

## **BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL**



### **Minutes of the Braunton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Chaloners Road, Braunton.**

#### **Present**

Cllrs: E Spear in the Chair, D Spear, R Shapland, M Shapland, V Cann, J Chesters, G Bell and E Wood.

Officers: T Lovell, Parish Clerk & RFO

Devon County Councillor Pru Maskell

9 members of the public.

Cllrs: B Bunyard and A Bradford.

#### **Not in attendance**

201/2022/23

#### **Apologies**

Received from Cllrs P Lord, D Relph and A Bryant.

202/2022/23

#### **Items not on the agenda, which in the opinion of the Chairman should be brought to the attention of the Council**

The Chair reminded members that the Braunton Annual Parish Meeting would be held tomorrow, 15 March at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

The Chair read out an email received from Dr. Hill at the Caen Medical Centre thanking the Parish Council for cutting back the hedgerow in the Overflow Car Park.

203/2022/23

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr R Shapland declared a non Pecuniary interest in Minute Ref: 212/2022/23 - (a) 76692, as he is the Council's representative on the Braunton and Rural Mens Shed.

Cllr J Chesters declared a Pecuniary interest in Minute Ref (d) 76786, as her daughter is the applicant.

Cllr E Wood declared a non Pecuniary interest in Minute Ref: 212/2022/23 - (c) 76750, as the applicant is a neighbour.

The Clerk had been requested to obtain advice from the Monitoring Offer (MO) regarding whether the Council would be permitted to consider planning applications 76692, as the Council are the landowners and have publicly expressed its support for the project. The Clerk also requested advice regarding planning application 76786, as the applicant is the daughter of a Parish

Councillor.

The MO was currently unavailable and the Council's request had been past to his deputy officers for action but no response had been received prior to the meeting.

Moved by Cllr D Spear, seconded by Cllr M Shapland that planning applications 76692 and 76786 be deferred until the Advisory Discussion meeting. This would allow time for the MO to respond on the legalities of the Council considering these planning applications. Deferral of these applications would not delay the Local Planning Authority making a decision as both would still be within the public consultation period.

RESOLVED: That planning applications 76692 and 76786 be deferred to the Advisory Discussion meeting.  
(6.2.0abs)

204/2022/23

**Public  
Participation**

A member of the public representing the Braunton and Rural Mens Shed expressed their disappointment that the Council had deferred consideration of planning application 76692 until its Advisory Discussion meeting. He was concerned that delaying the planning process would impact their funding.

Cllr V Cann apologised for postponing the planning application and reiterated her support for the project.

Cllr G Bell explained that he personally supports the Mens Shed project due to his professional involvement with mental health. Delaying the Parish Council's response until the Advisory Discussion meeting being held on Monday 27 March, would not delay the planning process. The planning consultation time is set by legislation and not due to end until the 27 March. It is unfortunately that the MO was unable to respond before tonight's meeting but the Council has to ensure that it acts within legal perimeters.

The Chair reiterated the Council's support for the Mens Shed and hopefully it will receive a response from the MO before its Advisory Discussion meeting.

The Applicant of 76750 addressed the Council explaining that the proposed new dwelling was intended to be a family home for their family to live in. The applicant would be happy to answer questions members may have.

A member of the public addressed the Council regarding the Devon County Council consultation on the closure of the North Devon Link Centres. He was concerned that the consultation was not clear and difficult to access. It alludes to a lot of things but fails to give any facts or figures. He understood the need to save money on the running of the buildings but this should not affect the

ethos of the service. If we lose this service in our local communities, we will never get it back. He requested that the Council calls for this consultation to be done again as there needs to be more thought put into establishing a long-term preventative service. Amalgamating this service with other services will in the short-term save money but longer-term it will not be cost effective.

205/2022/23	<b><u>Requests for Dispensation</u></b>	There were none.
206/2022/23	<b><u>Minutes</u></b>	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>a. That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 14 February 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.</p> <p>b. That the Minutes of the Parks and Gardens Committee meeting held on 13 February 2023 be ratified and adopted by the Council.</p> <p>c. That the Minutes of the Property Committee meeting held on 21 February 2023 be ratified and adopted by the Council.</p> <p>(NC)</p>
207/2022/23	<b><u>Action Sheet</u></b>	<p>RESOLVED: That the Action Sheet be noted.</p> <p>(NC)</p>
208/2022/23	<b><u>Police Report</u></b>	<p>a. Cllr J Chesters expressed her concerns regarding children from the neighbouring estate riding electric bikes on the roads and not wearing safety helmets. She was also concerned for the safety of dog walkers on the road who are not wearing reflective clothing in the dark.</p> <p>The Council requested if the police could provide a presence at meetings to address community concerns in person.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Council notes the March police newsletter.</p> <p>b. Members considered a report, circulated prior to the meeting, regarding additional security lighting outside the Bowling Club gates.</p> <p>A member of the Bowling Club whilst locking up had experienced an encounter with youths. They locked the member inside the Bowling Club. When he managed to open the gate they wouldn't let him leave obstructing his vehicle by standing in front of it. Additional lighting might help to deter this behaviour and users of the Bowling Club would feel safer.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Council to obtain quotes to be considered by the Property Committee.</p>

209/2022/23

**North Devon**  
**World Surfing**  
**Reserve**

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Kevin Cook, Chair of Trustees at the Museum of British Surfing (MOBS).

Twelve months ago, we received the amazing news that, as a result of our strong application, North Devon had been designated by the Save The Waves (STW) Coalition, as the 12th World Surfing Reserve, the first in the UK and only the second in Europe. This award was greeted by a news media frenzy from all over the world and the unique attributes of North Devon were shared around the globe.

In the interim period, between then and now, the core group of the North Devon Wave Surfing Reserve (NDWSR) have been engaged in ensuring that the follow-up work required by STW is all in place -

- A Strategic Plan (we consulted on your views for this)
- A Financial Plan (we have registered as a company, have set up a bank account and are in the process of applying for charitable company status)
- Preparation of a book showcasing the quality of each surf location, the special nature of the environment and the ecosystems present (Bray Leino have been working on this on a pro bono basis).
- A Dedication ceremony with plaques identifying each of the surf break locations and it is this final point – the plaques and dedication that we need your help with.

We have been working with a local artist to come up with design ideas appropriate for each location and should be able to share those ideas very soon – hopefully this week. Obviously, plaques/artwork will require planning permission and this will be time-sensitive and will need your support. Additionally, depending on the cost, we would hope that each location might be able to fund the plaque/artwork in their area.

Friday, 12th May - 11am Main Dedication, reception and official presentation on the Greensward at Woolacombe, overlooking the sea. Buffet and drinks at the Red Barn. Plaque at Combesgate

7-00pm Screening of film at the Landmark, Ilfracombe

Saturday, 13th May - 11am Visit to the Museum of British Surfing, Braunton, (the Reserve hub)

12-30pm Presentation of plaque, Saunton Beach – longboard surfing

3pm Croyde beach for presentation of plaque

Sri Lankan curry celebration at the Thatch

Sunday 14th May - 10-30am Putsborough Beach for official plaque unveiling and viewing of Sand Art created by local schoolchildren

12-30pm Presentation of plaque at Lynmouth. Sunday lunch/cream tea

Farewell to Save the Waves delegates

This draft programme may be subject to change. We anticipate inviting two delegates from each organisation on the stewardship councils to the main dedication at Woolacombe on Friday 12th May.

We will be in touch again very soon to confirm the programme and share the designs for the plaque with the Council.

The Chair thanked Kevin for his update on this fantastic news. It was noted that the events would be held after the local Elections on the 4 May, the Clerk to inform members of the events following the Election.

210/2022/23

**Devon County  
Councillor  
Report**

The County Cllr reported that under the Changing Places fund Croyde now has new facilities that meet the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis. Extra equipment and space has been provided to allow them to use the facility safely and comfortably.

Devon County Council are currently consulting on the future of the North Devon Link Service. To reduce costs the buildings which provide this service may go but the County are looking at ways to make the service sustainable for the future.

The Chair requested when the County would be repairing the highway pedestrian island on Exeter Road. It was damaged months ago and is now an eyesore in the community. Will it be repaired before the Easter holiday? The County Cllr explained that the works are scheduled to take place but there is a shortage of engineers able to carry out the work which is causing the delay.

A member of the Parish Council commented on the County Council's consultation on the Homelessness. This is another service where funding has been slashed. The Consultation is difficult to access and needs more publicity.

Members also expressed concerns regarding the proposed closure of the Learning Centres. The County Cllr explained that very few people with learning disabilities are accessing the day centres which are an expensive service to run. The Council noted that we are currently in a mental health and homelessness crisis, members understand that it is difficult to find money but vulnerable people need our help.

211/2022/23	<b><u>North Devon Councillor Report</u></b>	Cllr D Spear, prior to the meeting, circulated the Northern Devon Biosphere Report. This is an excellent update on the work the ND Biosphere.
212/2022/23	<b><u>Planning</u></b>	<p data-bbox="730 340 1498 544"><i>Cllr 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.</i></p> <p data-bbox="730 577 1393 613">Cllr R Shapland declared a non Pecuniary interest.</p> <p data-bbox="730 647 911 683">(a) 76692</p> <p data-bbox="730 683 1498 815">Proposal: Change of use of land to include Siting of Southern Railway vehicles to form Men's shed Workshop Location: Caen Street Car Park Caen Street Braunton Applicant: Jonathan Rodney-Jones</p> <p data-bbox="730 848 1422 952">This application has been deferred until the Advisory Discussion meeting on 27 March, as members are waiting for advice from the MO.</p> <p data-bbox="730 985 911 1021">(b) 76486</p> <p data-bbox="730 1021 1498 1216">Proposal: Variation of condition 4 (control of dormer window) attached to planning permission 72872 (raising of roof to create additional accommodation with dormer windows, single storey extensions, balcony and ancillary building (Office/Gym)) to allow for additional dormer windows (amended application form)</p> <p data-bbox="730 1216 1498 1487">Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) and removal of condition 5 (control of opening of rooflights) attached to planning permission 72872 (raising of roof to create additional accommodation with dormer windows, single storey extensions, balcony and ancillary building (Office/Gym)) to allow for additional dormer windows to replace approved rooflights (amended application form and description).</p> <p data-bbox="730 1487 1406 1554">Location: 16 Pixie Lane Braunton Devon EX33 1AZ Applicant: Mr Steve Doone</p> <p data-bbox="730 1588 1406 1655">Moved by Cllr E Wood, seconded by Cllr V Cann to recommend refusal.</p> <p data-bbox="730 1688 1498 1856">RESOLVED: That the Council recommends refusal for the proposed variation of conditions 2, 4 and 5, as planning permission was granted subject to these conditions, and they should be enforced by the Local Planning Authority.</p> <p data-bbox="1347 1856 1498 1886">(7.0.1abs)</p>

Cllr E Wood declared a non Pecuniary interest.

(c) 76750  
Proposal: Erection of single dwelling and amendments to existing access  
Location: Land adjacent 6 Willoway Lane Braunton Devon EX33 1AS  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Tamlyn

Moved by Cllr G Bell, seconded by Cllr V Cann to recommend approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval.  
(NC)

Cllr J Chesters declared Prejudicial interest.

76786  
Proposal: Erection of a single dwelling  
Location: Land adjacent 13 The Grange Braunton Devon EX33 2HH  
Applicant: Jackie Winschief

This application has been deferred until the Advisory Discussion meeting on 27 March, as members are waiting for advice from the MO.

213/2022/23

**North Devon**  
**Council**  
**Planning**  
**Decisions**

75634  
Description: Single storey rear extension  
Site Address: 8 Burrows Close Braunton Devon EX33 1EX  
Applicant: Mr Clive Samuelson  
Decision: REFUSED  
Decision Date: 23/02/23

76459  
Description: Demolition of conservatory and erection of new extension  
Site Address: 18 Saunton Road Braunton Devon EX33 1HB  
Applicant: Ms Joanna Bennetts  
Decision: APPROVED  
Decision Date: 27/02/2023

76491  
Description: Erection of a porch  
Site Address: 2 Norley Road Knowle Braunton Devon EX33 2LJ  
Applicant: Mr Andrew Mason  
Decision: APPROVED  
Decision Date: 27/02/2023

76272  
Description: Conversion of 3 redundant agricultural buildings to 1 dwelling and ancillary use and associated works which include the removal of nearby farm building and access improvements  
Site Address: Barns 2, 3 and 4 at Beara Farm Marwood Barnstaple Devon EX31 4EH  
Applicant: Mr Roger & Mrs Jennifer Avery

Decision: APPROVED  
Decision Date: 02/03/2023

76346

Description: Conversion of loft including dormer windows together with further alterations to include erection of verandahs with raised decking  
Site Address: Tweedies Field 20A The Brittons Braunton Devon EX33 2HE  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Robinson  
Decision: APPROVED  
Decision Date: 27/02/2023

74929

Description: Demolition of existing building and erection of 5 dwellings & associated external works  
Site Address: St Annes 17 Pixie Lane Braunton Devon EX33 1AZ  
Applicant: Sharon Haynes  
Decision: APPROVED  
Decision Date: 01/03/2023

- 214/2022/23      **Finance**
- (a) RESOLVED: That the cheques on the attached schedule from 15 February to 14 March 2023 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £11,850.08, attached.  
(b) RESOLVED: That the PAYE, NI and pension contributions for March 2023 be approve, attached.  
(NC)
- 215/2022/23      **To ratify decision taken under delegated powers 15 February to 14 March 23**
- RESOLVED: That the decisions taken under delegated powers from the 15 February to 14 March 2023 be ratified and adopted, attached as Appendix A.  
(NC)
- 216/2022/23      **Devon County Council (DDC) Consultation Closure of North Devon Link Centres Barnstaple, Bideford and Ilfracombe**
- Members considered the County Council's consultation on the closure of the North Devon Link Centres in Barnstaple, Bideford and Ilfracombe. Members expressed their concerns that the closure of these buildings would result in removing the social aspect from the current service. The County Council are relying on voluntary services to provide social clubs for people to meet but they have not established how this would work.
- The consultation should take into account that the three areas the Link Centres serve have very different demographics. Vulnerable people in our community need expertise to deal with the complex issues that they are experiencing. They need a place to go to get help if these buildings are closed down the County should provide alternative meeting places.
- The Link Centres are a great preventative service that saves lives. They help get people a better quality of life by building their confidence and getting them back in to



work. The main reason for the County's closure of the Link Centres is due to running costs. They may in the short-term save money but in the longer-term the closure of these centres will be much more costly. Members could not understand why DCC are cutting back these services when they are needed more now than ever before. Government appears to be spending a lot of money of crisis management instead of preventative services.

Members were concerned that if this service is lost to communities, it will never be reinstated as it would cost too much money to reinstate.

RESOLVED: That

- a. Members to email their views to the Clerk.
- b. Cllr G Bell and the Clerk to collate a response to the Consultation, on behalf of the Council.

(NC)

217/2022/23

**HRH King  
Charles III  
Coronation**

The Council considered its plans to celebrate the Coronation of HRH King Charles III.

The Clerk, prior to the meeting, circulated information regarding the grant funding for community events held in Braunton during the Coronation weekend and the proposed Scarecrow Competition.

RESOLVED: That the Council

- a. to provide £1,500 grant funding towards community events held during the Coronation weekend. Applications would be subject to terms and conditions as set by the Council.
- b. to hold a Scarecrow Competition, theme to be 'Loving our Environment' and categories to include adults, children, families and businesses.
- c. to dedicate the Oak tree planted at Velator Quay to King Charles III. The tree is believed to be a decedent of the Oak tree at Boscobel House where Charles II hid when escaping from Parliamentarian in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Clerk to organise a plaque dedicating the tree.
- d. to allow the community to use the Parish Hall free of charge on the 7 and 8 May to hold events to celebrate the Coronation.
- e. to put bunting on the Parish Hall, the Clerk to try to source sustainable bunting, if possible.

(NC)

218/2022/23

**Decorate the  
Exterior of the**

RESOLVED: That the Council

	<b><u>Parish Hall</u></b>	<p>a. agrees to appoint South West Scaffolding to provide scaffolding to access the lower and upper apex on the front of the Parish Hall. At a cost of £975 + VAT.</p> <p>b. agrees to paint the exterior woodwork in a dark blue and the masonry in a darker colour to magnolia. The Clerk to authorise final colours.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(NC)</p>
219/2022/23	<b><u>Section 106 Money allocated to Braunton</u></b>	<p>The Clerk reported that at a meeting of North Devon Council's Strategy and Resources Committee on Monday 6 March, councillors agreed to allocate the following money, to be used towards open space projects in Braunton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £66,371 to purchase and install new play equipment and make public realm improvements at the Recreation Ground.</li> <li>• £6,928 to purchase and install new play equipment at the Knowle Play Park.</li> </ul>
220/2022/23	<b><u>Update Council Signage in the Village</u></b>	<p>The Clerk informed members that the Council's sign contractor had moved out of the area. The Clerk has managed to find an alternative provider DX Signs in Barnstaple.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Council approves</p> <p>a. replacement car park signs – 21 new signs £1578 plus VAT</p> <p>b. 'Post Office' fingerposts – 3 new signs £478.24 plus VAT</p> <p>c. Wildflower signs – 2 new signs £316.18 plus VAT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(NC)</p>
221/2022/23	<b><u>Review Asset Register</u></b>	<p>Members considered the Council's Asset Register, circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Asset Register be updated to include the mobile Vehicle Activated Sign.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(NC)</p>
222/2022/23	<b><u>Future arrangements for Parish Council Meetings</u></b>	<p>The Clerk reported that since returning to face-to-face meetings in May 2021 the Council have met in the Parish Hall to allow social distancing. If the Council returns to the Chamber the meetings can revert back to the second Monday of each month, and the additional Council Meeting will be reinstated on the fourth Monday. It will not be possible to socially distance in the Chamber and meetings must be open to public.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To continue meeting in the Parish Hall to allow social distancing. This arrangement to be reconsidered by the new Council at the Annual Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall on the 10 May 2023.</p>

223/2022/23

**Community  
Shared Space  
(CSS)**

RESOLVED: That the Council grants permission for the  
a. North Devon Environmental Trust to use the CSS on the 1 and 22 April 2023 to provide community seed swap.  
b. Braunton Contemporary Craft Market to use the CSS on the dates, as follows:  
i. Wednesday Market to resume on the 28 June – Christmas (Christmas Market on the 19 December)  
ii. Saturday Market to resume on the 15 July – 30 September (Easter Market on the 8 April)  
iii. Permission to use grass verges through to till September and for the Easter and Christmas Markets.

(NC)

224/2022/23

**Braunton  
Recreational  
Ground**

RESOLVED: That the Council grants permission for Buggy Buddies, Braunton to hold postnatal exercise sessions on the Recreational Ground on either a Monday or Wednesday morning.

(NC)

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed by the Chair: .....  
(Cllr E Spear)  
Date: .....