

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Braunton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Chaloners Road, Braunton.

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| | <u>Present</u> | Cllrs: M Shapland in the Chair, E Spear, D Spear, R Shapland, L Childs, R Byrom and T Kirby. |
| | | Officers: T Lovell, Parish Clerk & RFO |
| | <u>In attendance</u> | Cllr Simon Maddocks – NDC Cllr Pru Maskell – DCC & NDC 1 member of the public |
| 136/2023/24 | <u>Apologies</u> | Apologies received from: Cllr V Cann – away, Cllr M Cann – away and Cllr G Bell – indisposed. |
| 137/2023/24 | <u>Items not on the agenda, which in the opinion of the Chairman should be brought to the attention of the Council</u> | <p>The Chairman congratulated Cllr Derrick Spear on becoming an Honorary Alderman in recognition of his long and eminent service given to North Devon Council, to local government and to the community.</p> <p>The Chairman informed members that at the North Devon Council meeting held on the 4 October the Council resolved to ‘Make’ the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan. The referendum held on the 7 September 2023, resulted in 90% of those who voted in favour of the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan. Following a successful referendum, neighbourhood plans are given full weight and come into force as part of the statutory development plan.</p> <p>The Chairman read to members an email received from Dr. Susanna Hill thanking the Parish Council for its continued support to use office space at the Work Hub for a further year, at no charge.</p> <p>The North Devon Council Election Service have confirmed that a by-election for the Parish Council’s casual vacancy has not been called by 10 or more electors. The Council will now proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.</p> |
| 138/2023/24 | <u>Declarations of Interest</u> | None received. |

**Public
Participation**

A member of the public addressed the Council regarding his concerns of possible flooding in the river Caen (he circulated photographs amongst members).

- Caen Bridge – the two-surface water drain outlets are blocked with overgrown vegetation and debris restricting their water flow capacity which will potentially cause flash flooding in Caen Street due to surface water build up.
- Foul Water Pumping Station – the outlet pipe for the foul water pumping station located further downstream is overgrown with vegetation and debris.
- River bank adj. Museum of British Surfing – the river bank has collapsed and caused a void behind allowing water egress and further erosion of the bank underneath the Tarka Trail.
- Deans Bridge – heavily silted up and weeds growing across the river from the Memorial Gardens.
- Culvert west side of Hordens Bridge – heavily silted significant reduction in water capacity.
- Surface water outlet drain for Chapple Street – obstructed by overgrown vegetation and debris.

The resident had received a letter from the Environment Agency (EA) telling him not to go into the river. The EA were on site at Hordens Bridge earlier this year to clear the flood defence culvert. This routine maintenance was stopped due to fish eel eggs found nearby. The EA have not returned to the site to continue clearing the culvert. When the River Caen last flooded adjacent properties at Hordens Bridge were under 3ft of water, this caused devastation to many local residents.

The EA's maintenance infrastructure installed as part of the flood defences is in a poor condition and rotten due to water egress into the wooden fence posts. The EA call centre is based in the Midlands and the operators are not familiar with our local area.

The resident requested the Parish Council to:

- a. invite the EA to attend a future Council meeting to discuss flooding concerns in the river Caen.
- b. obtain a copy of the EA's routine management programme for the river Caen.

The President of the Braunton Caen Rotary Club introduced their Heritage Trail Project. The purpose of the project is to compile a list of historical interests in Braunton to safeguard our local heritage for future generations. The Club will produce a walking trail around Braunton identifying buildings of interest. Plaques will be affixed on these properties and a map created showing the location of each historic interest. A dedicated website will provide information on each of the chosen heritage sites.

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| 140/2023/24 | <u>Request for Dispensation</u> | There were none. |
| 141/2023/24 | <u>Minutes</u> | <p>RESOLVED: That the</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 September 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record. b. Minutes of the Parks and Gardens Committee meeting held on 20 September 2023 be ratified and adopted by the Council. c. Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on the 4 October 2023 be ratified and adopted by the Council. |
| 142/2023/24 | <u>Action Sheet</u> | <p style="text-align: right;">(NC)</p> <p>Cllr Byrom updated members regarding progress with installing the mens shed railway carriages in the Caen Street overflow car park. The tracks are in place but have been temporarily raised up using blocks. Several builders have been approached to install permanent pillars to support the tracks but have failed to turn up on site. The pillar supports will be completed by the mens shed and a volunteer builder at the weekend. The mens shed aim to install the carriages by the end of November.</p> <p>The Clerk reminded members that the Council's Tree Surgeon would be carrying out routine maintenance to the poplar trees w/c 20 November. The overflow car park and a section of the Tarka Trail would be closed for the duration of the works.</p> |
| 143/2023/24 | <u>Police Representation</u> | <p>RESOLVED: That the action sheet be noted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(NC)</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the police's newsletter for October be noted.</p> |
| 144/2023/24 | <u>Report from Devon County Cllr.</u> | <p>The County Cllr's report was tabled at the meeting, attached as - appendix one.</p> <p>The County Cllr's reported that the drain cover in the middle of Caen Street had now been repaired.</p> |
| 145/2023/24 | <u>Report from North Devon District Councillors</u> | <p>North Devon Cllr Liz Spear's report was circulated prior to the meeting attached as – appendix two.</p> <p>Members thanked Cllr Liz Spear for moving that NDC 'make' the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan at the District Full Council meeting on the 4 October.</p> <p>North Devon Cllr Pru Maskell's report was tabled at the meeting attached as – appendix three.</p> <p>Cllr Maskell had been in discussions with local business owners regarding the impact that the White Cross planning application would have on their business. Apparently, the applicant Flotation Energy Ltd has not offered local businesses any compensation for loss of trade.</p> |

North Devon Councillor Simon Maddocks has called for the White Cross planning application to be determined by the NDC Planning Committee.

146/2023/24

Planning

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

(a) 77656

Proposed: Reserved matters application for layout, siting, scale and design (outline planning permission 77086 for erection of two dwellings with all matters reserved (resubmission of 76175))

Location: Land adj to Oak House Lower Park Road Braunton Devon EX33 2LH

Applicant: Arcadian Property Holdings Ltd

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

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval.

(NC)

(b) 77620

Proposed: Placement of steel frame and steel plates in shape of World War II military tank

Location: Adjacent to "I" Lane - what three words "segregate.twins.ground" Braunton Burrows Braunton Devon

Applicant: Friends of the Assault Training Center

Moved by Cllr D Spear, seconded by Cllr L Childs to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval.

(NC)

147/2023/24

**North Devon
Council
Planning
Decisions**

77432

Description: Removal of existing conservatory & erection of two-storey west extension, extension of north single-storey outbuilding to provide service spaces and extension of front terrace

Site Address: The Red House Braunton Devon EX33 1AR

Applicant: Ms Laura Melville-Brown

Decision: APPROVED

Decision Date: 20/09/2023

76333

Description: Demolition of barn, the erection of three dwellings and associated works (following Class Q approval 66392 for the change of use and conversion of the barn to 5 dwellings) (Amended Description).

Site Address: Park Farm Lower Park Road Braunton Devon EX33 2LQ

Applicant: Mr Giles Lee
Decision: APPROVED
Decision Date: 20/09/2023

77547

Description: Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission 75944 (demolition of existing agricultural building and replacement with 2no dwellings with garages, parking, access, associated infrastructure and landscaping (fall-back position) in respect of amendments to fenestration and roof pitch
Site Address: Branch Farm Pippacott Barnstaple Devon EX31 4EJ

Applicant: Mr M Brend
Decision: APPROVED
Decision Date: 29/09/2023

77587

Description: Approval of details in respect of discharge of condition 7 (details of proposed pumping station) attached to planning permission 73769 (erection of 5 dwellings)
Site Address: Land off Church Hill Lane Knowle Braunton Devon EX33 2ND
Applicant: Pearce Construction (Barnstaple) Ltd
Decision: APPROVED
Decision Date: 25/09/2023

77102

Description: Partial demolition and conversion of existing barn into two dwellings and associated works (following Class Q approval 76292)
Site Address: Barn 1 Beara Farm Marwood Devon
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Roger & Jennifer Avery
Decision: APPROVED
Decision Date: 22/09/2023

148/2023/24

Finance Matters

- (a) RESOLVED: That the supplier payments on the schedule from 13 September to 10 October 2023 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £15,520.80. (NC)
- (b) RESOLVED: That the Council's September 2023 direct debits and standing orders for the sum of £6,614.20 be retrospectively approved.
- (c) RESOLVED: That the PAYE, NI and pension contributions for October 2023 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £16,137.48. (NC)

149/2023/24

North Devon Council Review of Polling Places/Stations 2023

Member expressed concerns regarding the Polling Station at Knowle being at risk of closure. There is only one venue in Knowle suitable to be used as a polling station, this is the public house known as the Ebrington Arms. During the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, the Knowle residents were without a polling station as the public house was in the process of changing proprietors.

RESOLVED: That the Council requests if it would be possible for North Devon Council to provide a portable polling station in the Ebrington Arms Car Park for future elections.

(NC)

150/2023/24

Public Conveniences in Caen Street Car Park

Members considered the Clerk's report, circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk met on site on the 8 September 2023 with North Devon Council's Project Officer for Parking and Estates and its Property Maintenance Technician.

- There is a service area located at the rear of the building which includes storage, utilities and access to the working mechanisms for each cubicle.
- The Council can source its own supplies but must only use the Wallgate soap detergent. Other cheaper generic soap detergents cause issues with the mechanisms.
- The public conveniences need to be serviced twice a year by a qualified electrician and plumber.
- The cubicle located at the side of the public conveniences is permanently closed due to anti social behaviour. NDC suggested that the Parish Council gate this alleyway off to prevent further mis-use.
- The Parish Council will need to replace the NDC existing signage with its own logo, opening hours and out of hours emergency contact number.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be noted.

(NC)

151/2023/24

NDC Off-Street Parking Order

Members considered the recommendations from the Finance and Administration Committee regarding amendments to the NDC OSPO for Caen Street and Chaloners Road car parks.

RESOLVED: That

- a. To include charging on Sundays from 9am to 6pm
- b. To increase its tariff from the 1st April 2024, as follows:

| | car park tariff 2024/25 |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Up to 1 hour | £0.90 |
| Up to 2 hours | £1.70 |
| Up to 3 hours | £2.60 |
| Up to 4 hours | £3.20 |
| Up to 5 hours | £3.70 |
| Up to 6 hours | £4.20 |
| Up to 7 hours | £4.80 |
| Up to 8 hours | £5.30 |
| Up to 9 hours | £6.00 |

(NC)

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| 152/2023/24 | <u>DCC Proposed On-street Pay and Display at Exeter Road</u> | RESOLVED: That the Council writes a joint letter, with other town/parish councils, to Devon County Council expressing its concerns that the County have not followed legislation or due process regarding their proposed plans to introduce on-street parking meters in some communities. (NC) |
| 153/2023/24 | <u>To ratify decision taken under delegated powers from the 13 September to 10 October 2023</u> | RESOLVED: That the decisions taken under delegated powers from the 13 September – 10 October 2023 be ratified and adopted, attached as appendix four . |
| 154/2023/24 | <u>Annual Governance and Accountability Return – External Auditor Report</u> | RESOLVED: That it be noted that Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2023/24 had been signed and approved by the External Auditor PKF Littlejohns LLP. (NC) |
| 155/2023/24 | <u>Parish Hall Hirers</u> | RESOLVED: That the Council grants permission for the Hall to be hired on Friday 17 November 2023 to hold a Barn Dance to raise money for a humanitarian trip to Uganda. Event to be finish by 11pm and alcohol to be sold on the premises. (NC) |

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed by the Chair:
(Cllr M Shapland)

Date: