

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Braunton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9 July 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Chaloners Road, Braunton.

Present Cllrs: M Shapland in the Chair, E Spear, D Spear, R Shapland, V Cann, E Blackmore, M Cann, R Byrom, L Childs, A Bryant, T Kirby and G Bell (part).

In attendance Officers: T Lovell, Parish Clerk & RFO

County and District Cllr Pru Maskell
Jack Philips, Small Boats and Angling
Association (SBAA)

1 members of public

060/2024/25 **Apologies** Cllr G Bell had sent his apologies and would be arriving late due to childcare.

061/2024/25 **Items not on the agenda, which in the opinion of the Chairman should be brought to the attention of the Council** There were none.

062/2024/25 **Declarations of Interest** Cllr R Byrom declared a Non Registrable Interest in Minute Ref: 075/2024/25, as he is a member of the Braunton Caen Rotary Club.

063/2024/25 **Public Participation** A resident addressed the Council regarding a fingerpost sign for Cycle Route 27 that they had installed at their own cost with donations from other residents. The County Council signage for this cycle route was inadequate and when people leave the Tarka Trail at Hordens bridge they have no idea how to rejoin the Tarka Trail.

The resident also expressed concerns regarding a fallen tree that had been in the River Caen for several months behind the North Devon Homes flats. The flood in 2012 devastated residential properties along this stretch of river and many residents had to move out of their homes for many months whilst repairs were carried out. The Environment Agency

(EA) were recently on site but had not taken any action to remove the tree obstructing the river flow. The culvert at Hordens bridge had also once again become badly silted up.

The Clerk explained that the fallen tree had been reported to the EA on two occasions by the Council. The Chairman reminded members that the EA had agreed to come and talk to the Parish Council date and time to be confirmed.

The Council thanked the resident for installing the Cycle Route 27 fingerpost sign, it was much appreciated.

064/2024/25 **Request for Dispensation**

None received.

065/2024/25 **Minutes**

a. RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 11 June 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

(NC)

b. RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Property Committee held on 3 July 2024 be ratified and adopted by Council.

(NC)

066/2024/25 **Action Sheet**

It was noted that the Clerk had not received a response from Paul Young at DCC regarding an update on the £60k S106 funding from the planning application 64000, towards traffic improvements in Braunton. The County Cllr be asked to look into this matter.

RESOLVED: That the action sheet be noted.

(NC)

067/2024/25 **Braunton Small Boat and Angling Association**

The Chairman welcomed Jack Philips from the Braunton SBAA to the meeting. Jack has been a member of the SBAA for 8 years. It was originally established in 1989 to stop the estuary turning into a bass nursing area. Many of the original members have a less active role in the Association now. In the past members had helped organise skips to clean up Velator Quay and arranged trips to Lundy and Clovelly. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 8pm in the Mariners but usually only 6-8 members attend. They have a Facebook page with over 90 members. Since the breach of Horsey Island the tide now reaches Velator Quay slightly later. The house boats on the river bank are friendly people but not part of the SBAA.

The new development currently being built has made Public Right of Way (PROW) 3 inaccessible. The developers have now moved fencing to provide limited access but once the houses are built the

existing footpath will become part of their back gardens. The developer is proposing to relocate the PROW to run along a concrete pavement and it will no longer be part the riverbank. This would be a real shame as many local people use PROW 3 to fish off of the riverbank.

The Chairman explained that the Council would be replacing the old North Devon Council litter bin at Velator Quay with a new bin. Jack confirmed that the bin was located in a good position which did not hinder the boat owners. He mentioned that the sign post on the slipway stating 'no parking' did sometime cause an obstruction depending on the size of trailers. He requested whether it would be possible to move this?

The Council would like to work with the SBAA to organise a clean up of Velator Quay. It is obtaining costs for waste removal once this information has been obtain it would like to arrange a meeting with the SBAA to discuss a clean up event.

068/2024/25

Police Representation

There was no police report. Members noted the latest newsletter.

069/2024/25

Report from Devon County Cllr

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

Cllr L Childs reported that the vegetation along Velator Way had encroached on to the pavement and cycleway. Residents are concerned for children's safety as the pavement is regularly used to access the Pump Track. This has been reported to DCC Report a Problem, the County Cllr agreed to chase this up.

Cllr G Bell expressed concerns regarding the government's proposal based on families income to remove the free school meal entitlement for children in years 1 and 2 at state funded schools in England.

The Council congratulated the County Cllr on becoming Vice Chairman of the County Council.

070/2024/25

Report from North Devon District Councillors

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

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

North Devon Cllr Simon Maddocks had sent his apologies and had nothing to report.

071/2024/25

Planning

Cllrs E Spear and Cllr G Bell in their capacity as a North Devon Councillor, stated that any opinions expressed during discussions on the following

planning application represent a preliminary view and that they will naturally reconsider the application fresh when presented all the facts at principal level.

(a) 78814

Proposed: Retrospective application for a single height extension to the East elevation for a garden room and terrace

Location: Prospect Lodge Higher Park Road
Braunton Devon EX33 2LG

Applicant: Mr Jonathan Mepsted

Moved by Cllr M Cann, seconded by Cllr T Kirby to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That Council recommends approval as the rebuild of the extension mirrors the existing main dwelling and doesn't detract from the listed building and is compliant with Policy BE1(iii) Braunton Neighbourhood Plan (BNP).

(NC)

(b) 78817

Proposed: Listed building Consent for erection of a single height extension to the East elevation for a garden room and terrace

Location: Prospect Lodge Higher Park Road
Braunton Devon EX33 2LG

Applicant: Mr Jonathan Mepsted

Moved by Cllr M Cann, seconded by Cllr T Kirby to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That Council recommends approval as the rebuild of the extension mirrors the existing main dwelling and doesn't detract from the listed building and is compliant with Policy BE1(iii) in the BNP.

(NC)

(c) 78829

Proposed: Rear extension and alterations to dwelling to include additional bedroom at first floor level

Location: 29 Church Street Braunton Devon EX33 2EL

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Appleby

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

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval as the proposed development would be in keeping with the existing main dwelling and would not negatively impact the Conservation Area due to being at the rear of the property. The application would be supported by policies BE1(i) and (iii) in the BNP.

(NC)

(d) 78733

Proposed: Erection of a dwelling

Location: 35A The Brittons Braunton Devon EX33 2HF

Applicant: Yvonne Tuson

RESOLVED: That this application be deferred until the next Council meeting to allow time for other statutory consultee responses to be available on the planning portal.

(NC)

(e) 78869

Proposed: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a tree preservation order TPO 296 (1995) in respect of removal of 1x Ash/Sycamore tree (T12)

Location: Tidal View Lower Park Road Braunton EX33 2LQ

Applicant: Mr Philip Whittle

RESOLVED: That the Council to be advised by the North Devon Landscape Officer but to request that the deadwood be retained where possible and replacement trees to be indigenous.

(NC)

(f) 78721

Proposed: Alterations and extensions to existing cottage

Location: Bakers Cottage Church Street Braunton Devon EX33 2EL

Applicant: Terry & Susan Whitear

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

It was noted that the Heritage Officer had been supportive of the application at the pre-planning stage the Council therefore felt that the proposed development would be compliant with BE1(iii) in the BNP and would not adversely impact on existing listed building.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval.

(NC)

(g) 78728

Proposed: Listed building works for alterations and extension to existing cottage

Location: Bakers Cottage Church Street Braunton Devon EX33 2EL

Applicant: Terry & Susan Whitear

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

It was noted that the Heritage Officer had been supportive of the application at the pre-planning stage the Council therefore felt that the proposed development would be compliant with BE1 (iii) in the BNP and would not adversely impact on existing listed building.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval.

(NC)

072/2024/25

Finance Matters

(a) RESOLVED: That the supplier payments on the schedule from 12 June to 9 July 2024 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £15,353.19.

(NC)

(b) RESOLVED: That the Council's June 2024 direct debits and standing orders for the sum of £6,690.11 be retrospectively approved.

(c) RESOLVED: That the PAYE, NI and pension contributions for July 2024 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £18,378.58.

(NC)

073/2024/25

Representatives on Outside Bodies

a. Cllr A Bryant the Council's representative on the SBAA had nothing further to add following Mr Philip's report received earlier in the meeting. He would be attending the SBAA's meeting tomorrow night.

b. Members considered and noted Cllr G Bell's report as one of the Council's representative on the Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum attached as – **appendix four**.

074/2024/25

To ratify decision taken under delegated powers from the 12 June to 9 July 2024

RESOLVED: That the decisions taken under delegated powers from the 12 June to 9 July 2024 be ratified and adopted, attached as – **appendix five**.

(NC)

Cllr R Byrom declared NRI as he is a member of the Braunton Caen Rotary Club.

075/2024/25

Sowing of Wildflowers on Council Land

Members considered a request from the Braunton Caen Rotary Club to sow wildflowers on Parish Council land at the back of the Fire Station.

RESOLVED: That

a. The Council grants permission to sow wildflowers on the grassed area adjacent to Butts Path. It had recently granted permission for the Fire Station to use the Parish land behind the station to carry out remedial works to

their building and retaining wall. It would therefore not be possible to sow wildflowers this autumn.

- b. This permission be subject to the Braunton Caen Rotary Club agreeing in writing the type of wildflowers to be planted and its commitment to cut collect the wildflowers. The Parish Council do not have the resources to take on another project and are not able to dispose of green waste arising from the wildflower area.

(NC)

076/2024/25

Hire Policy for Outside Space

Members reviewed the Council's Hire Policy for Outside Space.

RESOLVED: That members to email any suggested amendments to the Clerk and it be brought back to a future meeting for review.

(NC)

077/2024/25

Bowing Court Easement for Underground drain in Caen Car Park

Members considered Clause 9.1 in the Deed of Easement for an underground drain in Caen Car Park servicing Bowing Court.

RESOLVED: That the Council noted that there had been no defects in the surface of the Easement Strip and the Grantee's deposit of £2,400 to be returned.

(NC)

078/2024/25

Abandoned Vehicles on Parish land

The Clerk reported that she had been working with the North Devon Environmental Health team to remove abandoned vehicles on Parish land. Some had already successfully been removed and the remaining were under investigation. It was noted that there were still abandoned vehicles around the village.

RESOLVED: That the

- a. Clerk to update members at the next meeting regarding progress with removing the remaining abandoned vehicles.
- b. Council to provide information in its next Braunton Express newsletter regarding how the public can report an abandoned vehicle.

(NC)

079/2024/25

Street Naming & Numbering: New Development at Velator Way

The Council considered North Devon Council's proposed name and numbering, 1-23 The Watermeets, for the new development at Velator.

RESOLVED: That members expressed concerns that there is already Watersmeet in Lynton and Lymouth which could cause confusion and suggested that the development be called 1-23 Riversmeet.

(NC)

- 080/2024/25 **Mission and Vision Statement** The Chairman suggested that the Council should create a mission and vision statement for councillors.
- RESOLVED: That members to send suggested comments to create a councillor mission and vision statement to the Clerk, it be brought back to a future meeting for consideration.
- Cllr G Bell left the meeting at 8.56pm.
- 081/2024/25 **North Devon Christmas Market** The Council considered the Market Organiser's breakdown of the charities that benefitted from last year's Market. It was noted many local businesses benefit from the Christmas Market due to the number of visitors it attracts to the village.
- RESOLVED: That the
- a. Council grants consent for the North Devon Christmas Market to be held in Caen Street Car Park on Saturday 7 December 2024, subject to all licences and permissions being granted prior to the event.
- (NC)
- Moved by Cllr D Spear, seconded by Cllr E Spear that all votes regarding the fee be recorded.
- b. Council charge a hire fee of £500.
- (8.2.1abs)
- Eight votes in favour Cllrs: M Shapland, T Kirby, V Cann, M Cann, R Byrom, E Blackmore, A Braynt and R Shapland.
Two votes against Cllrs: E Spear and D Spear.
One abstention Cllr L Childs.
- 082/2024/25 **Hire of Recreation Ground** RESOLVED: That the Council grants permission for a Dog Training Club to hold a community dog show on the Recreation Ground. As this is a community event the commercial fee be halved to £65. Date and time to be confirmed.
- (NC)
- 083/2024/25 **Exclusion of Press and Public – Part II** 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(1).

084/2024/25 **Rent Review**
Braunton
Library RESOLVED: That the Clerk to be instructed to start rent review proceedings as per the Lease.

085/2024/25 **Lease Review**
Braunton
Bowling Club Members noted that the Bowling Club's Lease review date had passed.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk to instruct the Council's solicitor to start proceedings to review the Bowling Club's Lease.

The meeting closed at 9.26pm.

Signed by the Chair:
(Cllr M Shapland)

Date: