

# **BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL**



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks and Gardens Committee held in the Council Chamber at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 8 February 2024**

**Present** Cllrs: D Spear, M Shapland, R Shapland, L Childs, V Cann, M Cann and G Bell.

**Also in Attendance** Tracey Lovell (Parish Clerk), Angela Corner (Senior Council Officer).

5 members of public

PG/26/2023/24 **Apologies** None

PG/27/2023/24 **Declarations of Interest** Cllrs L Childs and R Shapland declared a Non Registerable Interest (NRI) as they are members of the Live Well in Braunton steering group.

PG/28/2023/24 **Minutes** The committee noted that the Minutes of the Parks and Gardens Committee meeting held on 20 September 2023 had previously been approved and ratified by full Council and the Minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair at the previous committee meeting.

PG/29/2022/23 **Section 106 Funding new play equipment and public realm improvements at the Braunton Recreation Ground** The Clerk and the Senior Council Officer gave a presentation on feedback from the public consultation.

- Braunton Parish Council have secured £66,371 Section 106 funding for the purpose and installation of new play equipment and public realm improvements at the Recreation Ground.
- The funding has to be spent by 21 April 2024.
- The Recreation Ground is situated in the centre of the village with good active travel links.
- It provides community open space with a full sized football pitch, pavilion, practice goal, sheltered/unsheltered seating and two toddler springers.
- The suggested location (Appendix A)

- Devon County Council's Tough Choices campaign in 2013 resulted in the loss of funding for youth workers and the closure of the Braunton Youth Club.
- This project aims to give young people their own inclusive safe space in the community.
- This will be a space where they can safely hangout and interact with similarly aged peers and continue to develop social and problem-solving skills.
- A Braunton Community Needs Survey carried out in 2016 identified a gap in the provision of play equipment for children aged 11 to 16. 338 people responded to the survey.
- 47.9% felt that more play equipment is needed for this age group in the community.
- 36.9% responded that there is not a good variety of play equipment available in the community to meet demand for all age groups.
- The Braunton Masterplan identifies landscape constraints and opportunities to improve – green and blue infrastructure.
- It recommends that the Braunton Recreation Ground has the potential to be used as a primary destination park for Braunton.  
*"Braunton Recreation Ground offers much opportunity and a need for additional play provision for a range of ages, with a potential as a destination park/green space".*  
*(Braunton Masterplan, 2023, pg. 37)*

#### **Phase One-**

- The Council have already carried out some public realm improvements including: -
  - Removal of rotten raised bed.
  - Reinstating footpaths.
  - Planted new Cherry trees.
- There are also plans to improve the Illingworth Shelter working with the community

#### **Survey Results**

- The Council consulted young people in the community by way of questionnaire and received 126 responses.
- The questionnaire was sent to: -
- Year 6's in primary schools (10/11 year olds)

- Braunton Academy
- Braunton Youth Centre
- It was also widely publicised in the EX33 and on social media.
- The Council were also grateful for Live Well in Braunton's feedback following meetings and forums at the Braunton Academy and Youth Centre
- Sixty Five per cent of the survey respondents were 10-11 year olds.
- There were 13.5% 12-13 years and the remainder was split between the older age ranges.
- It appears that some Academy students did complete the questions as a tutor group and therefore only counted as one response. This was taken into consideration.
- There was a slightly higher response from males (57.1%), females (41.3%).
- Inclusive needs were noted and presented to the equipment provider. The most popular types of activities enjoyed were climbing and fitness followed by swinging, jumping and hanging.
- The most popular choices of equipment were the calisthenics/fitness, followed by the hanging rotating piece. The Ninja Trail slanted steps, nest swing, hip hop and Ninja Trail Climbing Slope were also popular choices.
- The main comments were requests to improve the football goal with net. Also to improve accessibility both of which were already planned as part of the improvements.
- There were also requests to spend the money elsewhere eg. At the skate park which we are unable to do as the funding has to be spent at the rec.

#### **Engagement with hirers**

- Council consulted hirers by email and letter.
- All hirers were in support of the plans for new play equipment for ages 11 and above.
- 2 hirers raised concerns regarding the proposed location due to potential issues with emergency vehicles and HGVs accessing the site.
- 1 hirer raised concerns that the proposed space to be taken up by the play equipment would restrict enormously the versatility of this open

space.

- The Council wrote letters to 41 neighbouring properties. 11 properties responded (4 in support, 4 in support but suggested moving the location, 4 against)
- 3 neighbouring properties and 2 hirers of the Recreational Ground requested if the play equipment could be moved to run alongside the wall on Exeter Road.
- The Council looked at moving the play equipment to run alongside the Exeter Road wall.

For:

- Illumination from the streetlights could deter antisocial behaviour.
- More visible to passers-by.

Against:

- It would be very close to the Devon Air Ambulance night landing site.
- Moving it further along would result in the play equipment being close to the Park Villas residents.

#### **Next Steps...**

- The Council have committed to providing play equipment in the Recreation Ground for ages 11 and above.
- Where do the Council want to locate the play equipment?
- What play equipment do the Council want to provide?
- Calisthenics (street workout equipment)
- Ninja Trail
- Turnfly, Trampoline & Cantilever Swing

The Clerk explained that a decision on the equipment would need to be made at the next Council meeting on 13 February.

Councillors raised concerns regarding:

- the suggested location not being visible enough/ light enough
- Access for event vehicles
- Ongoing maintenance costs

It was proposed to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

(NC)

A member of the public from Park Villas supports the equipment but felt alternative items should be considered.

A member of the public representing Braunton Caen Rotary Club and the Safety representative for the Village Fair, Wheels event and Health Fest, was concerned regarding the access from Wrafton Road for lorries and emergency vehicles. He also mentioned there was an electrical cable running down to the air ambulance light.

A member of the public questioned the lack of lighting, the matting, who would maintain the area.

Standing orders were reinstated.

RESOLVED: To recommend to full Council to

- go ahead with the equipment items specified on Appendix B.
- Propose to the provider to site the equipment nearer the road, closer to the seating area if possible in the lower triangular area and along the wall adjacent to Exeter Road.

(NC)

PG/30/2023/24 **Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) Landmark Tree**

The Committee welcomed the planting of a landmark tree on the Tarka Trail behind the Anchor area and would like to pass on their thanks to Barnstaple Town Council for organising collection of the tree.

PG/31/2023/24 **Grass Cutting 2024/25**

RESOLVED:

To recommend to full Council to

- a) To continue cutting the County Council's urban grass verges in 2024/25.
- b) To agree 'No Mow May' but cut visibility splays in March/April and a light cut in June. A full cut in July.

(NC)

(NC)

The committee noted that the local MP had sent a copy of the Hansard which mentioned the discovery of the rare Brown Carder Bee on a Braunton verge.

It was proposed to suspend Standing Orders.

(NC)

A member of the public suggested signage for No Mow May.

Live Well in Braunton (LWIB) offered to do the artwork for signage in their art group.

Standing Orders were reinstated. (NC)

PG/32/2023/24 **Community Garden in Braunton**

The Chairman reported on a meeting he had attended following the offer of land for use as a Community Garden. Seven councillors had been in attendance.

It was proposed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Andrea Mules from LWIB to speak. (NC)

Cllr R Shapland and L Childs declared a NRI.

Andrea confirmed that the site secured was at Braunton Academy. She explained that LWIB would get the garden set up and had received offers from around 20 volunteers at Perrigo. It had also received support from the Countryside Centre, Plastic Free North Devon, Ask for Jake and various other groups. They have funding for 10 sessions from the Gardeners Company.

Reinstate Standing Orders. (NC)

PG/34/2023/24 **Part B**

It was resolved that under Section 1(1) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as they involve the likely disclosure of confidential information.

PG/35/2023/24 **Allotment Tenants**

RESOLVED: To recommend to full Council to allow a tenant to continue use of half of an allotment under special circumstances and let out the remaining half.

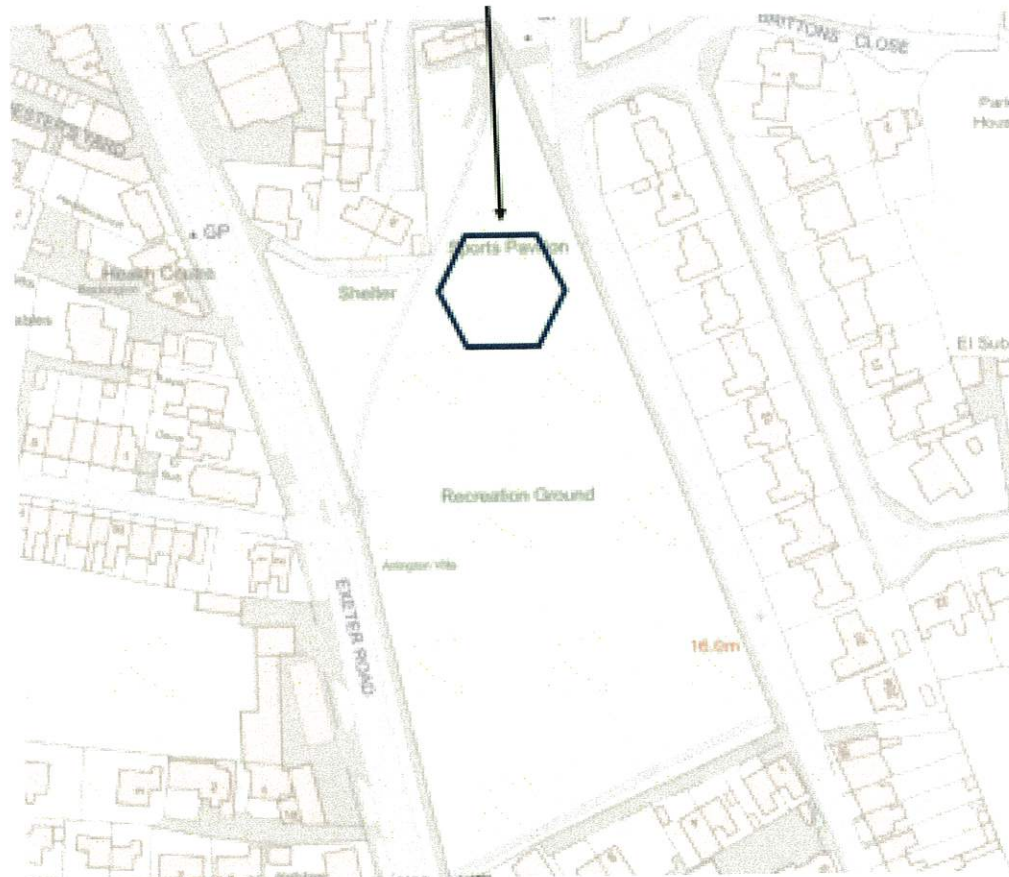
(NC)

The meeting closed at 3.28pm

Chairman: .....

Date:.....

Proposed Location of  
new play equipment



This area is proposed as it can be seen from Exeter Road and is located furthest away from residential properties without encroaching on to the football pitch.

**Background**

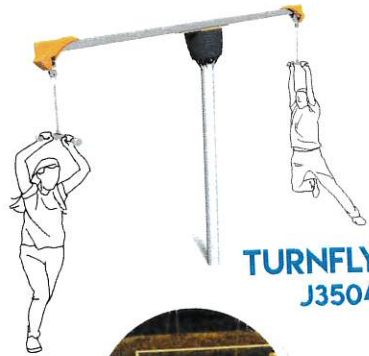
- The Parish Council successfully secured £66,371 section 106 funding to purchase and install new play equipment on the Recreational Ground.
- The money has to be spent by 21/04/2024 otherwise we risk it being paid back to the developer.
- The Community Needs Survey carried out in 2017 resulted in 47.9% of those who took part identifying a need for more equipment in the village for children 11 – 16.



**METAL POD SWING**  
J441



**ROUND TRAMPOLINE**  
R34-ETP-010



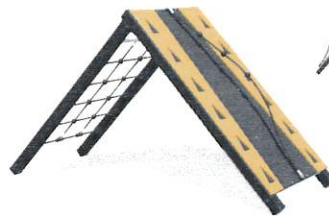
**TURNFLY**  
J3504



**FOOTBALL GOAL**  
R1308



**NINJA TRAIL SLANTED STEPS**  
J5901A



**NINJA TRAIL CLIMBING SLOPE**  
J5906A



**NINJA TRAIL UNSTABLE BRIDGE**  
J5905A



**NINJA TRAIL WARRIOR RAMP**  
J5915



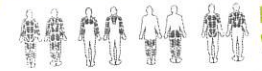
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**STREET WORKOUT**  
J5218A

**BRAUNTON RECREATION GROUND**

*Proludic*  
Designer of play and sports areas

