

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Braunton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 June 2025 at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Chaloners Road, Braunton.

Present

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

Officers: T Lovell, Parish Clerk & RFO
Darren Hale, North Devon Council (NDC) Lead
Environmental Health Officer

North Devon District Cllrs: Pru Maskell and Simon Maddocks.

036/2025/26

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr L Childs who was away.

037/2025/26

Declarations of Interest

Cllr V Cann declared an Other Registrable Interest (ORI) in Minute Ref: 049/2025/26, as she is a Director on the Braunton Community Land Trust (BCLT).

Cllr M Cann declared an ORI in Minute Ref: 049/2025/26, as he is a Director on the BCLT.

Cllr R Shapland declared an ORI in Minute Ref: 046/2025/26(a), as the applicant is known to him.

Cllr M Shapland declared an ORI in Minute Ref: 046/2025/26(a), as the applicant is known to her.

038/2025/26

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

The Chairman informed members that the Environment Agency would be in the Memorial Gardens on the 17 June 2025 between 10.30am and 12.30pm to assess fish stocks in the River Caen.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the Twinning 50th Anniversary event hosted by the Parish Council on Thursday 29 May in the Parish Hall. The new Charters were well received by our friends from Plouescat and the event was a great success.

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to move agenda item 8 – North Devon Council’s Draft Air Quality Strategy forward to be considered after agenda item 4 – Public Participation to allow the District Officer to leave the meeting.

039/2025/26

Public Participation

There were none.

040/2025/26

NDC Draft Air Quality Strategy

The Chairman welcomed Darren Hale the Lead Environmental Health Officer at North Devon Council.

Darren explained that the NDC draft Air Quality Strategy was out for consultation ending ends on the 21 July 2025.

There are six main themes including:

- Domestic Burning
- Industrial Emissions
- Transport
- Agriculture
- Indoor Air Quality
- Communicating air quality information

Darren confirmed that NDC would continue to monitor air quality in Braunton for NO² emissions even though the Air Quality Management Area was revoked last June. Realtime monitors for PM2.5 and PM10 cost approximately £100k per annum due to the low levels of poor air quality in Braunton it probably wouldn’t be eligible for funding for this type of monitoring.

The White Cross development was recently approved by NDC’s Planning Committee. During the construction phase of the onshore cable there will be a considerable increase in HGVs accessing Caen Street. Members expressed concerns regarding the impact this would have the air quality especially as there is a primary school on Caen Street. Do NDC have any plans to monitor the impact on air quality during the two year construction phase? Dale explained that the data is analysed and published the following year by Defra in a report called Air Quality Status Report. It would therefore not be beneficial to monitor air quality for what would be classed as a temporary impact lasting only two years.

The Chairman thanked Darren Hale for attending the Council meeting to discuss the draft NDC Air Quality Strategy. It was noted that the consultation would be considered by members at the July Council meeting.

041/2025/26

Minutes

RESOLVED: That the

- a. Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 13 May 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

(NC)

		b. Minutes of the Parks and Gardens Committee meeting held on the 3 June 2025 be ratified and adopted by Council.	(NC)
042/2025/26	<u>Action Sheet</u>	The Clerk informed members that Cllr L Childs had donated the plants and planted up the planters outside the Parish Hall during the August Bank Holiday weekend. Members commented how nice the planters looked and requested that their thanks be passed on to Cllr Childs.	
		RESOLVED: That the action sheet be noted.	(NC)
043/2025/26	<u>Police Representation</u>	a. There was no police representative present. b. There was no report from the Councillor Advocate Scheme Cllr L Childs had given her apologies.	
044/2025/26	<u>Report from Devon County Councillor</u>	County Cllr Graham Bell's report was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Bell explained that Highways had requested a copy of the Braunton and Georgeham Neighbourhood Plans. It was noted that both plans are available online. Cllr Bell had spoken with residents in North Down Road regarding parking on a grass verge Cllr Bell would continue to look at options to improve visibility at this junction. Regarding the Tarka Trail extension between Knowle and Willingcott Cllr Bell had arranged a meeting with District and County Cllr's representing surrounding parishes and County officers. He had extended an invitation to Cllr Adrian Bryant to also attend the meeting. Cllr A Bryant raised concerns that the Willingcott Valley Holiday Park had completed part of the Tarka Trail extension as per the conditions of their planning consent but this section of path remained closed to the public.	
045/2025/26	<u>Report from North Devon District Councillors</u>	North Devon Cllr Pru Maskell's report was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Pru Maskell reported that youth crime had been on the rise in communities. A Community Partnership had been established in the worst affected communities including Barnstaple and Ilfracombe. The police had received a small number of crime reports in Braunton. They continue to request that all crimes are reported to the non emergency number as crime statistics are considered when deploying police resources to local areas. North Devon Cllr Graham Bell's report was circulated prior to the meeting.	

Cllr G Bell reported regarding serious anti social behaviour in First Field Lane. Some residents had now been evicted and this appears to have improved the situation.

Cllr G Bell left the meeting at 7.43pm

Cllr M Shapland and Cllr R Shapland declared an ORI.

046/2025/26

Planning

(a) 80330

Proposed: Proposed additional 3 polytunnels and new potting shed

Location: Winsham Nursery Winsham Braunton EX33 2NJ

Applicant: Winsham Nursery

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

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends approval subject to taking on board the comments made by the Sustainability Officer regarding bat and bird boxes being installed externally on the potting shed, this would be compliant with Policy NE3 in the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan.

The Council also wishes to comment that a turf roof on the potting shed to offset the loss of BNG would be welcome.

(8.0.2abs)

047/2025/26

**North Devon
Council
Planning
Decisions**

Description: Application for a lawful development certificate a proposed single storey side extension

Site Address: 24 Kingsacre, Braunton, Devon, EX33 1BL

Applicant: M Ward

Decision: APPROVED

Decision Date: 19/05/2025

048/2025/26

Finance

a. RESOLVED: That the supplier payments on the schedule from 14 May – 10 June 2025 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £20,379.31.

b. RESOLVED: That the Council's May 2025 direct debits and standing orders for the sum of £13,357.76 be retrospectively approved.

c. RESOLVED: That the PAYE, NI and pension contributions for June 2024 were approved and drawn in the total sum of £20,026.15.

(NC)

Cllr V Cann and Cllr M Cann declared an ORI.

049/2025/26

**Braunton
Community
Land Trust**

The BCLT had applied for permission in principle for 9 houses on a local exception site outside of the development boundary. Following a site visit the Historic England Officer from Devon County Council raised

objections. It was agreed that these objections could be overcome if the BCLT changed the orientation of the dwellings to run alongside the existing farm buildings. They were advised by the Local Planning Authority that they would need to withdraw and resubmit a new planning application and pay a further £1,500 in fees. The Case Officer confirmed that the BCLT would not be eligible for a refund due to the amount of time spent on the application by officers and councillors. The BCLT only have £1,500 in their bank account and the further planning fees would wipe out all their remaining funds. They requested if the Parish Council would consider providing funding towards the planning fees.

Cllr Maddocks queried this as White Cross were allowed to resubmit a variation to their original planning. He would check the details with the planning department and report back to the BCLT.

RESOLVED: That subject to Cllr Maddock's enquiries with the planning department the Parish Council would commit £750 funding towards a new planning application. (NC)

- 050/2025/26 **Representatives on Outside Bodies** RESOLVED: Members approved the rota for representatives on outside bodies to report to Council attached as – **appendix one.**
- 051/2025/26 **To ratify decision taken under delegated powers since the 9 April to 13 May 2025** RESOLVED: That the decisions taken under delegated powers from the 14 May to 10 June 2025 be ratified and adopted, attached as - **appendix two.** (NC)
- 052/2025/26 **Councillor Community Drop-in Surgery** Feedback from the latest Councillor Community Drop-in Surgery held on Saturday 7 June was circulated to members prior to the meeting.
- Some of the issues raised at the Surgery had been passed onto the relevant authorities for action. It was noted that this Surgery had been well attended by the public and police were also in attendance.
- Members expressed concerns regarding the poor state of the Lime trees in Exeter Road. The Clerk had reported the Lime trees to Devon County Council and requested a copy of the maintenance schedule as no maintenance had been carried out to the trees for many years. The County are aware of the trees but they remain a low priority. District Cllr Pru Maskell understood that the County had budgeted to carry out planned maintenance works to the Lime trees in this financial year. The Clerk would make enquiries as it was becoming dangerous for the Parish Council staff to cut the verges.

- 053/2025/26 **Lloyds Business Charge Card** The Clerk informed members that the Council's Lloyds Business Charge Card had arrived. It is in the name of the Clerk who can authorise payments up to £1,000 in accordance with the Council's Credit Card Policy and Financial Regulations. The monthly credit limit is £10,000 and the balance each month will be paid by Direct Debit to not incur any interest charges.
- RESOLVED: That the Council includes the Lloyds Business Charge Card to its list of Direct Debits. (NC)
- 054/2025/26 **Railway Lines at Station Road** The Chairman Cllr M Shapland and Cllr R Byrom requested that the Council makes enquiries to protect the historic railway lines in Station Road for future generation.
- District Cllr Pru Maskell suggested that the Council contact County Cllr Andrea Davis for advice in the first instance.
- RESOLVED: That the Clerk to make enquiries and report back to Council. (NC)
- 055/2025/26 **Action Fraud** The Clerk updated members regarding a recent phishing scam attempt on the Council. A supplier's email was hacked and the scammer attempted to change the supplier's payment details.
- RESOLVED: That the Council to arrange cyber crime training for its staff and members and to ensure adequate procedures are in place to prevent future scams. (NC)

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.

Signed by the Chair:
 (Cllr M Shapland)
 Date: