

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

**26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 8.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Satindra Sangha (Town Mayor), Councillors Shabbir Aslam, Ajmer Basra, Nick Brown, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Sohan Johal, Paul Kennedy, Leanne Lee, Rebecca Lunn-Scoppie, Phil Moitt, 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**

**6088 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Parminder Basra, Callistus Fonjong, Sam Maxwell, Dipen Nathwani and Tracey Shepherd.

**6089 Disclosures of Interest**

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

**6090 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.

**6091 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Nick Brown and was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record; subject to minute 6087 County and District Councillor Reports; a) Leicestershire County Council; paragraph 3 reading “£50 million deficit”

## **6092 Business Plan 2023/2024**

The Council considered Strategic Aims and Delivery Objectives, along with Service Objectives, in order to determine whether they were relevant to address current and emerging issues faced by the Council and the community (item 5 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Amanda Hack and was

### **RESOLVED**

1. that the Council's Mission Statement remain unchanged;
2. that the progress with the 2022/2023 Delivery Objectives, including recommendations for 2023/2024, as set out in the report, be received, noted and endorsed;
3. that the proposals to amend the Council's Service Objectives, as set out in the report, be noted and endorsed; and
4. that the proposed Business Plan for 2023/2024, attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved and adopted.

### *Reasons for Decision*

1. *The Mission Statement sets out the Council's vision to provide high quality services and support the needs of the community, recognising that this would be within available resources.*
2. *To note progress with the implementation of the 2022/2023 Delivery Objectives so far and set out proposals for 2023/2024.*
3. *To ensure that the Council's objectives were relevant and reflected changing issues within the community.*
4. *To focus the Council's resources on four main areas of activity in the medium term to ensure effective delivery of initiatives and projects given the limits on resources.*

## **6093 Capital Plan 2023/2024**

The Council considered priorities and projects for 2023/2024 Capital Plan (item 6 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Amanda Hack and was

### **RESOLVED**

1. that the Completed Projects (section a), having now been completed, be removed from the rolling programme of Capital Projects;
2. that the projects due for completion (section b) be removed, assuming their completion prior to the end of the plan period, otherwise to be included on the 2023/2024 Capital Plan (Appendix 1);
3. that the Current Projects (section c) be rolled forward, as amended, on to

- the 2023/2024 Capital Plan (Appendix 1);
4. that the Proposed New Projects (section d) be added to the 2023/2024 Capital Plan (Appendix 1);
  5. that the Projects proposed for Deletion (section e) be removed from the rolling programme of Capital Projects; and
  6. that, subject to 2 above, the Proposed Capital Plan for 2023/2024 be approved, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, including the timescales for delivery, estimated costs and potential funding sources.

*Reasons for Decision*

1. *To confirm that the projects had been completed and there was no further work outstanding.*
2. *To ensure the plan was updated accordingly reflecting progress with its delivery.*
3. *To confirm that the projects were outstanding and were still required.*
4. *To recognise the need to undertake investment and improvement as identified.*
5. *To recognise that, following review, these projects were no longer required.*
6. *To provide a realistic and deliverable plan for investment in and improvement to the Council's infrastructure.*

**6094 Budget (including Fees and Charges) and Precept for 2023/2024 and future estimates**

Council considered the budget and precept for 2023/2024, including fees and charges, and proposed estimates for future years (item 7 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Amanda Hack and was

**RESOLVED**

1. that a budget of £1,000 be included as a one-off in 2023/2024 budget for Grants for community events to mark the King's Coronation;
2. that the following budgets be created from 2023/2024:
  - (a) £3,000 be included for *Thorpe Astley Summer Event*, and
  - (b) £1,000 be included for *Social Inclusion Initiatives*;
3. that the following budgets be deleted from 2023/2024:
  - (a) *Citizens' Advice Bureau SLA* budget; and
  - (b) both the income and expenditure headings for *Consumer Products – Waste & Garden Bags*; and
4. that the Christmas Decorations budget, be retained and renamed "*Seasonal Decorations*" from 2023/24 and that £500 be transferred from the Braunstone Civic Centre budget to the Library budget;
5. that no percentage increase be applied to Community Centres, sports pitches and miscellaneous fees and charges;
6. that £3,000 be earmarked in the reserves in 2023/24 to balance the funding gap between income and expenditure budgets;
7. that the Estimates for 2023/2024, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report,

- be approved as the Council's Budget for 2023/2024; and
8. that a Net Precept Requirement for £776,035 for the financial year 2023/2024 be submitted to Blaby District Council.

#### *Reasons for Decision*

1. *To ensure appropriate financial support to enable King's Coronation celebratory events to be organised and to ensure their success.*
2. *To create new budgets to:*
  - (a) *provide the resources for a summer annual event at Thorpe Astley Park, and*
  - (b) *ensure that important events and social inclusion activities run by local volunteers supported by the Town Council had sufficient funds to remain viable.*
3. *To remove budgets no longer required:*
  - (a) *Citizens Advice services continue to be delivered remotely via the telephone, email or online and there didn't appear to be any prospect that branch services would resume, and*
  - (b) *the Waste & Garden Bags service had been withdrawn by Blaby District Council.*
4. *To cover the cost of hiring equipment, such as a cherry picker, needed to put up and dismantle the Christmas lights and to cover any other festivals.*
5. *It was difficult to predict whether the current squeeze on household incomes, which was likely to continue in the 2023/24 financial year, would have an impact on the Council's facilities income and, if so, in what way.*
6. *To allocate funding to cover costs, which may result in efficiency savings during the year or, failing that, covering the one-off costs in 2023/2024.*
7. *To meet the Town Council's operating budgets for 2023/2024 along with funding for the Capital Plan and service pressures as identified in the report on Medium Term Priorities and Financial Planning.*
8. *The precept requirement for the year being the difference between expenditure and income, calculated in accordance with Section 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*

#### **6095 Announcements**

##### a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor reported that she had attended several events over the last few months including:

- Christmas Craft Fair at Braunstone Civic Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> November between 11am and 3pm;
- Christmas Movie Night at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 5:30pm;
- Pantomime at Braunstone Civic Centre on 4<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm;
- Christmas Carol Service at Blaby Council Offices on 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm; and
- Harvest Church Carol Service at Braunstone Civic Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm.

Forthcoming events included a Barn Dance on 18<sup>th</sup> March and a Quiz Night on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Town Mayor would also be arranging events to further raise funds for her chosen charity.

b) Leader of the Council

Councillor Nick Brown advised that refurbishment work to Braunstone Civic Centre, including work to the toilets, kitchens and installation of a Changing Places Toilet, had now commenced.

Later in the Spring work would start on the installation of solar panels on the Town Council properties, installation of Electric Charging Points at the community centres and an Air Source Heat Pump at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.

c) Chief Executive and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

**6096 Questions from Councillors**

No questions had been submitted.

**6097 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Community Development Committee held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (p7579-7588).

Page 7581, Minute 60 – Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

Councillor Amanda Hack queried if the Police would be attending the next Community Development meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. It was confirmed that the Police had been invited and would attend if duties allowed.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and was

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**6098 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (p7589 – p7602).

Page 7591, Minute 48, Planning and Licensing Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority – Planning Application 4. 22/0827/RM

Councillor Robert Waterton commented on the amended plans submitted for the erection of Local Centre 1 on Tay Road, New Lubbesthorpe, and raised concerns regarding the following:

- a) Forest House Health Centre proposal to move some services to the new GP Surgery at New Lubbesthorpe when the GP practice was on the first floor, which could present accessibility issues.
- b) Site of proposed GP surgery had now been moved to a different area adjacent to the established Primary school. Concern was raised that this would increase traffic in a small area with the school, proposed Care Home, GP Surgery and local shops being located in one area and only one entrance available to access all the services.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and was

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**6099 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Council received the Report of the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (p7603– p7613).

Page 7607, Minute 69 – Shakespeare Park – Improvement and Development

Councillor Nick Brown advised that the main Project at Shakespeare Park being the pavilion and tennis courts, had now been completed with an underspend on the budget by £26,057. Funding for the refurbishment of the playground adjacent to the tennis courts and pavilion was being sought and an application to the National Lottery for funding had now reached the second stage.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and was

**RESOLVED** that the report be adopted.

**6100 Motions on Notice**

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

**6101 Sealing of Documents**

Council considered sealing a Copyright Assignment Agreement for two books:

- a) “Braunstone’s Humble Past” and
  - b) “When Life was Transformed in Braunstone and the Role of the Parish Council in the 1920s/30s”.
- (item 12a on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Amanda Hack and was

## **RESOLVED**

1. that, in accordance with Standing Order 4.24, the Council's common seal be applied to the Copyright Assignment Agreement relating to "Braunstone's Humble Past"; and "When life was Transformed in Braunstone and the Role of the Parish Council in the 1920s/1930s"; attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
2. that the Town Mayor be asked to send a formal letter of thanks to Jack Haselgrove for his generous offer to assign the copyright of his two books on the history of Braunstone to the Town Council.

### *Reasons for Decision*

1. *To implement the wishes of the author to assign all rights of copyright and ownership to Braunstone Town Council, together with authority to apply any income from sales towards the operation of Braunstone Town Community Library.*
2. *To acknowledge Jack's hard work and dedication both researching and bringing to Life the history of Braunstone, the life of its people and the changes they have experienced over the centuries.*

## **6102 County and District Councillor Reports**

### a) Leicestershire County Council

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

1. Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee had received a proposed Highway Design Guide for consultation, including:
  - What permitted developments were allowed on highways including service boxes;
  - Engineering on highways for active travel for pedestrians including pedestrian crossings etc;
  - Highway responses to unadopted roads – highways have no responsibility for unadopted roads and therefore do not include them in highway plans; and
  - Concern at development plans for parking space including double garages that were not big enough to fit two vehicles in.
2. Budget proposals were currently being worked on but the County Council were having to cut back on many services.
3. Councillor Hack was pleased to announce that some of the projects in her Highways Fund Scheme were now taking place including two County Council footpaths across the Kingsway green that have now be improved. Fencing at the entrance to Braunstone Town by Fosse Park roundabout had now also been repaired and painted.

Councillor Robert Waterton queried if there would be communication between Leicestershire County Council and Blaby District Council regarding planning applications and parking spaces and garage size.

Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent raised concern regarding the issue of vehicles parking on pavements resulting in pedestrians having to work on the highway to get by. Planning applications do not include suitable parking and with current car sizes, garages dimensions are not big enough to accommodate them.

Councillor Amanda Hack suggested that many recent developments had included narrow roads resulting in vehicles having to park partially on pavements to allow access; which needed to be addressed.

b) Blaby District Council

Councillor Nick Brown, as District Councillor for Millfield Ward, reported on the Budget proposals for 2023/2024, which had been considered at Budget Scrutiny Committee. A more generous funding settlement had been received by Blaby District Council than expected so there were no significant cuts proposed. However, with the New Homes Bonus reducing in future years this could have a financial impact in future years.

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.

SIGNED: .....

DATE: .....