

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Held in the Vivian Moon Centre at 10.30am**

**Present:**

Steering Group: Sue Prosper, Tracy Ham, Lorna Childs, Jan Gent and  
Cathie Hamilton

Members of the Public: Approximately fifty attendees

Guest Councillor: Steve Crowther (Heanton and Punchardon)

**1. Welcome:**

Vice-Chair Tracy Ham welcomed all attendees and gave an overview of the agenda – Officer's Reports and election of new Officers, break for refreshments and for attendees to look at the displays of the Neighbourhood Plan, return to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and Steve Crowther to talk about the Wrafton Corridor. Tracy Ham then introduced Sue Prosper, Chair.

Last Year's AGM minutes – proposed by Jan Gent and seconded by Lorna Childs.

**2. Apologies:**

Wendy Plowman, Sue Mills and Sean Ross

**3. Chairman's Report:**

Sue Prosper

**Love Braunton Chairs Report March 2022**

This report covers the period January 2021 to December 2021 and is submitted for consideration by the Love Braunton Annual General Meeting.

**Review of 2021**

The review of 2021 is once again against the backdrop of the pandemic that played havoc with all our lives. Love Braunton was not immune to this with activities that had been carried over from 2020 postponed yet again! During 2021 Love Braunton continued with its on-line meetings, restricted verge planting sessions with no more than 6 people each time and keeping track of planning applications being made. A major focus for Love Braunton in the past 12 months has been the development of the draft Parish Neighbourhood Plan – an update on which we are giving a little later but the exhibition here this morning is the output of our endeavours.

As in past years our neighbourhood continues to see an increase in activities by developers across this parish and adjoining parishes. Whilst we support applications in respect of truly affordable housing for local residents, the reuse of existing buildings, small local businesses or improved infrastructure, there are unfortunately too many that we respond to where developments will have negative impacts upon Braunton – erasing its heritage, natural environment, wildlife, and overburdening an already breaking infrastructure.

During 2021 there were over 1706 planning applications made to North Devon Planning – an increase of nearly 14%; of which 248 applied to Braunton's two wards – an increase of 14.5% on 2021. Love Braunton responded to 103 planning applications where we believed the proposal would have either a positive or negative impact upon our community.

Of these 103 applications - 44 were approved, 7 withdrawn, 12 refused with 40 still to be decided at the end of 2021. In addition, we responded to 4 Appeals – 2 of which were allowed, a third dismissed early 2022 and the 4<sup>th</sup> being Yelland yet to be heard. It is noticeable that many of the applications approved by Planning are objected to by Braunton Parish Council and North Devon Council's own wildlife and countryside officers.

Developers continue to make applications on sites not in the Local Plan on the basis that they will help meet the Five-Year Housing Land Supply. NDC's Planning Team accept this position, even though actual houses built are exceeding the required number, recommend approvals on basis it will boost the housing numbers. Yet this is demonstrably not the case given the well documented housing crisis and the lack of truly affordable homes particularly for long term rent.

It is also noticeable that where permission is refused the developer goes straight to appeal – a costly route for the District Council which may explain why the Planning Authority like to say yes.

A very well publicized example is that at Yelland where the developer wants to build 250 houses – no affordables, on a hugely sensitive site given its proximity to the Taw and is in flood zone 3.

Love Braunton together with CPRE, the Parish Councils of Braunton and Heanton Punchardon and Heanton Residents Group will be a party to this appeal and have submitted a statement of case as to why the application should be refused as it was by the Planning Committee.

The appeal which takes the form of an Inquiry will be held at Cedars Hotel Barnstaple from 21<sup>st</sup> April. Details can be found on Love Braunton's website.

Another issue which we are monitoring concerns the potential breach of a Local Plan policy. In early 2021 we were made aware by residents of surveying activity across various fields within the Wrafton Corridor – an item that we will discuss later this morning.

Throughout 2021 we have attended the monthly Parish Council zoom meetings and have spoken on number of occasions in respect of planning applications and greening of the area.

## **Looking to the Coming Year - 2022**

Our major focus this year is to secure the adoption of Braunton Parish's Neighbourhood Plan. We continue to believe that this is a key policy document that will help ensure that the Parish develops as residents want and not as imposed by the Local Plan and opportunistic developers.

The display here today illustrates the draft Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents, which we urge you to read and respond to the consultation survey.

Other specific activities that Love Braunton will pursue over the next 12 months on the following:

- Planning Applications – responding to applications that have both positive and negative implications for our neighbourhood
- Grow membership and encourage active participation in our activities
- Air Quality Monitoring – Maintenance of monitors so as to ensure data is available to inform/challenge Council Officials in respect of their progress to implement air quality improvement actions and adherence to the Air Quality SPD
- Continue to work with other local organisations - CARA, Yelland Action Group, CPRE, Taw/Torridge Forum, Heanton Punchardon Parish Council and Braunton Parish Council.
- Fundraising - for campaigns such as Wildflower planting, plants for the Village Green, trees and maintenance of the air quality monitor system.
- Community events – Village fairs and quizzes

## **Steering Group**

I would now like to address my colleagues on the Steering Group. Everything that has been achieved in in the past 12 months has only been possible because of the commitment given by the members of Love Braunton Steering Group. Between them they make fundraising happen, organise planting, monitor and respond to planning applications, make and distribute the LB merchandise, do the housekeeping, and keep in touch with residents through their own networks. They have also given an incredible amount of time to draft the Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents. I thank each and every one of them for their invaluable contribution to Love Braunton.

In closing this report, I thank the wider community, including the local retailers of our merchandise, for the ongoing support which you give to Love Braunton.

Sue Prosper

Chair

26 March 2022

Tracey Ham thanked Sue Prosper for all her hard work as Chair for the year and being the leading light for the Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report:**

Tracy Ham

##### **Treasurer's Report for Love Braunton - Financial Year 2021**

The Love Braunton accounts were audited by an independent auditor in February 2022 for the financial year 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

These accounts record:

Total income for the year: £652

Total expenditure: £1,193

Net Income for the year: £541

The Net Currents assets at 31.12.21 were £2,407 which comprised of:

NatWest Bank account: £1,879

Stock: £491

Cash in hand: £37

Copies of the final accounts are available on request.

Due to social restrictions last year, we felt unable to raise funds through our usual channels of village fair stalls, quizzes and meetings. However, we did receive an amazing total of £617 from merchandise sales, mainly card sales through Fine Foods of Braunton, and our Love Braunton bags sold at The Good Stores. We would like to greatly thank both stores for supporting us in this way. We also received £35 in Donations.

I would also like to thank Jan for all her hard work across the year in designing, printing, packaging and distributing the cards for sale.

The total expenditure on wild-flowers seeds was £610, leaving funds of £240 still to be spent.

We also still have £493 in our Village Green which we aim to spend this year.

Expenditure for the group was a total of £582, the largest costs being for merchandise £137, Donations to the C.A.R.A. campaign £200 and the website hosting £152.

So, out of the £1,879 in the bank account at 31.12.21, Love Braunton had £1,146 available funds, with restricted funds of £240 for Wild-flowers and £493 for the Village Green.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us both collect and spend the funds in 2021.

Tracy Ham

Treasurer

## **5. Report on Campaigns:**

Lorna Childs

### **Wildflower Verges**

Following on from last year, we have now completed sowing a new wild flower verge along the Ilfracombe Road. This is the stretch of ground with a seat in the middle, opposite where the trees and daffodils are currently blooming. Hopefully, this will be flowering later this spring and summer.

The other wildflower areas created previously are at Velator Way. This is the whole verge travelling towards Tesco from the roundabout up to and including the wider section at the bottom opposite Quay Café. Also, the land between the Countryside Centre and the Surf Museum. Thanks to the additional funding we received from the Co Op Scheme, we will be able to add extra flower seeds to these areas in the next few weeks.

We have also been able to support some Knowle residents with all the seeds etc they need to plant a verge there as well. Sadly, due to all the restrictions we, were unable to engage with the public to help but the Love Braunton team worked very hard to prepare the ground and thousands of mixed wildflower seeds have been successfully sown. We will all keep our fingers crossed and look forward to a fantastic summer show of flowers.

Each year the number of flowers should increase with the natural self-seeding.

We are looking forward to creating a lasting legacy for the village, which will help the environment and the wildlife to thrive as well as having something beautiful to admire.

### **Village Green Enhancements**

We are continuing to work with the Parish Council to provide planters with sustainable planting for the Village Green area, which will be in place very soon.

It is important for us to support our local businesses and to hopefully bring some beauty to the Village Green for the enjoyment of all.

### **Future Fund-Raising Events**

Thanks to the excellent merchandise and beautiful local cards produced by Jan, we are continuing to raise funds throughout the year and these are all available at Fine Foods Deli so please have a look. We will also be having a stall at the Village Fair on 3 June so come along and see us there.

Following on from our previous annual Quiz nights in November, we are hopeful we will be able to hold this event once again this year.

We look forward to times ahead when we can once more get together and enjoy more sociable events.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported any of our fundraising and community events, and a special mention to Braunton Community Chat who have supported all our campaigns.

## 6. Election of Steering Committee roles:

All existing members happy to remain in role:

Chair – Sue Prosper  
Vice-Chair/Treasurer – Tracy Ham  
Secretary - Wendy Plowman  
Merchandise - Jan Gent  
Social Activities – Lorna Child

Jan Gent proposed that all stay in their roles and seconded by Lorna Childs.

Tracy Ham invited new people to join LB, especially anyone that would be interested in being our air quality and ecology leads. She stated that no experience was necessary just a passion for the subject. She added that since belonging to LB rather than just living in the village she now felt part of the community and had met so many of her neighbours and made friends through it. She gave information on when LB met and added that LB also has social events and that anyone was welcome to come along to a meeting and give just as much time they could spare.

Refreshment break and viewing Braunton Parish NP displays. Various (very) delicious cakes were donated by a local business - The Binge Box.

## 7. Open Discussion

This part of the meeting was an open forum to discuss two topics.

- Neighbourhood Plan Update:  
Sue Prosper

After the break for refreshments Sue Prosper spoke about the Neighbourhood Plan, its role in the overall planning process and how the draft as illustrated in the displays was developed.

There followed an open discussion about the need for the parish plan with questions about the plan and how soon it would be adopted.

- Wrafton Corridor:  
Sue Prosper and Steve Crowther

Background to the current situation.

Explanation of 5 year Housing Land Supply and what this means in terms of planning applications for development proposals.

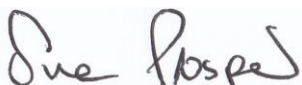
Definition of Rural Exception Sites and their importance in respect of affordable housing provision.

Concerns from the floor re Infrastructure - particularly lack of schools and doctors.

Recognised importance of Knowl Water as a wildlife site.

Attendees expressed support for ensuring this area has a “green wedge” designation in new Local Plan.

Following conclusion of the open discussion Tracy Ham thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 12.15pm.



25<sup>th</sup> March 2023