's Hill and Grants. The County Cllr informed members that there was also a grant scheme called King Charles III Charitable Fund where not for profit organisations can obtain small grant up to £3,000.

101/2025/26 **Report from
North Devon
District
Councillors**

District Cllr Graham Bell's report was circulated prior to the meeting and included an update on housing, NDC have now become a registered provider of housing.

District Cllr Pru Maskell's report was circulated prior to the meeting and included an update on Local Government Reorganisation and the Anti Social Behaviour Steering Group.

102/2025/26 **Planning**

Cllr E Spear and Cllr G Bell in their capacity as North Devon Councillors, stated that any opinions expressed during discussions on the following planning applications represent a preliminary view and that they will naturally reconsider the application fresh when presented all the facts at principal level.

Cllr R Byrom and Cllr L Childs declared a NRI.

(a) 80596

Proposed: Rear extension to form additional living space together with rearrangement of the internal layout

Location: 9 Shortacombe Drive Braunton Devon EX33 1JD

Applicant: Philippa Court

Moved by Cllr M Cann, seconded by Cllr D Spear to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval the proposed development is well related to the scale, form and character of the built up area and is compliant with Policy BE1 in the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan.
(11.0.1abs)

(b) 80268

Proposed: Demolition of existing agricultural buildings & construction of 8 new Class E employment units with associated parking

Location: Warren Farm Saunton Braunton Devon EX33 1LP

Applicant: Christie Devon Estates

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

Braunton Parish Council recommends refusal on the grounds as follows:

- The proposed development is adjacent to the National Landscape the noise and light pollution from the development would have a negative impact on the Caen Valley Bats SSSI and Parish Bat Population. It would therefore be contrary to policies NE3 and BE13 in the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan (BNP).
- The development would not be in keeping with the area being in close proximity to Grade II Listed farmhouse and the National Landscape. It would have an adverse impact on the character and heritage assets and their settings, contrary to Policy BE2(ii) in the BNP.
- Concerns regarding safe vehicular access and egress the road leading to the site is not adequate to cope with the increased number of vehicles that this development will create.

(11.0.1abs)

(c) 80608

Proposed: Erection of garage and parking alterations

Location: The Cleave East Hill Braunton EX33 2LD

Applicant: Wayne Copp

Moved by Cllr T Kirby, seconded by Cllr R Shapland to recommend refusal.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends refusals on the grounds as follows:

The proposed development is not in keeping with the form and character of the settlement and would have an adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring uses. The development is not compliant with Policy BE1 in the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan.

If North Devon Council are minded to approve the application it should remain ancillary to the main dwelling.

(11.0.1abs)

(d) 80639

Proposed: Single storey rear extension

Location: 8 Irving Close Braunton EX33 1DH

Applicant: Mr and Dr Caswell and Tarrier

Moved by Cllr M Cann, seconded by Cllr L Childs to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval the proposed development is compliant with policies NE3 and BE3 in the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan.

(11.0.1abs)

103/2025/26

North Devon
Council
Planning
Decisions

78756

Appeal Ref: APP/X1118W/25/3363322

Description: The development proposed is use of existing as tourism accommodation and associated works

Site Address: The Green Hut, Saunton Down, Saunton, De

Applicant: Christie Devon Estates

Decision: APPEAL INVALID

Decision Date: 15/07/2025

80369

Description: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order in respect of crown reduction along South side 1x Hawthorne tree (T1)

Site Address: Tidal View, Lower Park Road, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2LQ

Applicant: Philip Whittle

Decision: APPROVED

Decision Date: 23/07/2025

73194Description: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a tree preservation order in respect of Removal of Pine trees

Site Address: Willoway Barn, Fairlynch Lane, Braunton, Devon, EX33 1BT

Applicant: Mr Bayet

Decision: FINALLY DISPOSED OF

Decision Date: 23/07/2025

80435

Description: Notification for prior approval for larger house extension which extends 4m beyond the rear beyond the wall 4m to the ridge & 3m to the eaves

Site Address: 13 The Fairway, Braunton, Devon, EX33 1DZ

Applicant: James Twomey

Decision: APPROVED

Decision Date: 24/07/2025

80427

Description: Access gate to highway

Site Address: Land to the rear of Sharlands House, Sharlands Lane, Braunton, Devon, EX33 1AY

Applicant: Sarah Aitchison
Decision: REFUSED
Decision Date: 29/07/2025

80479

Description: Approval of details in respect of discharge Condition 8 (BGP) and Condition 9 (HMMP) attached planning permission 78550 (Change of use of land to provide domestic curtilage and additional parking area together with erection of stable building (amended red outline and certificate))

Site Address: Land at Park Farm, Lower Park Road, Braunton
EX33 2LQ

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Morgan & Wilcox

Decision: APPROVED

Decision Date: 31/07/2025

104/2025/26 **Finance**

- a. RESOLVED: That the supplier payments on the schedule from 8 July – 12 August 2026 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £18,385.24.
- b. RESOLVED: That the Council's July 2025 direct debits and standing orders for the sum of £7,193.76 be retrospectively approved.
- c. RESOLVED: That the PAYE, NI and pension contributions for August 2024 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £23,527.49.

(NC)

105/2025/26 **Representatives
on Outside
Bodies**

RESOLVED: That

- a. the Clerk prior to the meeting circulated Cllr A Bryant's and Cllr M Cann's report regarding the Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum attached as – **appendix two**.
- b. Cllr D Spear's and Cllr T Kirby's report on the North Devon Environmental Trust be deferred until the next meeting.

(NC)

106/2025/26 **To ratify
decision taken
under delegated
powers since
the 9 July to 12
August 2025**

RESOLVED: That the decisions taken under delegated powers from the 9 July to 12 August 2025 be ratified and adopted, attached as - **appendix three**.

(NC)

107/2025/26 **Formal
Complaint
received from a
member of the
public**

As per the Council's Complaints Policy the Clerk reported on a complaint received on 31 July 2025. The formal complaint was in relation to the Council's giving a donation to Love Braunton. The Clerk had investigated the complaint and resolved that no donation had been given to Love Braunton. The Clerk responded to the complainant on 12 August and reported to Council that the complaint had been disposed of and no further action was required.

		RESOLVED: That the Council notes the complaint received and 31 July 2025 and the Clerk's report regarding her findings following investigation of the complaint.	(NC)
108/2025/26	<u>Local Government Reorganisation</u>	RESSOLVED: That members would email their responses to the Clerk by Friday 15 August the Clerk to collate all responses received and respond to the NDC consultation as per the majority.	(NC)
109/2025/26	<u>New Play Equipment at Mowstead Play Park.</u>	Several play providers had been approached but following the consultation with Kingsacre School only one of the play providers could supply this unique play equipment selected by the community. RESOLVED: That a. due to the equipment only being provided by one UK play provider it was agreed that it would not be beneficial to advertise on Contract Finder. b. the Council accepts the quotation provided by Proludic at a cost of £35,641.41 plus VAT, as follows: i. ixo Multiplay Unit ii. Speed Gyro iii. Surfacing Works iv. Grounds Works v. Site setup and inspection	(NC)
110/2025/26	<u>Braunton Pharmacy</u>	Cllr R Shapland updated members regarding Jhoots Pharmacy in Braunton. The government had cut the Pharmacy's funding making it difficult for them to buy in the necessary medicines. The Chairman confirmed that she is in discussions with the Practice Manager at Caen Medical Centre and has expressed the Council's support for a Pharmacy to remain in Braunton. Cllr G Bell explained that Devon County Council would be carrying out a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PHA) and that it would not be consulting the community. The PNA will address pharmacy requirements across all communities. He clarified that is not just government funding that is the issue but there is also a shortage of qualified pharmacists.	
111/2025/26	<u>Remembrance Parade and Armistice Day 2025</u>	The Clerk explained that she had applied for the annual Remembrance Parade road closure on Sunday 9 November in the exact same format as last year. Unfortunately, Devon County Council had responded requesting: • Signage Plan • Chapter 8/Streetworks accreditation	

- Map showing traffic closure points
- Event Management Plan

They also advised that the requested closure for the Parade would conflict with a Wales and West Utilities closure in Hean Street the Council would need to consult with Wales and West Utilities.

The Clerk had also applied to close the Caen Car Park entrance off of Caen Street for the 2 minutes silence on Armistice Day.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk would provide the additional information to Devon County Council prior to going on annual leave.

(NC)

112/2025/26

**Protection of
Railway Lines,
Station Road**

Cllr R Byrom reported that the Council had received a response from the North Devon Council Heritage Officer and the Devon County Council Senior Historic Environmental Officer regarding the process to protect the railway lines in Station Road. The Council needs to provide maps, plans, illustrations and documentary information on the railway lines and any detail on why the local community regard these features as a significant heritage asset. This information would be added to the historic environment record and would add weight when considering inclusions on the local list.

RESOLVED: That

- a. Cllr R Byrom and the Parish Clerk to collate the requested information and provide an aerial drone photograph.
- b. The Signal in Station Road to also be included on the local list subject to providing the necessary evidence required.

(NC)

113/2025/26

**Servicing
Agreement
Braunton Foul
Water Pump,
Caen Street**

The Clerk informed members that she had received an email dated 2 July from Xylem stating that they were no longer able to offer their maintenance or emergency callout services for the Foul Water Pump in Caen Street. They had suggested two other companies who maybe able to provide this service. The Clerk confirmed that Xylem's last service of the pump would be on the 14 August.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk to obtain quotes to continue the maintenance and callout service for the Foul Water Pump in Caen Street Car Park with another provider.

(NC)

114/2025/26

**Hire of
Recreation
Ground**

The Council considered a request from the North Devon Health Fest to hold a tractor run in Braunton at its event next April ending on the Recreational Ground. The Clerk

expressed concerns regarding damage to the ground especially being so early in the year.

RESOLVED: That the Council request further information regarding the number of tractors and whereabouts they plan to park on the Recreational Ground.

(NC)

115/2024/25

**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).

116/2025/26

**National Joint
Council (NJC)
Pay Agreement**

RESOLVED: That the Council approves the NJC Pay Agreement 2025/26 all staff pay be backdated to 1 April 2025.

(NC)

117/2025/26

**Braunton Public
Conveniences
adj. Caen Street
Car Park**

The Council considered its solicitors email and proposed lease to take on North Devon Council's Public Conveniences in Caen Street Car Park.

The Clerk explained that the Council had agreed Heads of Terms (HoTs) in August 2023. (a)-(c) detailed in the solicitor's email were part of the HoTs but (d) which states "There is an obligation on you to keep the toilets open as public conveniences for the benefit of the Tarka Trail" was not included in the original HoTs.

Council considered that in the event of staffing issues, financial constraints or any other unknown issues such as Covid the Council may need to close the Public Conveniences. To be obligated to keep them open for the users or the Tarka Trail would put the Council at financial risk. Also, when NDC approached the Parish Council to take on the public conveniences it was told by NDC that if the Parish did not take them on, they would close them.

RESOLVED: That the Council will not agree to officially take on this asset and service unless covenant (d) is removed.

(NC)

The meeting closed at 9.41pm.

Signed by the Chair:

(Cllr M Shapland)

Date: