

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at 8.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Satindra Sangha (Town Mayor), Councillor Tracey Shepherd (Deputy Town Mayor), Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Ajmer Basra, Parminder Basra, Nick Brown, Amanda Hack, Sohan Johal, Rebecca Lunn-Scoppie, Sam Maxwell, Darshan Singh, Christiane Startin-Lorent, Marion Waterton and Robert Waterton.

**Officers in Attendance:** Darren Tilley, Chief Executive & Town Clerk and Pauline Snow, Deputy Chief Executive and Community Services Manager.

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**COUNCILLOR SATINDRA SANGHA, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR**

**6103 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sam Fox-Kennedy, Paul Kennedy and Leanne Lee.

**6104 Disclosures of Interest**

There were no disclosures of any Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members.

**6105 Public Session**

In accordance with Standing Order 3.6, members of the public may attend the meeting for the purpose of making representations, giving evidence or answering questions in respect of any item of business included on the agenda.

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**6106 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Town Mayor and was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

## **6107 Announcements**

### a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor announced that she had attended the Ratby Band Barn Dance at Braunstone Civic Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

The Town Mayor advised Council there was still time to take part in her new year charity fundraising event, 10,000 Steps Challenge, raising funds for her chosen charity for the year, Rainbows. Participants were able to raise funds in their own time. They could choose when to start and the 30 days would need to be completed by the end of April. Sponsorship forms were available to download from the website.

The Town Mayor's next confirmed engagements were St Crispin's Quiz night on 24th March at 7pm, at Braunstone Civic Centre, and Rainbows Open Day on 22nd April.

The Town Mayor's Awards of Merit evening would be taking place on Thursday 11th May at Braunstone Civic Centre. This year, in order to raise funds for her chosen charity Rainbows, the Awards evening would be a Charity Curry Night where residents and Councillors could purchase tickets for the event. Any groups receiving net proceeds from the Programme of Events or nominees for an Award of Merit would be given complimentary tickets as the Town Mayor's guests for the evening.

The Town Mayor asked Councillors to support those who would be receiving awards and help raise money for Rainbows. Tickets were £15 and on sale from Reception.

### b) Leader of the Council

Councillor Nick Brown thanked Town Councillors due to retire at the end of the current Council Term (Councillors Ajmer Basra, Parminder Basra, Sohan Johal and Phil Moitt) for their years of hard work and dedication on behalf of the Town Council and residents.

### c) Chief Executive and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

## **6108 Questions from Councillors**

No questions had been submitted.

## **6109 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Community Development Committee held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 (p7622-7627).

Page 7623, Minute 78 – Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

Councillor Anthea Ambrose advised that a meeting had been held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 with herself, Darren Tilley, Pauline Snow, PC 4062 Fraser Lennox, PC 336 Eimear O'Donnell and PCSO 6107 Duane Wright to discuss current issues in Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley and the Beat Team personnel. It was noted that due to retirement and ill health the Beat Team had been experiencing staffing issues but a new beat sergeant would be in place shortly. Details of the appropriate methods for contacting the police had been circulated to members.

It had been agreed that the police and representatives of the Town Council would meet twice a year with the next meeting due prior to the police beat team setting their priorities for the coming year.

Discussions had also been held on incorporating the new Walking and Cycling route through Mossdale Meadows into the regular police beat patrols. Work would also be undertaken with the security staff at Meridian Leisure to monitor any arising issues with the opening of the new walking and cycling route.

Parking issues were also discussed with the police.

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and was

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**6110 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (p7628 – p7643).

Page 7630 - 7633, Minute 64 – Planning and Licensing Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority – Planning Application 4: 22/0827/RM, erection of Local Centre 1 at Tay Road, New Lubbesthorpe

Councillor Robert Waterton drew attention to the Town Council's response to a further planning consultation on the amended plans submitted for the erection of Local Centre 1 on Tay Road, New Lubbesthorpe, and raised concerns regarding parking issues and congestion around the proposed health centre and school.

Councillor Amanda Hack reported on a potential proposed extension to the existing school, which would further add to the parking and possible congestion in the area.

Page 7640, Minute 69 – Members Highway Fund

Councillor Amanda Hack reported that eight outstanding projects in the Member's Highway Fund had now been approved and work scheduled to commence the projects as soon as possible.

Page 7640-7641, Minute 70 – Air Quality Monitoring Annual Status Report 2022 – Response to Questions

Councillor Robert Waterton commented on the diversion of traffic from the M1 Motorway during night time work to Lubbesthorpe Way causing a back up of traffic.

Councillor Amanda Hack advised that the issue would be raised at the full Council of Leicestershire County Council as to whether residents should be notified of traffic diversions. However, Highways England were responsible for works to major trunk roads and the County Council were not always informed when works would be carried out.

Councillor Robert Waterton suggested that the County Council should consider traffic flow measures to ease back logs of vehicles during traffic diversions.

Page 7641-7642, Minute 72 – Lubbesthorpe Impact Group

Councillor Robert Waterton reported that in December 2022 861 houses were occupied on the Lubbesthorpe development. In February 2023 871 houses were occupied indicating a slow progress in the development.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and was

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**6111 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Council received the Report of the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (p7644– p7654).

Page 7645, Minute 84 – Civic Centre Facilities Improvements

Councillor Nick Brown reported that the first phase of the Civic Centre improvements was now complete. The second phase was now in progress and due to be completed by Easter 2023. The Changing Places toilet was due to be completed by mid-May 2023.

Page 7651, Minute 98 – Procurement of Items Identified in the Climate Audit

Councillor Nick Brown reported that works identified in the Climate Audit including installation of solar panels, electric vehicle charging points and an air

source heat pump at Thorpe Astley Community Centre, would commence at the end of April 2023.

However, the next stage of the Climate Audit strategy would be more challenging to complete.

Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent suggested that the Town Council shares its Climate Audit strategy with other parish and town councils to support them in making changes.

Councillor Amanda Hack suggested that representatives from Leicestershire County Council be invited to come and see the work and projects the Town Council has undertaken as part of its Climate Strategy.

Councillor Nick Brown agreed that once the work had been completed, local councils and authorities could be invited to come and see the work the Town Council had achieved through methodical and strategic planning following the Carbon Audit.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and was

**RESOLVED** that the report be adopted.

**6112 Motions on Notice**

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

**6113 Sealing of Documents**

There were no documents for sealing.

**6114 County and District Councillor Reports**

a) Leicestershire County Council

Councillor Amanda Hack, as County Councillor for Braunstone Division, reported on the following matters:

1. Passenger transport services had dropped 45% since the Covid pandemic and bus services had also reduced but Cabinet had not commented on the issue. A motion had been put forward that £500,000 be made available to help subsidise transport services, which some members rejected. It was also noted that passenger transport to airports had also been cut.
2. The County Council was continuing a programme of austerity which would affect support for vulnerable residents in the County and many vulnerable residents were now left with no support.

3. Road Safety concerns were raised as it was noted that the top 8 junctions in the County for traffic accidents included three in Braunstone Town including Fosse Park, Braunstone Lane/Narborough Road South and Braunstone Lane/Hinckley Road junctions.
4. Road resurfacing work was planned for the Braunstone Lane/Narborough Road South junction and it was hoped that road safety work could be included in this work. Work at Fosse Park including changes in signage and traffic light sequencing had reduced the number of accidents at this junction.
5. Work was currently underway to repair the fencing between Narborough Road South and the service roads after road traffic accidents. However, the fence is bespoke and panels were not necessarily the same size so lead in times for replacement panels is extensive.
6. It was noted that details of a Highways Communication Plan would be forwarded to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to replace the Blaby Highways Forum group.

Councillor Robert Waterton commented that the Fosse Park junction was confusing and had many vehicular near misses. He queried how councillors and local residents could obtain information about accidents in the Town.

Councillor Amanda Hack advised that there was no legal requirement for Council's to be informed about accidents. If the Police attend an accident their only requirement was to advise the County Council in the event of injury. If a death occurs on the highway the County Council had to undertake a Road Incident Management report.

Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent suggested that it would be useful for residents and the Council to know about accidents in the Town in order to assess what could be done to prevent further accidents.

Councillor Sam Maxwell expressed concern regarding the fencing on Narborough Road South with it being left unrepaired and dangerous and suggested that the County Council has a supply of fencing ready to repair the fence when needed.

Councillor Amanda Hack advised that the fence panels were not a uniform size so the County Council would not be able to keep items in stock.

b) Blaby District Council

Councill Sam Maxwell, as District Councillor for Ravenhurst and Fosse Ward, reported on the following matters:

1. The budget for the district had now been set and funding received by the authority had been more than expected and so no services would be cut. A £5 increase in Council tax had been agreed.
2. Scrutiny Commissioners were meeting to discuss how scrutiny works, how work would be divided up and what improvements could be made.
3. A review into Human Resources was currently underway to discuss recruitment and retention of staff. A new Human Resources Manager had been recruited and meetings arranged to discuss current staff recruitment.
4. A Remuneration meeting was due to be held to look at Councillor Allowances.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

NOTE:

CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 (SECTION 17) – The Council has an obligation to consider Crime & Disorder implications of all its activities and to do all that it can to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area.

EQUALITIES ACT 2010

Braunstone Town Council has a duty in carrying out its functions to have due regard to:-

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and;
- foster good relations between different groups

To ensure that no person receives less favourable treatment on the basis of race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity.

These issues were considered in connection with each of the above decisions. Unless otherwise stated under each item of this report, there were no implications.