

Minutes of Braunton Marsh Drainage Board Meeting held on Thursday, 10 July 2025 in the Committee Room of Braunton Parish Council Office at 7.30pm.

Chaired by: Mrs J Chesters		Clerked by: Mrs S Squire	
Present: J Ashton R Berry Mrs J Chesters D Chugg Mr W Hartnoll District Councillor S Maddocks		Agenda: - The meeting will stand in silence in respect and to the memory of the late Mr John Hartnoll Apologies Declarations of Interest Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 15 May 2025 Finance Matters Arising Clerk's Actions Maintenance Policies Correspondence Planning Items to note Items raised at the Chairman's discretion Date of next meeting	
			Action:
	The Meeting stood in silence in respect and to the memory of the late Mr John Hartnoll, a former longstanding Board Member, who passed away on 13 June 2025. The Chairman read the following tribute: As we stand here tonight without our dear friend John, I would like us to remember him as a great man who knew so much about the Marshes, whose life revolved around his family, his farm and working with us. He had been on the Board for many years and was Chairman of the Marsh Inspectors. His knowledge of the area is now lost to us forever.		
1.	Apologies. Mr H Dart, Mr D Hartnoll, Mr R Paelinck. No apologies received from Mr P Ashton or County / District Councillor Bell.		
2.	Declarations of Interest. The Chairman suggested that if any Board Member had received financial compensation from the Whitecross Wind Farm, an interest should be declared.		
3.	Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 15 May 2025. Approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Mr J Ashton. Seconded by Mr D Chugg and unanimously agreed.		
4.	Finance.		
4.1	Balances: Lloyds Bank Community Account as at 10 July 2025: £102,416.23		
4.2	To authorize the following payments: Proposed by Mr J Ashton. Seconded by Mr D Chugg and unanimously agreed.		Clerk to make payments by BACS
	Mrs S Squire	Two monthly salary & expenses	
		Redacted under Data Protection	

	<table> <tr> <td>HM Revenue & Customs</td><td>PAYE</td><td>£131.20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Braunton Parish Council</td><td>Hire of room for meeting on 10/7/25</td><td>£17.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Resourceful Bookkeeping</td><td>Pay documents for July 2025</td><td>£3.25</td></tr> <tr> <td>Vision ICT</td><td>Admin fee for updating website content in preparation for audit</td><td>£84.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Westcotts</td><td>2024/25 Internal Audit Fee</td><td>£546.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lloyds Bank</td><td>Service Charge. July 2025</td><td>£4.25</td></tr> </table> Payment taken, not on the Agenda, by direct debit: Information Commissioner's Office. Data Protection Fee. £47.00 Confirmation has been received that the Data Protection Registration has been renewed. To ratify a payment made on 10 June 2025 following agreement from Board Members, to Mr M Tucker for the sum of £10,723.20 for the construction and fitting of 5 leveling devices. The original invoice was posted but never received by the Clerk. Proposed by Mr D Chugg. Seconded by District Councillor Maddocks and unanimously agreed.	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	£131.20	Braunton Parish Council	Hire of room for meeting on 10/7/25	£17.00	Resourceful Bookkeeping	Pay documents for July 2025	£3.25	Vision ICT	Admin fee for updating website content in preparation for audit	£84.00	Westcotts	2024/25 Internal Audit Fee	£546.00	Lloyds Bank	Service Charge. July 2025	£4.25	
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4.3	Identification of Marshes. The Clerk had updated the records in her possession.																			
4.4	2024/25 Audit. The accounts and supporting paperwork had been audited by Westcotts of Barnstaple (internal auditors) for which a Report had been received within the Annual Governance and Accounting Return (AGAR). No issues had been raised. The AGAR had been submitted to P K F Littlejohn LLP, London by the deadline date of 1 July 2025 for external audit.																			
4.5	It was noted that Braunton Marsh Inspectors has paid £45.50 being the shared half of the invoice to remove a wasps nest on the Toll Road.																			
4.6	It was noted that Saunton Golf Club has paid £1,000.00 in respect of 2024/25 and 2025/26 Invoices.																			
5.	Matters Arising.																			
5.1	Enforcement issues on the Marsh. The up to date details were not known and District Councillor Maddocks would make enquiries of North Devon Council Enforcement Department.	SM																		
5.2	To discuss a Members' Barbecue. Mrs Chesters to check with Mr Dart.	JC																		
5.3	Request for food to be sold at Crow Car Park. The Chairman confirmed that she had passed this to Braunton Marsh Inspectors for consideration. Mr Chugg, a member of Braunton Marsh Inspectors, advised that they did not approve the request.																			
5.4	2025/26 Levy Rate Invoices. The Clerk is in the process of preparing these to be sent.																			
6.	Clerk's Actions, not mentioned elsewhere on the Agenda: ❖ Made payments																			

	❖ Obtained further copies of the booklet ‘Good Governance’ to be distributed to Board Members who were not present at the May 2025 meeting Actions for Clerk: Request ADA to amend the circulation details as follows: Mr J Ashton is receiving two copies District Councillor Maddocks is not receiving a copy Mrs J Chesters’ address to be amended. The removal of the late Mr J Hartnoll from the circulation list.	
7.	Maintenance. The meeting was advised that Myers Drain is a problem which has low levels of stagnant water and weed. This was following a dry Spring and below average rainfall. It was known that water was being abstracted, but that more was being taken than licensed to take. No other maintenance was taking place, apart from the banks being cut by Braunton Marsh Inspectors.	JC to advise the EA
8.	Policies.	
8.1	The following was reviewed, which had been circulated to Board Members to study ahead of the meeting: ▪ Data Privacy ▪ Data Protection ▪ Subject Access Requests Proposed by Mr J Ashton to adopt. Seconded by Mr R Berry and unanimously agreed.	Clerk to update
9.	Correspondence.	
9.1	Love Braunton. District Councillor Maddocks had requested that an email sent to him by the Love Braunton Group is added to the Agenda for this meeting in respect of the decision made by North Devon Council to grant planning permission for the White Cross Offshore Wind Turbine project. The Love Braunton Group note that no consideration appears to have been given to the very detailed objections submitted by the Marsh Drainage Board – objections based on the Board’s deep knowledge of the area. The Love Braunton Group ask that the Board considers commissioning an independent hydrologist’s report to consider the potential impact that the construction and operation of the cable route will have. District Councillor Maddocks advised Members that planning permission had been granted under the ‘Rochdale Envelope’. There are 37 documents still to be submitted and the application does go out to consultation, but not the general public. Some of the documents had not been read properly and District Councillor Maddocks had concerns about the 1st report in 2020 when it was a dry year. Reports were computer based with the bare minimum of information. If the Reports do not stand up to scrutiny, this could have an impact on the cable route.	

	The person who had asked to attend this meeting will come to the September meeting. Mr W Hartnoll suggested that when the drains are crossed by the Whitecross developers, a representative from the Drainage Board should be on site to work together as regards culverts if necessary, and to ensure that the work is carried out to minimize any disruption. The Chairman is to contact the EA to enquire about the services of a hydrologist. Separately, Members were advised that the XLinks Project to bring electricity from Morocco to the UK was not going ahead. The Clerk to send the link from the government minister to Board Members.	September Agenda JC Clerk
9.2	ADA. Email headed Defra Consultation: Reforming our approach to floods funding. Circulated to Board Members on 3/7/25. <i>Noted.</i>	
9.3	ADA. Annual request for the IDB's areas and values for 2025 which has been provided by the Clerk.	
10.	Planning. The Board has been invited to submit comments as a statutory consultee in respect of the following application: 80459 – Reserved matters application for erection of an agricultural workers supervisory dwelling (outline planning permission 79283 – Outline application for an agricultural workers supervisory dwelling with all matters reserved (custom / self build)) at new Cross Farm, Braunton, EX33 2NU. The deadline date for the Board's response is the day of the meeting, 10/7/25. Proposed by Mr J Ashton to reply 'no objections'. Seconded by District Councillor Maddocks and unanimously agreed.	Clerk
11.	Items to note.	
11.1	Clerk's Leave. Wednesday 30 July 2025 to Sunday 17 August 2025 inclusive and Friday 22 August 2025.	
12.	Items raised at the Chairman's discretion. None.	
13.	Date of next Meeting: Thursday, 11/9/2025 at 7.30pm in Braunton Parish Council Committee Room. The meeting ended at 8.37pm.	
Summary of Decisions: ➤ Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 15 May 2025 ➤ Payments and ratification of a payment made between meetings ➤ Adoption of Policies ➤ Response to planning application		
These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.		
Signed: Chair of Braunton Marsh Drainage Board.		Date: