

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Braunton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Chaloners Road, Braunton.

	<u>Present</u>	Cllrs: M Shapland in the Chair, E Spear, D Spear, G Bell, V Cann, R Shapland, L Childs, R Byrom, T Kirby, M Cann, D Relph and H Seymour (part).
	<u>In attendance</u>	Officers: T Lovell, Parish Clerk & RFO County and District Cllr Pru Maskell. District Cllr Simon Maddocks
058/2023/24	<u>Apologies</u>	Apologies received from: Cllr A Bryant on holiday.
059/2023/24	<u>Items not on the agenda, which in the opinion of the Chairman should be brought to the attention of the Council</u>	There were none.
060/2023/24	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	Cllr R Byrom declared a Prejudicial interest in Minute Ref: 086/2023/24, as he is the Chair of the Braunton Mens Shed. Cllr M Shapland declared a Personal interest in Minute Ref: 084/2023/24, as she is a member of the Parochial Church Council. Cllr R Shapland declared a Personal interest in Minute Ref: 084/2023/24, as he is a member of the Parochial Church Council. Cllr T Kirby declared a Personal interest in Minute Ref: 084/2023/24, as he is a member of the Parochial Church Council.
061/2023/24	<u>Public Participation</u>	A member of the public addressed the Council regarding the proposed e-scooter trial being extended to the Tarka Trail and Braunton. Globally there are large international

Tech companies sourcing cobalt and lithium to produce renewable batteries and creating serious humanitarian and ecological problems. At a more local level there are problems such as e-scooters being left abandoned, being used dangerously on the roads, ridden on pavements, overcrowding of e-scooters, drunk driving and underage teenage use. The Department for Transport figures record 12 deaths caused by e-scooters and 1,446 injuries which 223 were pedestrians. At present you can use an e-scooter as part of a trial but once trials finish in 2024 e-scooters could be legalised increasing numbers significantly.

Braunton does not have the infrastructure required for safe use of e-scooters as there are limited cycle lanes on the roads. There are numerous benefits to e-scooters as they are a convenient environmentally friendly transport option but they are not suitable for all communities and there are issues in Braunton that need addressing before the trial is extended.

A member of the Active Hope Community Group addressed the Council regarding the disposal of Devon County Council land. They had organised a site meeting with the Countryside Centre to assess the suitability of the land being used as a community garden. They expressed their interest to work with the Parish Council and other local organisations to manage the land for this purpose. The restoration and development of the site as a community garden could include a small orchard, herb area, mini wildlife meadow, an attractive ecofriendly shelter, a small tree nursery and veg beds.

062/2023/24	<u>Request for Dispensation</u>	There were none.
063/2023/24	<u>Minutes</u>	<p>RESOLVED: That the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 June 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record. b. Minutes of the Parks and Gardens Committee meeting held on 14 June 2023 be ratified and adopted by the Council.
064/2023/23	<u>Co-option</u>	<p style="text-align: right;">(NC)</p> <p>To receive written applications for the office of Parish Council and to co-opt a candidate to fill one vacancies & receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office.</p> <p>Members considered two applications received to fill the vacancy, each candidate was asked to address the Council explaining why they wanted to serve as a parish councillor on Braunton Parish Council.</p> <p>A secret ballot was called by Cllr R Shapland and T Kirby.</p> <p>A ballot was held.</p>

RESOLVED: That with six votes in favour Hayden Seymour was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Hayden Seymour signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He was then invited by the Chair to join the meeting.

- 065/2023/24 **Action Sheet** RESOLVED: That the action sheet be noted. (NC)
- 066/2023/24 **Police Representation** Member requested if the police had arranged a date for their community drop-in sessions, as discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting held in March. The Clerk had provided dates when the Parish Hall was available but the police had not yet confirmed their booking.
- 067/2023/24 **Live Well in Braunton (LWIB)** RESOLVED: That the Council notes the July 2023 police newsletter. (NC)
- 067/2023/24 **Live Well in Braunton (LWIB)** The Chairman welcomed Susanna Hill from LWIB.
- Susanna explained that LWIB acts as a catalyst bringing people together, and has strong links with Caen Medical Centre. It was successful in securing 3 years funding to appoint a Community Development post and part-time admin support. LWIB staff work closely with the 2 social prescribers who are funded from a different pot of money. They are in the process of updating the Braunton clubs, sports and activity Directory which will be published on their website soon. The website will also provide a community diary detailing weekly and monthly events.
- One of the challenges to reducing loneliness and isolation is transport, especially for those with poor mobility. There has been a decline in volunteer drivers and taxis are unaffordable for many. Some people have their own resources such as family members or neighbours but there are many in our community who do not have anyone. There is a lot going on in the community but there are still huge gaps. LWIB are looking at 'time banking' to attract volunteers.
- LWIB are talking with the Academy and Youth Council to better engage with young people. It understands that the Council will be providing equipment in the Recreational Ground for older children and LWIB would be happy to support this and help with the consultation.
- Susanna thanked the Parish Council for its continued support.
- 068/2023/24 **Report from Devon County Councillor** The County Cllr reported, as follows:
- Proposed On-Street Parking Charges – She had made the feelings of the Parish and business community clear to Devon County Council (DCC) on this. A County Officer

had agreed to meet with a representative from the Parish Council to discuss this further.

North Devon Link Services – DCC have announced that there is to be a further public consultation on this and that the responses from the first consultation will be added to the new ones. There is also a special meeting of Adult Health Scrutiny on Thursday 27th July to further discuss the proposals.

Knowle – Last week the Parish Clerk and I met with Knowle Community Group to discuss speeding and safety issues. I am still waiting for confirmation of a start date for the new speed limit on the A361 from Knowle to Mullacott. There has been a delay as the average speed check cameras needs a power source and all of the power is overhead along that stretch. I have asked if the speed limit can go ahead now and the cameras be installed at a later date. This has been confirmed but as yet no date.

Community Speed Watch – I was interested to get an annual report from Graham Norman with the speed watch data. In the past year they have held 98 sessions and have detected 613 speeding cars, the highest speed being 60mph in a 30mph zone. 474 letters have been sent by the police. Since the team started in 2019, 2086 vehicles have been caught speeding, the maximum speed being 77mph in a 30mph zone! So well done to the team for their hard work, I have agreed to buy them some warm high-vis jackets for the winter with some of my locality budget. Just for interest, data from Vision Zero South West shows that OP Snap (where members of the public can upload footage of dangerous driving from their dash cams onto the police website) had 4,868 submissions from 2022/23. They have had more prosecutions from this footage than from police patrols! At last week's Councillor Advocate meeting with local police officers. I mentioned residents in Knowle are concerned about speeding and overtaking in the village and that speeding in general seems to be a problem at this time of year. They have promised to step up their enforcement, especially along the A361. The Couty Cllr recommended that the Parish Council appoints a representative to the Councillor Advocate Scheme..

069/2023/24

**Report from
North Devon
District
Councillors**

Members received a report from District Cllr Liz Spear circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Spear had attended her first meeting of the North Devon Highway and Traffic Order Committee (HATOC) where the subject of a trial in Braunton regarding e-scooters came up. She expressed extreme displeasure that Braunton had not been consulted on this and also, she was very concerned that this would include the Tarka Trail.

North Devon Council (NDC) Policy Development

Committee – after receiving the Council’s financial reports which will go to the next Full Council meeting the Committee discussed the possible 10 topics to be added to the Work Programme. We decided to concentrate on 3 for this year as it involves a lot of scoping and research. This could involve inviting representatives from the bodies concerned to attend meetings. The 3 topics decided upon for this year are Dentistry, Agriculture and Water Pollution and members have chosen which group they would like to be involved in.

We are still in the process at NDC of attending training sessions on various subject – some mandatory. I will continue to monitor various pending planning applications in Braunton and Knowle which of course includes the welcome payment of section 106 Open Space money for our area. We have greatly benefitted as a Parish over the years with the payment of this money.

Members received a report from District Cllr Graham Bell circulated prior to the meeting.

Boundary changes - During the run-up to the recent district elections I was approached by many nurses, clerks and doctors living in Wrafton and Chivenor asking why they were not able to vote in the Braunton elections. As I have previously spoken about, there is a common confusion by many younger and newer residents who assume that they are part of Braunton and not Heanton Punchardon Parish Council. I frequently discussed with the late, and sadly missed, Anne Melhuish that Poyers should be incorporated into Braunton. With this in mind, I have asked electoral services to look into the possibility of boundary changes to the Ward so that if the idea is sound then it can be brought to the Parish Council and to the people of Wrafton and Chivenor to gauge their feelings on the matter. In related matters, I have dealt with an issue of ASB and homelessness in Heanton.

Strategy and Resources - NDC now produce a quarterly action sheet of ongoing projects relating to North Devon. This is a fascinating report and very useful for new councillors (like myself) to get a fuller understanding on what is happening in the District. I will attach the appropriate appendix of the meeting for parish councillors who might be interested. It gives an excellent overview of many projects of interest, especially regarding housing, but also in relation to the Barnstaple town redevelopment, Ilfracombe seafront works, CCTV, environmental matters and with regards to the Local Plan and 5-year-land supply.

Financial matters - We recently received an update regarding the state of NDC finances during the current financial difficulties. Unlike my hometown of Woking, North Devon continues to maintain a healthy and cautious financial position.

Housing and Homelessness - I continue to have a monthly meeting with the heads of housing departments at NDC. This month's meeting will be at the Freedom Centre. Like all departments in NDC, changes in working practices following the worldwide pandemic have increased staffing problems which has made dealing with some issues more difficult. In addition, while homelessness/at-risk levels have plateaued, they remain very high. I have been amazed at the commitment and hard work of the housing team. Following the removal of refugee families from the Dilk Hotel in Ilfracombe. The housing team are working on a joined-up strategy that will ensure that NDC is able to meet their legal (and moral) obligations to house refugees in such a way that our own homelessness problems can also be addressed.

While I continue to find-my-feet as the Lead Councillor for Housing, I have expressed that my key objectives that I would like to see tackled are (a) an increased awareness and focus on homeless women in dangerous sofa-surfing situations. (b) A focus on the expansion of CLTs in North Devon (currently, North Devon has a good record of supporting CLTs; however, these are largely focused north of the Taw). And (c) to restart a project with the Environment Agency to improve flood defences along the Taw to protect existing homes and to enable more brownfield sites to be made viable for future development.

070/2023/24 **Planning**

Cllrs E Spear and 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.

(a) 77242

Proposed: Erection of a bat barn.

Location: East Saunton Farm, Braunton, Devon, EX33 1LS

Applicant: Christie Devon Estate

Moved by Cllr M Cann, seconded by Cllr E Spear to defer the application.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred until the next Council meeting to obtained clarity.

(NC)

(b) 76319

Proposed: Extension & alterations to dwelling.

Location: 15 Barton Avenue, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2BA.

Applicant: Mr Adam Berry

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

RESOLVED: That the Council have no objections and wishes to recommend approval.

If the Local Planning Authority are minded to approve the application the Council would request that it considers renewable measures such as Solar PV Panels or a biodiversity green roof to help build resilience to climate change.

(NC)

(c) 77238

Proposed: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate existing for material commencement of development authorised by planning approvals 77065, 76830 & 70637.

Location: Park Farm, Lower Park Road, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2LQ

Applicant; Mrs Caroline Chugg

Members noted that this application had already been approved by the Local Planning Authority.

071/2023/24

**North Devon
Council
Planning
Decisions**

77281

Description: Application for a non-material amendment of planning permission 76674 (Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 57649 to allow amended design) in respect of revised site lay out.

Site Address: Land adj. 86 Velator Bridge, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2BG.

Applicant: Mr Guy Greenfield

Decision: APPROVED

Decision Date: 21/06/23

77050

Description: Two storey rear extension to dwelling.

Site Address: 17 Arlington Terrace, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2AJ

Applicant: Mr Anthony Heath

Decision: APPROVED

Decision Date: 28/06/23

76974

Description: Change of use of storage containers to allow for sighting of 7 No. Holiday Lodges

Site Address: LPG Storage yard, Sandy Land, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2NU.

Applicant: Mr Sampson

Decision; WITHDRAWN

Decision Date: 09/06/23

Cllr G Bell left the meeting.

072/2023/24

Finance

(a) RESOLVED: That the cheques on the schedule from 14 June to 11 July 2023 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £12,101.05.

(8.0.3abs)

- (b) RESOLVED: That the Council's June 2023 direct debits and standing orders for the sum of £8,166.48 be retrospectively approved.
- (c) RESOLVED: That the PAYE, NI and pension contributions for July 2023 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £15,954.76.

(NC)

Cllr G Bell rejoined the meeting.

073/2023/24

Devon County Council's proposed on-street pay and display meters in Braunton

The County Cllr had previously brought to the Council's attention the County's proposal to install on-street pay and display meters along Exeter Road. The Parish Council have not been consulted regarding the proposal but an officer is willing to meet with the County Cllr and a representative from the Parish Council to discuss it.

Members were concerned regarding the impact this would have on local businesses who are already struggling to stay open. There is not an issue in Braunton with turn over of parked vehicles and members could see no benefit from installing pay and display meters on Exeter Road. It is proposed that the first 30 minutes would remain free. Due to the limited number of spaces along Exeter Road the Council could not see how this proposal would be feasible for Braunton, it would generate a very low income for the County Council. The County Council would never recover the capital or legal costs to install the pay and display meters. Let alone provide an income to cover the management of the scheme such as employing civil enforcement officers and dealing with appeals. The proposal appears to be ill thought out and not feasible for Braunton.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk and Chairman to represent the Parish Council at the meeting with a County Officer and the County Cllr, and to report back to a future meeting.
(NC)

074/2023/24

E-Scooter Trial extended to the Tarka Trail and Braunton.

The Council had attended a meeting with NDC and Zipp Mobility on the 10 July to discuss their plans to extend the e-scooter trial to the Tarka Trail and Braunton.

Members were concerned regarding the proposed e-scooter trial and lack of consultation with the local community. The Clerk was requested to forward the following observations and concerns onto NDC and Zipp Mobility.

- Allowing e-scooters on the Tarka Trail would make many people feel unsafe as there are already safety issues with cyclists and pedestrians sharing the Tarka Trail.
- The demographic of Braunton should be taken into consideration as many residents would not feel

confident to use an e-scooter.

- People with poor hearing or mobility issues could find the use of e-scooters intimidating.
- There are many narrow streets in Braunton which would not be suitable for e-scooters there are concerns that e-scooters will mount the pavement to avoid queuing traffic.
- Other communities who have e-scooters have commented that on occasion they have been removed from the river.
- Policing resources are already at full capacity how will the local policing team be able to enforce the use of e-scooters.
- Many parts of the Tarka Trail are remote making it difficult for emergency services to access an injured person in the event of an accident occurring.
- Members were concerned regarding the lack of public consultation regarding the e-scooter trial.

In addition to the comments raised above members requested the following:

1. It is understood that the Department for Transport (DfT) have made North Devon an e-scooter trial area until 2025. How long is the trial intended to last in Braunton? Will this also be 2025? Will there be any opportunity for an interim review and the removal of e-scooters before the end of the trial date?
2. It is understood that the DfT want to collect data on the use of e-scooters in rural and coastal areas. Why was North Devon chosen for this trial? Were other rural and coastal areas considered by the DfT?
3. At the meeting on the 10 July, it was noted that Zipp Mobility are funding the trial. Do Zipp Mobility pay to lease/rent the e-scooter parking bays?
4. The majority of e-scooter parking bays appear to be on County land. Is this the only involvement that Devon County Council have with the e-scooter trial?
5. Are there plans for the car park adjacent to The Landings housing development at Chivenor Cross to be used as a parking bay for the e-scooters?
6. Will the e-scooter trial be imposed on communities?

There were members of the public present at the meeting who spoke regarding the proposed e-scooter trial in Braunton and on the Tarka Trail, their comments to also be forwarded onto NDC and Zipp Mobility.

RESOLVED: That the Council to request a follow up meeting with NDC and Zipp Mobility to address the above concerns and explore possible options going forward.

(NC)

- 075/2023/24 **Review Council's Banking Mandate** RESOLVED: To approve the following amendments to the Parish Council's banking mandate.
- a. to remove Brad Bunyard, Jasmine Chesters and Peter Lord.
 - b. to add as full power signatories and access to internet banking cllrs Adrian Bryant, Timothy Kirby, Roger Byrom, Mark Cann, Lorna Childs, Ray Shapland, Graham Bell and Hayden Seymour.
 - c. to add as access only to view Senior Council Officer.
- (NC)
- 076/2023/24 **To ratify decision taken under delegated powers from the 14 June to 11 July 2023** RESOLVED: That the decisions taken under delegated powers from the 14 June – 11 July 2023 be ratified and adopted, attached as **appendix one**.
- (NC)
- 077/2023/24 **Braunton Neighbourhood Plan** The Clerk reported that the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan had now past independent examination, the Examiner was very complimentary about some of the content in the Plan. North Devon Council will consider formal adoption of the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan at its meeting on the 19 July, as this must be done within 5 weeks of receiving the Examiner's report.
- Members congratulated the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for this enormous achievement for our community. The Council thanked everyone who had been involved in the Plan over the years, in particular the current Steering Group Secretary Sue Prosper, who has dedicated many hours of her time and has been the driving force to successfully completing the Plan. It was noted that Braunton is only the second parish council in North Devon to have completed a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a significant achievement for all involved.
- RESOLVED: That the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be formally thanked for their work on the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan.
- (NC)
- 078/2023/24 **Devon County Council's proposed disposal of land** Members considered Devon County Council's offer to dispose of an area of allotment land, adjacent to the Tarka Trail, to the Parish Council. There had been interest from local groups and organisations to develop the land into a community garden. The Clerk reported that the County had received interest from other parties to purchase the land. In order for the County Council to evidence best value for the tax payer the Parish Council would need to bid for the land. The Clerk informed members that the Council has no available finances to

purchase the land. Members were disappointed that it could not be retained for community use and requested if the County Council would consider leasing it to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk to continue negotiations with Devon County Council regarding the possibility of leasing the land.

(NC)

079/2023/24

**Purchase
Garden
Machinery**

RESOLVED: That the Council purchases a Stihl KMA 130R Cordless Kombi Engine to help the grounds team to maintain parish owned land.

(NC)

080/2023/24

Council's Cadet

RESOLVED: That members accept Flight Lieutenant Phill Thomas RAFAC, Commanding Officer of the local Air Training Corps Squadron based at Chivenor offer to appoint a Council Cadet.

(NC)

081/2023/24

Natural England

Members considered Natural England's request to carry out surveys on Parish Council land. It was noted that the area they intended to survey at present was not owned by the Council.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted and the Council grants its consent for Natural England to carry out surveys on its land if required in the future.

(NC)

082/2023/24

**Braunton
Bowling Club
Remedial Works**

RESOLVED: That the Council grants consent for Braunton Bowling Club to carry out remedial works to its car park due to health and safety reasons.

(NC)

083/2023/24

**Telephone Kiosk
Knowle**

RESOLVED: That the Council grants Knowle Community Group permission to paint the telephone kiosk in Knowle.

(NC)

084/2023/24

**Members
Registrable
Interest Forms**

The Clerk reminded members that if they had been appointed as the Council's representative on outside bodies they would need to update their Registrable Interest Forms.

Cllrs M Shapland, R Shapland and T Kirby declared a Personal interest.

085/2023/24

**Hire of outside
space**

RESOLVED: That the Council grants permission for St. Brannock's Church to use the Village Green on the following dates to promote their annual Duck Race and sell ducks for the event.

Friday July 29th

Friday August 5th

Friday August 12th

Friday August 18th

Saturday August 19th

Friday August 25th
Saturday August 26th

(NC)

- 086/2023/24 **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).
(NC)
- Part II** Cllr R Byrom declared a Prejudicial interest and left the meeting.
- 087/2023/24 **Mens Shed Lease** Member noted that the Mens Shed no longer required a Letter of Indemnity as both parties had now agreed the Lease.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Standing Order 29 the Chairman and Vice Chairman to seal the Lease on behalf of the Council, witnessed by the Clerk.
(NC)

The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

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