

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Braunton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th October 2022 at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Chaloners Road, Braunton.

	<u>Present</u>	Cllrs: E Spear in the Chair, D Spear, R Shapland, M Shapland, A Bryant, V Cann, J Chesters, G Bell and B Bunyard. Officers: T Lovell, Parish Clerk & RFO Andy Bell, North Devon UNESCO Biosphere 4 members of the public.
	<u>Not in attendance</u>	Cllrs: A Bradford.
091/2022/23	<u>Apologies</u>	Received from Cllrs: P Lord - indisposed. E Wood – holiday D Relph – unable to attend due to a prior engagement.
092/2022/23	<u>Items not on the agenda, which in the opinion of the Chairman should be brought to the attention of the Council</u>	The speaker from Ask for Jake is unable to attend due to a personal reason, this item will be postponed until a future meeting. The Post Mistress at the Braunton Post Office has been awarded first prize in the South West region for excellent customer service.
093/2022/23	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	Cllr J Chesters declared a non Pecuniary interest in Minute Ref: 104/2022/23(b), as the applicant is known to her.
094/2022/23	<u>Public Participation</u>	A representative from the Braunton Caen Rotary Club updated members regarding the Braunton Big Clean Up that took place on Sunday 9 th October. It was a great community effort and the village is looking a lot better. At the event a member of the public requested if the Council would consider engaging with the local businesses to try and encourage them to keep shop fronts tidy. This would be considered at the October Advisory Discussion meeting.
095/2022/23	<u>Requests for Dispensation</u>	There were none.

096/2022/23	<u>Minutes</u>	<p>RESOLVED: That</p> <p>a. the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 9th August 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record. (8.0.1abs)</p> <p>b. the Minutes of the Parks and Gardens Committee meeting held on 16th August 2022 be ratified and adopted by the Council. (6.0.3abs)</p>
097/2022/23	<u>Action Sheet</u>	<p>Cllr Graham Bell updated members regarding pharmacy provisions. He had attended the Health and Adult Scrutiny Committee on the 28th September, due to illness he was unable to speak but his wife attended to speak on his behalf. They addressed the Committee in relation to 'System Development and Improvement' and in particular their concerns in relation to Community Pharmacy Services in North Devon and the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. Cllr G Bell would provide a more detailed report to members at the Advisory Discussion meeting on the 24th October.</p> <p>Cllr M Shapland explained that the Rt Hon George Eustice MP had been replaced as the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase up a response from his successor.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Action Sheet be noted. (NC)</p>
098/2022/23	<u>Police Report</u>	<p>There was no police report received.</p> <p>Cllr A Bryant had received a complaint regarding speeding in Knowle and that there is not safe crossing available to cross the A361. Highways have said it is not a road design issues its an enforcement issue. Agreed that the Council would contact the local police team regarding this matter.</p>
099/2022/23	<u>North Devon UNESCO Biosphere</u>	<p>The Chair welcomed Andy Bell the UNESCO World Biosphere Coordinator for North Devon.</p> <p>Andy explained that the Biosphere works closely with North Devon Council and, Cllr Derrick Spear is the District Council's representative on the Biosphere.</p> <p>CRITTER project:</p> <p>The aim of this project is to provide landowners and land managers with 50% grant funding towards water quality and soil betterment on farms. landowners will be provided with surveys and soil carbon testing prior to saltmarsh creation in modelled and suitable locations within the estuary. The project timeframe: March 2022 to March 2023. The overall objective is to work with</p>

landowners and land managers to improve water quality, reduce flood risk, increase the health of local soils, create areas of new saltmarsh, all supported through a simple small grant scheme process.

Reintroduction of Water Voles:

Water voles have been reintroduced on the Marshes following their population being decimated by the release of Mink into the countryside. The traps are monitored by satellite technology which sends an automatic notification if a trap goes off. This monitoring system will be in place for six months until March 2023.

Woods 4 Water project:

There are many catchments within Devon and Cornwall including the river Caen where water quality and flood risk is impacted by land management (River Basin Management Plan). Research and development demonstrates that woodland planting is cost beneficial and can form an important pollution and flood reduction measure if targeted appropriately.

A recent report jointly funded by Forestry Commission England and the Environment Agency reviewed the latest evidence concerning the positive and negative impacts of woodland on surface and ground waters. The Environment Agency's Summary Report of this work concluded that:

- There is strong evidence to support woodland creation in appropriate locations to achieve water management and water quality objectives,
 - Woodland contributing to tackling diffuse pollution, includes both a barrier and interception function, helping to trap and retain nutrients and sediment in polluted runoff,
- A good case can be made for the mitigation of downstream flooding by riparian and floodplain woodland.

The Biosphere continue to work with the Marsh Inspector to strengthen the bank. Eventually the fresh water marsh will become salt marsh but saltmarsh can still be used for grazing and will need to be adopted in the future.

There are proposals to extend the Lundy Island no take zone as this has proved to have a good impact on lobster and crab populations. Consultation is currently underway with the fishermen who appear to be supportive of the plans to extend the no take zone.

The Biosphere have issued a position statement regarding the proposed Whitecross Off Shore Wind turbines. The turbines will be in the Celtic sea and the proposal is that the cabling in come onshore across Braunton Burrow but this is still to be approved.

Finally, Andy informed members that it would be the 20th Anniversary of the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere on the 3rd November.

The Chair thanked Andy for his informative presentation.

100/2022/23

Aid for Ukraine

The Chair welcomed Richard Maynard to the meeting.

Mr Maynard explained that he had attended the Braunton Aid for Ukraine trip in the spring and because it was so successful, he is planning a second trip this winter. There are new challenges facing the Ukrainian people this winter and he plans to take supplies over to the Hungarian border including thermal clothing, blankets and medical supplies.

The trip is planned to take place on the 12th December returning on the 22nd December. An ex-police officer who is a qualified motorway professional driver will be accompanying him on the trip. Greenslades have offered to loan him a 17 seat minibus but he needs to raise £5,000 to enable the trip to go ahead. He plans to hold fundraising activities and setup a Just Giving page. He would like to request from the Parish Council a donation of £2,000 towards the trip costs and use of the Parish logo for this branding.

Members clarified that the parish logo did not belong to Parish Council and therefore could not give permission for him to use. With regards the request for funding it was agreed that this be considered following the setting of the Council's budget and precept 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That the request for a financial donation of £2,000 be brought back to the November Council meeting and considered following the setting of the Council's budget and precept 2023/24.

(NC)

101/2022/23

Ask for Jake

This item be postponed due apologies received from the guest speaker.

102/2022/23

Devon County Councillor Report

RESOLVED: That the County Cllr's report be deferred until the next Council meeting and the Clerk to request if she could send her report earlier for future meetings.

103/2022/23

North Devon Councillor Report

Cllr D Spear explained that the County are consulting regarding plans to expand the Braunton Academy. There has been a significant increase in housing within the school's catchment area.

The One Northern Devon Active Travel committee are still progressing with improving cycle paths across North Devon including the Knowle to Willingcott extension. Stuart Hughes at Devon County Council has been contacted but unfortunately not much progress has been made regarding this cycle path.

North Devon Council were unaware of the Home Office plans to home asylum seekers in a popular seaside hotel in Ilfracombe. There are concerns regarding the remoteness of this community and whether the asylum seekers will have sufficient access to services. There are also concerns regarding the impact this might have on the local economy as the area is reliant on tourism. The loss of a large hotel may have a negative impact on the local economy. North Devon Council are now in negotiations with the Home Office and other partner agencies.

104/2022/23

Planning

Cllr E Spear and D Spear 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. 75946

Proposal: Demolition of garage & rear extensions and construction of new rear and side extensions

Location: 58 Saunton Road Braunton Devon EX33 1HD

Applicant: Mr I Barker

Moved by Cllr J Chesters, seconded by Cllr G Bell to recommend refusal.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends refusal on the grounds, as follows:

- The size and height of the proposed extension to the dwelling would be overbearing and cast a shadow on the neighbouring bungalow and cause an unacceptable loss of sunlight.
- Concerns regarding inadequate sewerage infrastructure that might be unable to cope with taking away additional sewerage. Request that South West Water be consulted.

(7.1.1abs)

Cllr J Chesters declared a non Pecuniary interest.

b. 75795

Proposal: Sub-division of a large dwelling (formerly an assisted care home) into 3 separate units/dwellings through minor internal works

Location: The Warren Road from Stony Bridge To Hartnolls Tenement Knowle Devon EX33 1HR

Applicant: Mrs Shane Stevens

Moved by Cllr B Bunyard, seconded by D Spear to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval subject to appropriate road safety investigations

regarding safe access/egress on to the highway.

If the Local Planning Authority are mindful to approve this application perhaps Devon County Council Highways may wish to consider reducing the speed limit on this stretch road due to poor visibility outward from the proposed dwelling.

(7.0.2abs)

c. 75943

Proposal: Prior approval for a proposed change of use from commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3)

Location: The Old Pottery Station Road Braunton EX33 2AQ

Applicant: Mr Henry Southward

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

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval.
(NC)

d. 75511

Proposal: Demolition of outbuilding together with extensions and alterations to dwelling

Location: Stable Yard Barn Heddon Mill Braunton EX33 1HZ

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Harrington

Moved by Cllr G Bell, seconded by Cllr R Shapland to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval.
(NC)

e. 75990

Proposal: Alteration of hipped roof to gable roof to convert utility / store into mezzanine bedroom

Location: 26 Field Close Braunton Devon EX33 1EP

Applicant: Mr C Marston

Moved by Cllr R Shapland, seconded by Cllr D Spear to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval.
(NC)

f. 75999

Proposal: Extension & alterations to dwelling

Location: 28 Pixie Lane Braunton Devon EX33 1BW

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Weeks

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

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval

subject to the comments from the neighbouring property that obscured glass be provided in the window that would overlook their property and result in an invasion of privacy.

(8.0.1abs)

a. 76006

Proposal: Erection of 2 dwellings

Location: Land to rear of Steyning Lower Park Road
Braunton Devon EX33 2LH

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Reid

Moved by B Bunyard, seconded by D Spear and unanimously agreed that the Council wishes to not make any comment.

(NC)

105/2022/23

**North Devon
Council
Planning
Decisions**

75692

Description: Extensions and alterations to dwelling to include conversion of garage

Site Address: Laburnum House Scurfield Close Braunton Devon EX33 1HQ

Applicant: Mr & Mrs M Sharp

Decision: APPROVED

Decision Date: 23/9/22

106/2022/23

Finance

a. RESOLVED: That the cheques on the schedule from 10th August to 15th September 2022 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £6,583.71.

b. RESOLVED: That the PAYE, NI and pension contributions for September 2022 be approved

c. RESOLVED: That the cheques on the schedule from the 16th September to 11th October 2022 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £4,536.68.

d. RESOLVED: That the PAYE, NI and pension contributions for October 2022 be approved

(NC)

107/2022/23

**Braunton
Community
Work Hub**

a. RESOLVED: That the Council provides Live Well in Braunton use of the Beacon Office at the Hub free of charge, to be reviewed annually.

b. RESOLVED: agreed for Ask for Jake to have use of the Work Hub at weekends including use of the Beacon Office and to use the external shed for storage.

Cllr J Chesters left the meeting at 8.41pm

108/2022/23

**Parish Council
Tariff Review**

RESOLVED: That to benefit from the government price guarantee the Council to enter into fixed energy contracts, as follows:

a. three year contract at the Work Hub with Smartest Energy as per email dated 30th August.

b. two year contract with EDF for its six remaining meters across parish properties.

(NC)

109/2022/23	<u>To ratify decision taken under delegated powers from 19th August to 10th October 2022</u>	RESOLVED: That the decisions taken under delegated powers from the 19 th August to 10 th October 2022 be ratified and adopted, attached as Appendix A.
110/2022/23	<u>Future arrangements for Council meetings</u>	RESOLVED: That the Council to continue meeting on the second Tuesday of the month in the parish hall where members can socially distance. If the number Covid cases locally reduce to bring back to the Council for further consideration. (NC)
111/2022/23	<u>Braunton Parish Council Car Parks</u>	<p>a. The Council considered the amended Management and Operational Agreement for the Caen Street and Chaloners Road car parks issued by North Devon Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Clerk to obtain clarity regarding the number of cash collections under the new management and operational agreements. (NC)</p> <p>b. The Council considered reviewing the North Devon Off Street Parking Order.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to increase its pay and display tariff by 10 pence from 1 hour onwards. ii. To increase the minimum stay time from 20 minutes to 30 minutes and increase the charge to 30 pence. <p>(NC)</p>
112/2022/23	<u>Arrangements for Christmas 2022</u>	<p>a. RESOLVED: That the Council purchases a 25ft Christmas tree. The Clerk to explore costs to decorate the tree with lights and bring back to the November Council meeting.</p> <p>b. RESOLVED: That the Council provides free parking in the Caen Street Car Park on Saturday the 17th and 24th December and Wednesday the 21st December from 3pm to support local businesses with late night shopping.</p> <p>c. RESOLVED: That the Parish Council office to close on Friday the 23rd December at 12pm and reopen at 9am on Tuesday 3rd January 2022. (NC)</p>
113/2022/23	<u>Braunton Twinning Organisation</u>	<p>Members considered an update from the Braunton Twinning Organisation, circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Council agrees to host a luncheon in the Parish Hall on Friday 19th May 2023 to welcome our twinning friends visiting from Ploucescat. (NC)</p>
114/2022/23	<u>Mobile Vehicular Activated Sign (VAS)</u>	Cllr Cann updated members regarding funding for the mobile VAS for Braunton. £1,150 had been secured from the District Community Councillors grants. A further £1,000 had been secured from the County Cllr's grant.

The funding application to Fullabrook CIC was unfortunately unsuccessful. She proposed that the Council sets up a Crowdfunding page to raise the remaining £1,200 required for this project.

RESOLVED: That the Council authorises the Clerk to set up a Crowdfunding page to raise £1,200 towards the completion of the project. The Clerk to also apply to the Devon and Cornwall Resilience Fund.

(NC)

115/2022/23

**EX33
Subscription**

RESOLVED: That the Council to renew its subscription to print the Braunton Express newsletter in the EX33 for 21 months from the next March. The Clerk to negotiate a discount, if possible.

(NC)

116/2022/23

**Braunton
Recreational
Ground**

RESOLVED: That the Council grants permission for R&T Tours to hire the Braunton Recreational Ground on the 29th and 30th April 2023 for their annual football tournament.

(NC)

117/2022/23

**Community
Shared Space
(CSS)**

RESOLVED: That the Council grants permission for Mr Ash to use the CSS on 15th, 22nd and 29th October 2022 to sell tickets for their annual fireworks events at the Cricket Club. All proceeds to be donated to Ask for Jake and to fund a defibrillator on the building at the Braunton Cricket Club.

(NC)

118/2022/23

**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(3).

(NC)

119/2022/23

**Lease
arrangements
for Braunton
Mens Shed**

RESOLVED:

- a. That the Council appoints Brewer Harding and Rowe to act as its solicitor to prepare a lease for the Braunton Mens Shed subject to planning consent being granted.
- b. That the Council to consider terms of the lease this be brought to a future meeting for approval.

(NC)

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed by the Chair:
(Cllr E Spear)

Date: