

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks and Gardens Committee held in the Council Chamber at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 17 September 2025

Present Cllrs: D Spear, R Shapland, M Shapland, E Blackmore and L Childs.

Also in Attendance Tracey Lovell (Parish Clerk)
Angela Corner (Senior Council Officer)

PG/12/2025/26 **Apologies** Cllrs V Cann and M Cann who were away.

PG/13/2025/26 **Declarations of Interest** None

PG/14/2025/26 **Minutes** The committee noted that the incorrect minutes of the Parks and Gardens Committee meeting had been presented.

RESOLVED: To defer approval of the correct minutes of the meeting held on the 28 July 2025 to the next committee meeting.

(NC)

PG/15/2025/26 **Recreation Ground** The Senior Council Officer reported that the consultation regarding dogs in the recreation ground had concluded and presented the results.

The Council had received numerous complaints from residents and users of the recreational ground regarding dog owners ignoring the rules and not keeping their dog(s) on a lead. The Council ran a six week consultation from the end of July until 8 September 2025.

The consultation asked residents

- i) YES Ban dogs outright (Enforceable)
- ii) NO continue to allow dogs to be walked through the recreation ground on a lead. (Not Enforceable).

The Committee considered the feedback received. Whilst the majority were in favour of not banning dogs, it was noted that during the consultation some dog owners continued to breach the rule and did not keep their dog(s) on a lead. In addition to this, some dog owners allowed their dog(s) to foul in the recreation ground and did not pick it up.

Following much discussion, the Committee concluded that:

- Some dog owners would continue to use the recreation ground to exercise their dog(s) and ignore the rule that dogs must be kept on a lead.
- The Council has a responsibility as landowners to ensure safety to all users.
- There are more children using the recreation ground since the new equipment was installed. The Council has a responsibility to ensure a safe, secure and protected area for children to play.
- Braunton Football Club has started using the pitch more regularly. Members noted that although this was a collective response, the club has a large membership.
- It would like to keep the area as an open recreational space and not to fence off any areas.

RESOLVED: That the

Committee recommends at the next Full Council meeting to ban dogs on the recreation ground. Its reasons for this proposal are set out above.

Clerk and Senior Council Officer to meet with North Devon Enforcement prior to the October Full Council meeting.

(NC)

PG/16/2025/26 **Garden Machinery**

The Clerk reported on replacing the Ferris mower which is 7 years old and replacing it with a walk behind/remote controlled mower.

The Council staff had reported safety concerns regarding working on County verges due to inconsiderate motorists and low hanging tree branches. The Weibang Velocity 68 TPF has a remote control function which would improve the safety of staff.

RESOLVED: To allocate £5998 in the budget for the Weibang Velocity 68 TFP and part exchange with the existing Ferris mower (£1500)

(NC)

PG/17/2025/26 **Allotments**

a) Review Rent Increase for 2026
The Senior Council Officer reported that the cost to the Council to run the allotments including rent, staff costs and contractors was around £1,918.00 p.a. The income received in 2025 was £425 and the allotment rents had not increased since 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Committee recommends to Full Council to increase rents by 50%.

(NC)

b) Consider options for overgrown allotments.

It was reported that there are some difficult issues with some allotment holders and contact had been made with Live Well in Braunton to ask volunteers for assistance. Monitoring is to continue and the Committee to be updated on progress.

PG/18/2025/26 **Committee Remit and Development Plan**

The Committee noted the Remit and Development Plan.

PG/19/2025/26 **Committee Budget 2026/27**

RESOLVED: That the Committee recommends to Full Council to set a Committee budget of £143,860.00 for 2026/2027 (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting closed at 3.30pm

Chairman:

Date:.....