

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Tracey Shepherd (Town Mayor), Councillor Paul Kennedy (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Sevim Aslan, Nick Brown, Andrew Evans, Richard Forrest, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Satindra Sangha, Darshan Singh, Christiane Startin-Lorent, Imran Uddin, Marion Waterton, Robert Waterton and Mark Widdop.

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

There were four members of the public present at the meeting.

COUNCILLOR TRACEY SHEPHERD, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

6155 Tribute to Town Mayor's Consort

The Town Mayor opened the meeting by paying tribute to her mum and Consort, Pauline Shepherd who had sadly passed away.

"I wish to open the meeting reflecting on the life and service of my dear Mum and my Consort as Town Mayor".

"Mum tragically passed away last week on Wednesday 13th September having received a bladder cancer diagnosis not long after I became Town Mayor".

"It was one of her proudest days seeing me elected to represent you all, become Town Mayor and be my consort. I will never let her down nor yourselves and will continue to try and make a positive difference to Braunstone Town. She was simply a magnificent lady! I would always say, *"Love you" and she would always say, "More!" I so wish there could be more!!*"

The Town Mayor invited the Council to stand and observe a minute's silence in memory of Pauline Shepherd.

Councillor Nick Brown, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to Pauline Shepherd and spoke of the support that she gave the Town Mayor in her work as a councillor and Town Mayor for Braunstone Town.

Councillor Paul Kennedy, Deputy Town Mayor, offered the Town Mayor sincere condolences on behalf of the Councillors and officers on the loss of her mum and Consort and presented the Town Mayor with a condolence card from members and officers of the Council.

6156 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rebecca Lunn-Scoppie, Sam Maxwell and Gary Sanders.

6157 Disclosures of Interest

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

6158 Public Session

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

There were four members of the public present at the meeting.

6159 Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 29th June 2023 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Town Mayor that the Minutes of the Council Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 29th June 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

Councillor Robert Waterton proposed the following amendments to the minutes as follows:

- a) Page 7746, item 6147 (b) - Councillor Nick Brown, District Councillor ward be amended from Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward to Braunstone Millfield Ward; and
- b) Page 7747, item 6147 (b) - Sam Maxwell reference to Blaby District Council to read Planning Committee not Planning & Environment Committee.

As the mover and seconder of the original motion, both the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor accepted the proposed amendments, which became the substantive motion and it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 29th June 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- a) Page 7746, item 6147 (b) - Councillor Nick Brown, District Councillor ward be amended from Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward to Braunstone Millfield Ward; and
- b) Page 7747, item 6147 (b) - Sam Maxwell reference to Blaby District Council to read Planning Committee not Planning & Environment Committee.

6160 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor announced that she had recently attended the following events:

“On 1st July, I opened the first Thorpe Astley On the Beach at Thorpe Astley Park and Community Centre. The weather was just right and that brought people out from the community and from further afield. It was great to see the children having so much fun and I very much hope the Council can organise similar successful events at Thorpe Astley Park in the coming years”.

“The annual Summer Fete was due to take place on 5th August at Mossdale Meadows; however, unfortunately this was cancelled due to the adverse weather”.

“Nevertheless, we have Apple Day coming up on Saturday at Franklin Park Community Orchard between 11am and 2pm. I will be hosting a Chatty Café on the day. Please come along and join me at the event. We need helpers at the Chatty Café and also to set up and pack away at the event. If you can help at the event, even for a short period, please let the officers know after the meeting. All we now need is some good weather”.

b) Leader of the Council

Councillor Nick Brown reported on the following items:

Events

The Apple Day event would be held on Saturday 23rd September on Franklin Park and all councillors were invited to attend this popular event.

Planning Application – Avon Road

Councillor Brown referred to a planning application submitted some time ago for building of new homes on a development adjacent to Avon Road. Braunstone Town Council had objected to the development but Blaby District Council had approved the planning application. A local resident had progressed a Judicial Review of the district council's decision and the Judge in the case had found in favour of the resident. The planning application may be resubmitted and would then be forwarded to Braunstone Town Council for consultation.

Update on Town Council Projects

Solar Panels had now been installed on the Braunstone Community Library building and Thorpe Astley Community Centre. The Air Source Heat pump at Thorpe Astley Community Centre had also recently been installed.

Solar panel installation on Braunstone Civic Centre was due to take place in mid-October 2023 which would see the first phase of the Town Council's Climate Change Action Plan completed.

The next stage of works would be more difficult to complete due to more technical issues to overcome within the buildings.

c) Chief Executive and Town Clerk

No announcements were made by the Chief Executive & Town Clerk.

6161 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 – consultation on cycling routes to be undertaken over next 18 months. There is a good network of cycling routes but maintenance of the routes was poor.
2. Quality of School Buildings – Ravenhurst School had now been moved to Academy status from a maintained school but Councillor Hack had received no information regarding this. The school had raised concerns over the condition of the roof.

It was noted that only one Leicestershire County Council school had reported buildings with RAAC concrete which was in Market Harborough.

It was noted that 38 Academy's had applied for funding but only one third of schools had been successful in obtaining funding.

A report on the investment and assets of school buildings showed a zero value on building leased to Academy's.

No funding had been received from Central Government to help with investment in public buildings.

3. It was noted that the County Council had a deficit of £46million but had not been issued with a Section 114 Notice. Derbyshire County Council had advised that it was not in a financially good position and worse than Leicestershire County Council but had not yet been issued a Section 114 Notice.

Councillor Richard Forrest sought clarification on the one school in Leicestershire reporting RAAC concrete used in construction. Councillor Amanda Hack confirmed that this was a County Council school.

It was noted that results from 98% of Academy reports had now been received but concern was raised at other issues affecting school buildings including leaking roofs that worsen the issues with RAAC and asbestos.

b) Blaby District Council

Councillor Nick Brown, as District Councillor for Braunstone Millfield Ward, reported on the following matters:

Councillor Brown reported that he was now the Chairperson for the Scrutiny Commission and had included the following items on the agenda for consideration.

1. Graffiti and District Cleansing throughout the District
2. Retail Strategy – to consider Blaby District allocation of land for commercial use. There was a need for more affordable housing and many more people now in temporary accommodation.

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that the Strategic Director, John Richardson, had secured another post and would be leaving Blaby District Council in the near future.

6162 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

6163 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 6th July 2023

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Community Development Committee held on the 6th July 2023 (p7750-7758).

Page 7753 – Minute 23 Summer Fete 2023

Councillor Anthea Ambrose advised that due to poor weather, the annual Summer Fete on Mossdale Meadows had to be cancelled. It was asked if contingency plans for future events be considered.

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and was

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

6164 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 24th August 2023

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 24th August 2023 (p7759 – p7774).

Page 7763 – Minute 19 (4) Planning & Licensing Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority – Application 23/0514/FUL – Little Masons Close

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that the planning application submitted for 1 Little Masons Close had not been objected to Braunstone Town Council but Blaby District Council had rejected the planning application. Considerable opposition to the planning application had been received from local residents. Councillor Waterton suggested that location of houses to be changed to Children's Homes needed more consideration regarding the areas they are situated in.

Page 7766 – Minute 19 (10) Planning & Licensing Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority – Application 23/0444/TEL – Lubbesthorpe Way Thorpe Astley

Councillor Andy Evans requested clarification if Braunstone Town Council had agreed to or objected this planning application. It was confirmed that the Town Council had not objected and this word was missing from the minutes. The Chief Executive & Town Clerk undertook to update the draft version.

Page 7772 – Item 24 – Notice Board Renewal

Councillor Anthea Ambrose requested that the notice board on Kingsway at Braunstone Civic Centre be repaired and repainted in the interim due to complaints received about the poor condition of the board. Councillor Ambrose requested that the notice board be included in the rolling programme of notice board repair for next financial year.

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and was

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

6165 Reports of Standing Committees: Employing Committee – 31st August 2023

Council received the Report of the meeting of Employing Committee held on 31st August 2023 (p7775-7777).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and was

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6166 Reports of Standing Committee: Policy & Resources Committee – 7th September 2023

Council received the Report of the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 7th September 2023 (p7778– p7788).

Councillor Nick Brown advised that no further progress had been made to the works on the Thorpe Astley Park Culvert. Blaby District Council had recently contacted the contractor to receive an update on the timescales for the proposed work.

Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent advised that the culvert bridge wall panels and hedges posed a health & safety issue as users of the culvert bridge footpath did not have a clear view of oncoming cyclists etc.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and was

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

6167 Motions on Notice

The Council received and considered motions moved on notice in accordance with Standing Order 4.14, as set out below:

Woodland off Brockenhurst drive, Braunstone Town

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and was:

RESOLVED that the following Motion on Notice be approved:

1. that this Council notes:
 - a) that 4.6 acres of amenity woodland situated between the western end of Brockenhurst Drive and Lubbesthorpe Way, known locally as the 'Ransom Field' has been placed up for sale and advertised under the heading of 'Commercial Development';
 - b) that on Blaby District Council's constraints map, the eastern part of the site is located within flood zone 3 which means it is land at the highest risk of flooding. The land to the south of the site is a local wildlife site;
 - c) the land to the north of the site is Mosssdale Meadows park and is owned by Braunstone Town Council;
 - d) that this is now one of the few remaining wildlife habitats within the parish of Braunstone Town and there was local public concern over the proposed sale and potential loss of such habitat should any development occur on the site;
 - e) the Town Council's stated aims to protect and enhance natural habitats and biodiversity as set out in its Environment and Biodiversity Strategy adopted in April 2022; and
 - f) the site is part of an area of undeveloped land which spans from Kingsway North to Fosse Park. This is a significant wildlife corridor in what is otherwise a suburban landscape.

2. that Planning & Environment Committee:
 - a) support adoption of policies and actions to protect said site from development;
 - b) support the inclusion of the site as designated as a natural wildlife site and be designated as such within the new Blaby District Local Development Plan; and
 - c) write to Blaby District Council and Leicestershire County Council to request them to support the above aims; and
3. that Policy & Resources Committee write to the landowners or their agents to request consideration of transfer of the land to public ownership.

6168 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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: