

Minutes of Meeting of AGM for 2024: 16th March 2025 Held at Braunton Sea Scouts

Present: Sue Prosper (Chair), Jan Gent, Lorna Childs, Cathie Hamilton and Wendy Plowman. Also present were four members of the public.

1. **Welcome:** Sue Prosper welcomed the public and thanked everyone for their support.
2. **Apologies:** Tracy Ham (Treasurer)
3. **Approval of 2023 AGM minutes:** All agreed the draft minutes. SP signed them and gave them to WP (Secretary).

4. Chair's Report:

Love Braunton Chairs Report March 2025

This report covers the period January 2024 to December 2024 and is submitted for consideration by the Love Braunton Annual General Meeting.

Review of 2024

Throughout 2024 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. From September 2023 planning applications determined by the LPA must take into account the relevant Neighbourhood Plan policies.

During 2024 there were 1336 planning applications made to North Devon Planning – a drop of nearly 10% against the 2023 figure; of which 153 applied to Braunton's two wards – a decrease of 20% on 2023. Love Braunton responded to 46 planning applications where we believed the proposal would have either a positive or negative impact upon our community.

Of these 46 applications - 30 were approved, 2 withdrawn and 2 refused with 11 still to be decided at the end of 2024. In addition, we responded to 1 Appeal which was dismissed by the Planning Inspector.

The most controversial of the outstanding applications is that of the Whitecross Windfarm On shore cable application. Whilst there has been significant and constant community opposition to what is being proposed, the statutory consultees have not maintained their initial opposition. As you may be aware the Planning Committee will be undertaking a site visit on the 19th March stopping at various points along the proposed route. This has been publicised by both Love Braunton and Save Our Sands so we hope that there will be a good turnout from the community to show their feelings.

We believe the application will be heard at April's Planning Committee. If this is the date, then the Case Officer's Report and Recommendation should be posted on the NDC site a week before – 26th March 2025. As was reported last year, 2024 saw no progress in implementing the 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 an intended public launch date of around June 2023. This outstanding activity has been and continues to be raised with the Parish Council for it to be implemented.

Love Braunton has throughout 2024 continued to fund the replanting of planters on the picnic space by the village green, had a stall at the village fair, attended the quarterly Taw Torridge Estuary Forum meetings and ongoing communication with Parish Council in respect of the Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Looking to the Coming Year - 2025

Activities that Love Braunton will pursue over the next 12 months are:

- Continue to promote Braunton Parish's Neighbourhood Plan so as to ensure that the Parish develops as residents want and not as imposed by developers.
- Planning Applications – responding to applications that have both positive and negative implications for our neighbourhood.
- Progress Braunton Village Masterplan design document
- Work with Parish Council in respect of Velator Quay
- Grow membership and encourage active participation in our activities
- Continue to work with other local organisations - CARA, CPRE, Taw/Torridge Forum, Heanton Punchardon Parish Council and Braunton Parish Council.
- Fundraising – to support community gardens, plants for the Village Green, trees and street furniture.
- Community events – Village fairs and quizzes

Steering Group

Everything that has been achieved in the past 12 months has only been possible because of the commitment given by the members of Love Braunton Steering Group. They make the fundraising happen, organise planting, monitor and respond to planning applications, make and distribute LB merchandise, the housekeeping, and keep in touch with residents through their own networks.

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 Braunton Deli - retailer of our merchandise, for the ongoing support which you give to Love Braunton.

Sue Prosper
Chair
8 March 2025

5. Treasurer's Report:

Cathie Hamilton read the report on behalf of TH.

TREASURER'S REPORT for Love Braunton – Financial Year 2024

The Love Braunton accounts were audited by an independent auditor in February 2025 for the financial year 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

These accounts record:

Total income for the year: £1,522

Total expenditure: £1,011

Net income for the year: £511

The Net Currents assets at 31.12.24 were £4,067, which comprised of:

NatWest Bank account: £3,704

Stock: £263

Cash in hand: £100

Copies of the final accounts are available on request.

Income

The main source income for Love Braunton in 2024 was from fund-raising through our successful Tombola Stall at the Village Fair in May and our two quizzes (one at the Quay Café and one at the Aggi). The combined income from these was a total of £1,455.

We were very grateful to Alex Haigh for donating all the soft toys for our Tombola and to Mike Plowman for being Quiz Master for both our quizzes.

Merchandise sales raised an addition £213 and we would again like to thank both Jan for creating these and the Braunton Deli for selling them.

Expenditure

Our main expenditure in 2024 was on our well viewed website (£414). Other expenditure was: £36 subscription to CPRE; £48 merchandise costs; £114 hall hire; £30 gift to our Auditor and £296 fund-raising costs.

Net income

Net income for the year was a profit of £511.

The Love Braunton's funds as at 31.12.24 were £1,707 plus restricted funds of £1,997 which is Co-op funds still to be spent on village enhancements.

We would also like to thank everyone who has helped us both collect and spend the funds in 2024.

Treasurer

Tracy Ham
February 2025

6. Election of Steering Committee:

All current members plus TH agree to stand again. This was agreed by the all in the room.

7. AOB:

- (i) February Minutes – all agreed were correct. SP to sign and email to WP
- (ii) Velator Update – Jack Phillips (part of LB and Braunton Small Boats and Angling Association) and SP gave a brief summary of the issue of abandoned boats (navigational hazards and environmental hazards due to being made from fibre glass) and the numerous house boats, which appear to have no means of sanitation or ways of getting rid of rubbish. SP and JP have an appointment with the Parish Clerk, so that the Council can look into the issue. JP surmises that those living in the house boats probably don't realise that they are causing issues. SP and JP to suggest to the Council that all interested parties work together to find a solution. LC stated that in law those living on house boats have the same protections as Travellers. SP said then there might be funding to help resolve the issues.
- (iii) Whitecross – there is to be a site visit on 19th March by the Planning Committee, starting at 10 am. Public is encouraged to turn up to protest. However, the public will not be permitted to speak to the Committee. They will be focussing on the beach, the cross road at Sandy Lane, the impact on the Toll Road and then on to the sub-station which is private land. SP stated that it seems that Natural England has given up and agreed with the plan. CH and SP have spoken to other ecologists who seem to think that not all the correct procedures have been followed/checked. However, SP has 'heard' that the Council wants it to go ahead and the current Government wants renewable energies. SP stated that the only thing left to do is a legal challenge such as judicial review but this can only challenge the technical process and might not change anything. It does seem though that they haven't taken the Neighbourhood Plan into consideration. If a legal challenge option is called for, crowd funding would be required to pay for it.

A member of the guests asked whether the public could attend the planning meeting. SP stated yes, and would post the date on the website as soon as it is known – probably early April.

SP thanked the attendees.

Date of next monthly meeting: 13/4/25, 4.30 pm at the Aggi.