

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE
THURSDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Chair), Councillor Tracey Shepherd (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Nick Brown, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Paul Kennedy, Rebecca Lunn-Scoppie, Sam Maxwell and Christian Startin-Lorent.

Officers in attendance: Pauline Snow, Deputy Chief Executive & Community Services Manager.

Councillor Bob Waterton observed the meeting remotely through Zoom Video Conferencing.

73. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

74. Disclosures of Interest

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

75. Public Participation

Members of the public may make representations, give evidence or answer questions in respect of any item of business included on the agenda. At the discretion of the Chairperson the meeting may be adjourned to give members of the public present an opportunity to raise other matters of public interest.

There were no members of the public present.

76. Minutes of the Meeting held 9th December 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th December 2021 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

77. Town Mayor's Report

The committee received a report on the activities of the Town Mayor and any proposals for initiatives during the Civic Year (item 5 on the agenda).

It was noted that the Town Mayor would be attending the Community Quiz Night on 25th March 2022 at Braunstone Civic Centre.

78. Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

The Committee received an update from the Local Neighbourhood Police Beat team on local community safety and policing initiatives. The latest Police newsletter and crime reports for December and January were circulated to members at the meeting.

Members were disappointed that the Police were unable to attend the meeting and suggested that a letter be sent inviting the new Sergeant to attend the meeting in April and expressing concern at the length of time since a sergeant had attended the committee meeting.

Councillor Bob Waterton reiterated the police comments regarding the reporting of cars on the pavements and causing obstructions and confirmed that any incidents should be reported at the time the incident is taking place. He also commented on motor cyclists using footpaths through Thorpe Astley and suggested that details for contacting the Police to report incidents be promoted.

Members noted that the Police had provided details of forthcoming Beat Surgeries in their Newsletter but all surgeries took place during the day. Members suggested that an evening Beat Surgery be arranged to allow those that work during the day to speak to the Police.

79. Speed Sign Data

To consider recent speed sign data Murby Way and Kingsway.

It was noted that the speed signs had now been refurbished however, incomplete data had been recorded on the sign placed at Thorpe Astley due to an issue with the battery.

From the details retrieved from Murby Way it was noted that incidents of speeding had reduced. Concern was raised about issues on Withers Way regarding speeding vehicles and obstructions. It was suggested that the speed activation sign be repositioned on Murby Way to retrieve a full cycle of data before being positioned on Withers Way.

Members also raised concerns about the bus route through Thorpe Astley where drivers were parking for a break opposite Seaton Road. It was noted that the parked bus obstructed the view of the road making it difficult and potentially dangerous to overtake the bus. Concern was also raised that the engine to buses were not turned off when parked up leading to high carbon emissions.

RESOLVED

1. that the speed activation sign be installed on Murby Way in order to retrieve full data figures;
2. that the speed activation sign be installed on Withers Way after Murby Way;
3. that a letter be sent to the Arriva bus company expressing concern that the buses are posing a potential risk to other road users when parked up on Murby Way by reducing visibility for overtaking; and
4. that the Arriva bus company be asked to ensure that drivers turn off the engine when taking a break.

Reasons for decisions

1. *To ensure that full data was received for Murby Way in order to accurately assess the data.*
2. *To collate data on speeding issues on Withers Way.*
3. *To reduce the risk of a potential accident on Murby Way with other vehicle drivers when overtaking parked buses.*
4. *To ensure that carbon emissions were reduced as much as possible in residential areas.*

80. Outside Body Reports

The Committee received reports from members of Outside Bodies:

- a) Braunstone Town Community Minibus
No update was received on Braunstone Community Minibus.
- b) Braunstone West Social Centre
No update was received on Braunstone West Social Centre

81. Library – Community Engagement/Involvement and Social Inclusion

The Committee received an update on initiatives to develop community involvement in Braunstone Town Library and provide for social inclusion (item 9 on the agenda).

It was noted that several projects had been arranged using the grant funding received from the Cultural Communities Network including the installation of a Friendly Bench in the Civic Centre Memorial Garden. Five Grow & More workshops had been organised that would be taking place in the grounds of the Civic Centre and library that included growing spring bulbs, visiting the community orchard and building bug hotels.

Four workshops had also been organised focusing on music on vinyl and incorporating art, yoga and creative writing. The music workshops are particularly aimed at creating intergenerational links with elderly residents and young people in the community.

All events are free of charge and take place in February and March 2022. All the events are open to all residents of the community but particularly to support vulnerable residents and to combat loneliness.

Members suggested that the projects be extended to Thorpe Astley if volunteers were willing to set up new projects after the workshops and to include Community Gardens to utilise the open spaces available in the Town.

82. Grant Scheme – Community/Social Inclusion Projects

The Committee received an update on the Grant Scheme for Community and Social Inclusion Projects and confirmed arrangements and Councillor appointees to the Panel.

It was noted that the Braunstone Town Community Minibus trustees had now deposited £10,000 to the Town Council to administer via a grant scheme for Community and Social Inclusion Projects.

RESOLVED

1. that the proposal for administering the funds (attached at Appendix 1) and criteria for distribution (attached at Appendix 2) be confirmed; and
2. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to appoint a member from the Community Development Committee to serve on the Community and Social Projects Grant Panel on an ad hoc basis when available, alongside the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Community Development Committee.

Reasons for Decisions

1. *To ensure that the Town Council had in place, robust and transparent arrangements for the management of this fund and to ensure clarity on the criteria for the distribution of the funds.*
2. *To make appointments to the positions on the Community and Social Inclusion Projects Grant Panel.*

83. Summary of Grant Applications

The Committee received a list of grants paid to date and applied for from external sources (item 11 on the agenda).

It was noted that funding from the Section 106 fund had now been approved for the Shakespeare Park Playground Sensory Garden and Agility Trail in the sum of £3545.71.3

84. Community Grant Applications

It was noted that no Community Grant applications had been received.

85. Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces

It was noted that works to the Shakespeare Park Tennis Court refurbishment had now commenced and was due to be completed by early April 2022. Works had already started on the preparation of the court surface and the new fencing.

It was noted that two community Apple Pruning Days had taken place on 25th January and 5th February at the community Orchard where local residents helped with the pruning of the Apple trees.

Members advised that it had been noted that litter bins at Thorpe Astley had been overflowing and it was agreed this would be raised with the Town Council ground staff.

Members also expressed concern that Blaby District Council had replaced some of the bins with much smaller litre bins leading to the bins overflowing. Members asked that a letter be forwarded to Blaby District Council expressing the Town Council's concern at the size of the replacement bins.

RESOLVED that a letter be forwarded to Blaby expressing concern at the size of their replacement litter bins throughout the Town.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that sufficient capacity bins are installed to reduce incidents of litter throughout the Town.

86. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2021.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

There were no issues identified with income and expenditure to date.

87. Approval of Accounts

The Committee considered payments from 1st December 2021 until 24th January 2022.

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions for the period 1st December 2021 until 24th January 2022 be approved.

Reason for Decision

To authorise payments in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations and the Council's Financial Regulations.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

NOTE:

*CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 (SECTION 17) – The Council has an obligation to consider Crime and 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.

Signed:

Date: