

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Braunton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th January 2021 at 7:00 pm by video conference call.

- Present** Cllrs: E Spear in the Chair, D Spear, M Shapland, R Shapland, B Bunyard, E Wood, G Bell, J Chesters P Lord, A Bradford, A Bryant and V Cann,
- Officers: T Lovell, Parish Clerk & RFO.
- 4 member of the public.
- The Chair welcomed those in attendance and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Technical checks were undertaken, the Chair read out the procedures for virtual meetings.
- 192/2020/21 **Apologies** Received from Cllr D Relph.
- 193/2020/21 **Declarations of Interest** Cllr M Shapland declared a non Pecuniary interest in Minute Ref: 207/2020/21, as she is member and Parochial Church Council (St. Brannock's Church).
- Cllr R Shapland declared a non Pecuniary interest in Minute Ref: 207/2020/21, as he is a member of the Parochial Church Council (St. Brannock's Church).
- 194/2020/21 **Receive items for information not on the agenda, which in the opinion of the Chairman should be brought to the attention of the Council.** The Chair proposed and it was unanimously agreed to bring item 17 – Introducing Beavers in Braunton forward on the agenda to be considered after item 10 – Braunton Skate Bowl. (NC)
- 195/2020/21 **Public Participation** There was no public participation.
- 196/2020/21 **Minutes** RESOLVED: That
- a. the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 14th December 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair

as a correct record, subject to Cllr G Bell being recorded as present.

(NC)

- 197/2020/21 **Action Sheet** RESOLVED: That the Action Sheet be deferred to the next meeting as it was temporarily unavailable.
- 198/2020/21 **Police Report** RESOLVED: That the Police newsletter for December 2020 be noted. (NC)
- 199/2020/21 **Reports from the Devon County Councillor** There was no County Councillor report received.
RESOLVED: That the Clerk to request an update from Devon County Council regarding their assessment of traffic calming measures in Knowle following the petition that was presented to them last year. (NC)
Cllr Bryant requested that the Council also pass on the concerns of a local resident regarding the dangers of crossing the A361 in Knowle with their horse.
- 200/2020/21 **Reports from the North Devon Councillors** Cllr D Spear had attended the Policy and Development meeting which set out NDC's aims and objectives for the forthcoming year. This was a very productive meeting and lasted for three hours.
Cllr J Chesters reported that Licencing was fairly quiet at the moment this was due to the Covid-19 restrictions but NDC are receiving a large number of planning applications.
- 201/2020/21 **Braunton Skate Bowl** The Chair welcomed Stacey Wallis from the North Devon Skateboarding CIC.
Stacey explained that she had submitted a funding request to Sports England to improve skate boarding facilities in Braunton. Peter Jones, Locality Development Officer had met (virtually) with her, the Clerk and Trustees from the Museum of British Surfing (MOBS) to discuss the project. There are three potential sites for a skatebowl: a) at the Museum site; b) at a piece of land the parish council might develop near the 'Anchor'; c) at the 'Pump Track' site (in the parish of Heanton Punchardon). If the skatebowl were to stay at the MOBS site it would need to be designed in a way that prevented vandalism to the Museum building (along with other anti-vandalism measures: lighting, fencing, CCTV etc). However, it is unlikely the skatebowl could extend into the car park due to loss of car parking spaces. The 'anchor' site may be too limited in terms of size a site appraisal would need to be carried out. The Pump Track site belongs to NDC and would need their agreement along with the local householders. Any site has to be able to meet skateboarders' aspirations. Once a site has been agreed on, a design specification would need to be drawn up that skateboard park designers could respond to with drawings and costings. The project would

lend itself to a partnership approach, but a lead body and or accountable body would need to be identified from among the partners for funding purposes. The partnership may look different depending on the site selected.

Members thanked Stacey Wallis for her presentation it was suggested that the Skate Bowl site at the MOBS might be eligible for S106 funding if it's classed as open space. The Clerk would investigate this and report back.

RESOLVED: That the Council, agrees in principle, to support this project if carried out on Parish Council land.
(NC)

202/2020/21

**Introducing
Beavers to
Braunton**

The Chair welcomed Chris Jones, Restoration Director at the Beaver Trust to the meeting.

Chris explained that he is the lead officer for the beaver restoration programme helping communities to develop projects that will recover biodiversity and build climate resilience. Chris is a livestock farmer based in Cornwall and has been instrumental in setting up and running the Cornwall Beaver Project with Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Exeter University.

The Eurasian Beaver (*Castor Fiber*) is native to Britain and can help shape the landscape and waterways, providing habitat for fish, birds and insect. Beavers have been hunted to almost extinction the Beaver Trust's programme 'Mainstream' is about making Beavers a normal part of our waterscape once again. The benefits of a beaver wetland are, as follows:

- Filter out pollutants such as agricultural chemicals.
- Reduces the level of carbon released into the atmosphere.
- Helps to prevent flooding downstream by reducing the flow of water.
- Helps to prevent drought as beaver ponds provide water storage.
- Provides habitat for a huge abundance of invertebrates, fish and amphibians.

Introducing beavers to communities is managed by containing them in enclosures which requires landowners permission. There are wild sites and contained enclosures across the UK. Bringing back beavers to waterscapes is not straightforward. Beaver wetlands can provide benefits to people and wildlife but they can cause conflict with current land use, livelihoods and traditions. It is crucial that you work with local stakeholders and partner organisations such as Natural England, Devon Wildlife Trust, AONB and the Biosphere.

Members thanked Chris Jones for his presentation.

RESOLVED: That

- a. Cllr A Bryant to identify land ownership and engage local landowners.
- b. The Council to form a Working Party of up to five members to progress this project and report back to the Council in six months.

(NC)

Members thanked Cllr A Bryant for his work on this project.

203/2020/21

Planning

Cllrs E Spear, D Spear and J Chesters 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) 72558
 Proposal: Conversion of 4 barns to form 5 holiday lets.
 Location: Incledon Farm, Braunton, Devon, EX33 1HU
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs H Bury

It was moved by Cllr M Shapland, seconded by Cllr R Shapland to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval subject to the comments made by the Sustainability Officer being taken into consideration.

The site is within the SSSI Caen Valley Bat Roost and there are concerns regarding the impact this might have on foraging bats. There appears to be no consideration to provide a net gain for biodiversity by introducing bat/bird boxes as requested by the Environment Agency.

Concerns regarding sustainable waste management the Council would request that the Applicant addresses this, for example the use of Reed beds.

(8.3.1abs)

- (b) 72616
 Proposal: Extension and alterations to dwelling.
 Location: Hill Park House, Church Hill Lane, Knowle, Braunton, Devon, E33 2ND
 Applicant: Mr Griffiths-Jones

It was moved by Cllr J Chesters, seconded by Cllr D Spear to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval subject to the studio work area remaining ancillary to the main house.

(11.1abs)

- (c) 72654
Proposal: Extension to dwelling.
Location: 23 Dune View Road, Braunton, Devon,
EX33 1BZ
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Cook

It was moved by Cllr J Chesters, seconded by Cllr R Shapland to recommend refusal.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends refusal on the grounds that the application does not meet building control requirements and there are concerns regarding the stability of the foundations.
(NC)

- (d) 72662
Proposal: Notification for prior approval for larger home extension which extends 3.4m beyond the rear wall, 3.6m to the ridge and 2.55m to the eaves.
Location: 6 Saunton Road, Braunton, Devon, EX33 1HB
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Brett

It was moved by Cllr D Spear, seconded by Cllr R Shapland to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval.

(NC)

204/2020/21

**North Devon
Council –
Planning
Decisions**

North Devon Council, the determining Authority, has APPROVED the following applications with conditions as filed:

- 72372 Proposal: Outline application for erection of a dwelling (all matters reserved).
Location: 35A The Brittons, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2HF.
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Tuson
Decision: WITHDRAWN
Decision Date: 16/12/20
- 72392 Proposal: Outline application with matters reserved for a self build/custom build residential dwelling, removal of field shelter and formation of access track.
Location: The Stables, Saunton Road, Braunton, Devon, EX33 1HG.
Applicant: Peter Caswell
Decision: APPROVED
Decision Date: 18/12/20
- 72409 Proposal: Conversion of dwelling back to 2 semi detached properties.
Location: Burmur, Barton Lane, Braunton, Devon,

EX33 2AY.
Applicant: James Ramsay
Decision: APPROVED
Decision Date: 18/12/20

72405 Proposal: Raising of the roof to create additional living space and insertion of dormer windows together with demolition of rear extension and erecting of single storey extensions.
Location: 3 Cavie Road, Braunton, Devon, EX33 1DX.
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Higgs
Decision: APPROVED.
Decision Date: 10/12/20

72249 Proposal: Reserved matters application for erection of one dwelling (outline planning permission 66736 some matters reserved)(amended description).
Location: Beech House land adjacent to Wrafton End Higher Park Road, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2LG
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Sheldon
Decision: APPROVED.
Decision Date: 08/12/20

205/2020/21	<u>Accounts due for Payment for the period 14th December 2020 to 11th January 2021, including PAYE, NI and pension contributions</u>	RESOLVED: That the accounts due for payment be deferred to the next meeting as the Supplier Payments report was temporarily unavailable. RESOLVED: That PAYE, NI and pension contributions for January 2021 be approved and paid, appended to these Minutes. (NC)
206/2020/21	<u>Internal Audit Report and interim Internal Audit Observations 2020/21</u>	Copies of the Internal Auditor Report and observations had been circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting, appended to these Minutes. RESOLVED: To note the Internal Auditor's Report and observations for interim Audit 2020/21. (NC)
207/2020/21	<u>Hire of the Community Shared Space (CSS)</u>	RESOLVED: That the Council grants permission for St Brannock's Church to use the CSS on the 29 th , 30 th and 31 st of July and the 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 12 th , 13 th , 14 th , 19 th , 20 th , 21 st , 26 th , 27 th , and 28 th of August to 'sell ducks' for the purpose of promoting their Annual Duck Race being held on the 30 th August 2021. (NC)
208/2020/21	<u>Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), Saunton Road</u>	Members considered a report circulated prior to the meeting providing an update regarding the purchase and installation of a Pandora Technologies PTSC 906 Slow Down, Speed and Smiley Face VAS to be positioned along Saunton Road. Saunton Road is a residential area and a

main access road to a primary school. The straight roads make it easy for motorists to speed which is evident as the area is monitored by the local voluntary speed watch team. The Devon and Cornwall Police who oversee the local voluntary speed watch team have written a letter in support of this project.

Devon County Council Locality Fund have provided £1,500 towards the project and the Council have applied for a £1,000 from the North Devon Councillor Community grants but this is subject to permission being granted by the County to position the VAS on the highway.

Devon County Council introduced a new procedure for VAS which came into effect on the 21st December 2020. Parish councils may purchase their own mobile VAS for use at multiple locations around their parish. All locations must be agreed through the Speed Compliance Action Review Forum (SCARF). The Parish will need to provide a risk assessment for each site and erect new posts to install the VAS.

The Parish Council will also be responsible for

- purchase & installation costs (a warranty of 5 years is recommended)
- ongoing maintenance and calibration which will need to be carried out in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations
- insurance (including insurance for working on the highway).
- all repairs.

RESOLVED: That

- a. Cllr V Cann and Cllr B Bunyard to carry out a risk assessment of the sites.
- b. The Clerk to obtain a quotation to erect a post at each of the sites.
- c. The Clerk to request Devon County Council when the next SCARF meeting will be held and if the funding can be carried over to the next financial year.
- d. To bring full costings back to a future meeting for approval.

(NC)

209/2020/21

Items to note

RESOLVED: That the Council notes item a – The Clerk, Vol 52, No. 1, January 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm.

Signed by the Chair:
(Cllr E Spear)

Date: