



Minutes of Annual General Meeting 25th March 2023

Held in the Vivian Moon Centre

Present:

Sue Prosper (Chair), Tracy Ham (Vice Chair), Lorna Childs, Cathie Hamilton, Jan Gent, Sean Ross, Sue Mills, Margaret Mees and eight members of Love Braunton.

1. Welcome:

TH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Wendy Plowman and a resident via email.

3. 2022 AGM Minutes:

Minutes approved – proposed by JG and seconded by CH.

4. Chair's Report:

This report covers the period January 2022 to December 2022 and is submitted for consideration by the Love Braunton Annual General Meeting.

Review of 2022

2022 was another busy year for Love Braunton, and the Steering Group was very happy to see a return to its open monthly meetings in the Sea Scout hut after the restrictions of the previous two years. These monthly meetings are open to all, and you would be welcome to join us at our planned meetings during 2023 – dates of which are on our website.

Love Braunton's continued focus in the past 12 months has been the draft Parish Neighbourhood Plan. You may recall that at our AGM last year we had hosted an exhibition of the draft Plan as part of the formal public consultation process. The outcome of that public consultation was very positive with 92% of the respondents supporting the Neighbourhood Plan's Vision and 73% stating they would support the formal adoption of the Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Responses from statutory consultees were also supportive with many of the suggested improvements addressed in a revision of the draft plan.

Love Braunton members as resident representatives on the NP Steering Group undertook the revision of the plan and also prepared the required wider document set for submission of the draft Neighbourhood Plan to North Devon Council Local Planning Authority (NDC LPA) in November 2022.

This submission marked the start of the process of getting the plan adopted. NDC LPA have now completed their consultation round ahead of submission to an Examiner who will consider the draft plan and the second round of consultation

responses received. We are anticipating there will be further discussion between the Examiner and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group. Once past this stage the draft Neighbourhood Plan will be the subject of a Parish wide referendum where residents will be asked whether they support the plan being formally adopted – which we hope you will.

All the documentation in respect of the submitted draft Plan can be found on the Braunton Parish Neighbourhood Plan website.

Love Braunton also worked throughout 2022 with the Parish Council Clerk in developing a MasterPlan for the village of Braunton. This is a design document providing a framework for improving the area and was approved by the Parish Council in early 2023 with a public launch date of around June 2023. LB will publish details as and when the launch date is known.

Throughout 2022 we continued to monitor planning applications supporting those applications in respect of truly affordable housing for local residents, the reuse of existing buildings, small local businesses or improved infrastructure whilst objecting to those where developments will have negative impacts upon Braunton – erasing its heritage, natural environment, wildlife, and overburdening an already breaking infrastructure.

During 2022 there were 1626 planning applications made to North Devon Planning – a small drop of nearly 5% against 2021 figure; of which 215 applied to Braunton's two wards – a very small decrease of 0.8% on 2021. Love Braunton responded to 96 planning applications where we believed the proposal would have either a positive or negative impact upon our community.

Of these 96 applications - 51 were approved, 10 withdrawn, 4 refused with 31 still to be decided at the end of 2022. In addition, we responded to 9 Appeals – 4 were dismissed and 4 still to be decided at the end of 2022. The headline appeal was that of Yelland. Disgracefully this Appeal was allowed. LB worked with CPRE Devon and attended the 5 day Appeal session making our representations to the Inspector. Despite the overwhelming opposition to this development and the acknowledged detrimental impact on the landscape, its ecology and having no affordable housing being offered on the site, it was deemed by the Inspector that the development of 250 dwellings would be beneficial to the area! In planning terms this site was allocated in the Local Plan and the lack of a 5 year housing land supply – both policy points in the developer's favour.

As reported last year's AGM, the lack of a Five Year Housing Land Supply is an ongoing issue. NDC's Planning Team do not appear to have addressed this position despite a number of applications for sites not designated in the Local Plan being approved – either by a Planning Officer or at Appeal.

We continue to monitor for the potential breach of a Local Plan policy BRA03 Local Green spaces. Residents notified us in early 2021 of surveying activity across various fields within the Wrafton Corridor. During 2022 we were made aware of ecology surveys taking place which we were able to confirm were not being undertaken by statutory authorities.

More recently a resident has been in touch about further activity, so it is a case of continued monitoring for developments.

Throughout 2022 we have done wild flower verge planting, funded planters on the picnic space by the village green, contributed to the mobile speed sign, attended the Taw Torridge Estuary Forum and monthly Parish Council meetings.

Looking to the Coming Year - 2023

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.

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

- Planning Applications – responding to applications that have both positive and negative implications for our neighbourhood
- Grow membership and encourage active participation in our activities
- 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

TH thanked SP for all her hard work over the year and for being the driving force behind planning and the neighbourhood plan. She also thanked CH for supporting SP with this.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** **Financial Year 2022**

The Love Braunton accounts were audited by an independent auditor in February 2023 for the financial year 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.
These accounts record:

Total income for the year: £1,154

Total expenditure: £1,518

Net Income for the year: - £364

The Net Currents assets at 31.12.22 were £2,043 which comprised of:

NatWest Bank account: £1,515

Stock: £428

Cash in hand: £100

Copies of the final accounts are available on request.

Income

With life back to 'normal' we were able to raise funds last year through our two very successful Tombola stalls and from our Autumn Quiz.

We had the Tombola stalls at the Braunton Village Fair and the Big Summer Bash and in total these took £465. As we are now depleted of prizes, we would be very grateful for donations for our stalls this year.

Our Autumn Fun Quiz held at The Aggi was a great success and we raised £302! We were very grateful to the Aggi for allowing us to hold it there for free.

Merchandise sales raised £276 and we would like to thank both Jan for creating these and for Fine Foods of Braunton for selling them.

We received donations of £111.

Expenditure

Our biggest expenditure last year was the lovely planter boxes and plants which are now located on the picnic table area in the middle of the village – this came to £839 (higher than planned due to the increased cost of wood).

We donated £125 to the Crowdfunder for a Speed Awareness Sign for the village.

Other expenditure was: £84 annual costs for our website; £36 subscription to CPRE; £143 merchandise costs; £140 hall hire; £30 gift to our Auditor and £119 fund-raising costs.

Net Income

Net Income for the year was a loss of £364 due to the large expenditure for the planter boxes as the money had been collected the previous year and been held in Restricted Funds.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us both collect and spend the funds in 2022.

For this year we are currently the local cause for the Co-op and will spend these proceeds on more village enhancements.

Tracy Ham

Treasurer

6. Election of Steering Committee roles:

The following Committee members are happy to remain in role:

Chair – Sue Prosper

Treasurer – Tracy Ham

Secretary - Wendy Plowman

Merchandise - Jan Gent

Social Activities – Lorna Child

Vice Chair is stepping down.

This was proposed by Pauline Kiely and seconded by Sean Ross.

SP stated that SR was officially stepping down from the Committee and she thanked him for all his hard work, especially with the Neighbourhood Plan.

TH encouraged new members to join Love Braunton, stating that some of the Committee had been there since the start, seven years ago and that the group really needed fresh faces and ideas to keep going.

7. AOB:

There was no AOB.

Meeting concluded at 11.35 am.