

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

THURSDAY 1st DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Chair), Councillor Tracey Shepherd (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Nick Brown, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Dipen Nathwani and Marion Waterton.

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

Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent observed the meeting remotely through Zoom Video Conferencing.

53. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Amanda Hack and Sam Maxwell.

54. Disclosures of Interest

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

55. Public Participation

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.

56. Minutes of the Meeting held 13th October 2022

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th October 2022 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

57. 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 Movie Night at Thorpe Astley on 2nd December 2022 and the family Pantomime on Sunday 4th December 2022.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Reason for Decision

To monitor and review the effectiveness of the Town Council's community engagement activities.

58. Report from Commbus

The Committee received an update on the Commbus Community Transport Service (item 6 on the agenda).

The Chairperson introduced Kim Richardson and Nigel Calver from Commbus and invited them to give an update on the Commbus Transport Service.

The service had been operating throughout Blaby District for many years and due to the Braunstone Town Community Minibus folding in December 2021 Commbus Community Transport had taken over the provision of a community minibus service in Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley. It was noted that there had been a disappointing uptake in the use of the Commbus in Braunstone but Commbus confirmed that the service would continue to be provided. They advised that they provided trips to supermarkets every day of the week and organised special trips on Fridays to garden centres and local towns.

Posters and flyers had been circulated and the Town Council were asked to continue promotion of the services through the website, social media and posters.

It was queried if the Local Area Co-ordinator was aware of the service to pass on details to local residents.

Members advised that the Office of National Statistics provided information on the concentration of elder residents in the Town that could be used to target promotion to encourage residents to use the service.

Members were also reminded that the Commbus was for everyone to use, not just the elderly or vulnerable and that all the buses had wheelchair access if required.

RESOLVED that the update be received and that the Town Council continues to support the promotion of the service.

Reason for decision

To ensure that residents were aware of the service and what it had to offer.

59. Crime Statistics

The Committee received the latest crime statistics, including comparative figures (item 7 on the agenda).

At the previous meeting held on 13th October 2022 members had requested up to date crime statistics. Figures up to September 2022 were circulated for members with the agenda.

Members had also requested clarification on what constituted “Violence against the person”. The Police website advised that Violence against the Person “*includes a range of offences from minor offences such as harassment and common assault, to serious offences such as murder, actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm*”.

RESOLVED that the updated statistics be received and noted.

Reason for decision

Large percentage changes were due to the relatively low number of actual incidents.

60. Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

The Committee were advised that the Police were unable to attend the meeting but asked that any issues or concerns be forwarded to them following the meeting.

Members raised concerns regarding the ongoing issue of parking on pavements around the Meridian business park. It was noted that users of wheelchairs and pushchairs could not use the pavements at some points and were having to go on the road. Enforcement of illegal parking was the responsibility of the police but Leicestershire County Council had responsibility for the highways. It was suggested that collaborative work between the police, highways and local business could be undertaken to reduce the parking on the pavements.

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk updated the committee on recent anti-social behaviour encountered from a group of teenagers at the Civic Centre and Library site. A recent incident involved youths entering a private function that was taking place at Braunstone Civic Centre. The police had been called but the youths had left before the police arrived.

Since the incident four youths had been issued with letters from the Town Council banning them from all premises for a period of six months. Four youths had also attended a meeting with the police and Blaby District Council officers and had been issued with Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. It was

also reported that unidentified youths had thrown rocks at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.

Members did acknowledge that there were very few activities for young people to get involved in the area following the closure of the youth clubs and youth activities previously run by the County Council and district council. It was suggested that any events going on for young people such as roller skating at Braunstone Civic Centre, be promoted through appropriate channels.

Members noted that there had recently been a change in police personnel with PC Jenny Morris and PC Stuart Clough moving to new areas.

It was suggested that a meeting be set up with the new sergeant and Police officers with the chair of Community Development and relevant Town Council officers to meet the new police staff.

RESOLVED

1. that the update be noted;
2. that a meeting be arranged with new members of the police team and the Chair of Community Development committee and officers; and
3. that the police be asked to assist with addressing parking obstructing the pavement on Meridian Business Park.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that current community safety and policing updates were received.*
2. *To welcome new officers to the area and to highlight the current crime concerns of the Town Council.*
3. *To address highway safety concerns, particularly for pedestrians.*

61. Speed Sign Data

The Committee considered the latest speed sign data from Braunstone Lane and Withers Way (item 9 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the speed signs be re-installed on Braunstone Lane further along the Lane towards Hinckley Road crossroads and also at Withers Way, further into the estate and facing the other direction.

Reason for decision

To ensure that any concerns of speeding on roads within the Town would be monitored and data collected.

62. Outside Body Report

The Committee noted that there was no further update on the activities at

Braunstone West Social Centre.

63. School Governing Body Reports

The Committee received a report from a member of a School Governing Body (item 11 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure all members of the community had the opportunity to access the work of the school governors in the area.

64. Celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

The Committee considered arrangements for a one off mini-programme of events in May 2023 along with a specific grants scheme to support local community groups with organising and holding community celebratory events to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III (item 12 on the agenda).

Members suggested that the Town Council consider arranging events to mark the coronation. It was suggested that volunteers running the coffee morning in the Library could arrange a Coronation tea party and the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group be asked to arrange displays. Bunting and decorations would also be put up in the centres to commemorate the event.

RESOLVED

1. that a programme of events for the Coronation of the King be co-ordinated by the Town Council to be operated over the bank holiday weekend 6th – 8th May 2023 and based on the same principles as the Annual Programme of Events; and
2. that consideration be made to include a budget of £1000 for 2023/2024 to provide community grants in order to arrange events for the Coronation.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To provide a coordinating role for community celebrations for the King's Coronation.*
2. *To ensure appropriate events and financial support to enable events to be organised and ensure their success.*

65. Thorpe Astley Annual Gala Event

The Committee considered and assessed whether a Town Council organised gala event should be held in Thorpe Astley (item 13 on the agenda).

Members considered ideas for an annual gala event to be held in Thorpe Astley including the proposal of a “Thorpe Astley By The Sea”. The event could include activities such as donkey rides, fairground rides, hook a duck, sand pit, deckchairs, Punch & Judy etc.

This would provide an alternative to the Summer Fete that was held on Mosssdale Meadows each year. Members suggested that sports facilities at Thorpe Astley could also be utilised during the event such as arranging tennis coaching, football coaching etc. to promote sports at the Centre.

It was suggested that the event be held the last week of June or first week of July.

RESOLVED

1. that the proposal to organise an annual “Thorpe Astley by the Sea” event at Thorpe Astley Park and Community Centre, as outlined in the report, be approved;
2. that a tennis coach be sought for activities on the tennis courts, failing that, rackets and tennis balls be provided along with other sports based activities provided at the event;
3. that any income from pitch space be used to fund some activities at the event and that a budget of £3,500 be approved for inclusion in the 2023/2024 budget to meet the rest of the costs.

Reasons for Decisions

1. *In recognising Thorpe Astley as a distinct community, the Town Council recognises the practical implications for service provision, which included organising an annual gala event, equivalent to the Summer Fete at Mosssdale Meadows.*
2. *To promote use of the sports facilities at Thorpe Astley park.*
3. *In order to organise a successful first event a budget will need to allocated to provide the necessary activities and infrastructure.*

66. Library – Community engagement/involvement and social inclusion

The Committee received an update on initiatives to develop involvement in Braunstone Town Library and provide for social inclusion (item 14 on the agenda).

Members received an update on the activities and projects taking place in the community library. These included the Coffee Morning, Story time, Craft and Chatter, Yoga and relaxation classes and Arts and Crafts on Saturdays.

Volunteers running these activities had also been very proactive in supporting the proposal to provide a Warm Space initiative in the Civic Centre. Following a recent successful funding bid, the Warm Space project would commence on 13th December 2022 run by the volunteers. In order to run the project at least one of the volunteers had to successfully gain a Level

2 Food Safety Certificate. It was agreed that the Town Council would cover the cost of the training and three of the volunteers had now successfully achieved the certificate.

RESOLVED that the proposed community events to take place in the library, as detailed in the report, be approved; and

Reason for Decision

To promote the wider use of the library as a community hub and provide activities and events for the community to participate in.

67. Summary of Grant Applications

The Committee received a list of grants paid to date and applied for from external sources, along with acknowledgements for Town Council Grants (item 15 on the agenda).

It was noted that the grant application to the Shires Grant scheme to replace the current lighting in the library to LED lamps had been successful and a grant in the sum of £2880.55 had been approved.

A further grant to the Shires Scheme had also just been submitted in the sum of £500 for further funds to support the Warm Space project.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

To monitor progress with supporting community groups with identifying sources of funding and with the award of grants under the Council's Community Grants scheme.

68. Community Grant Applications

The Committee considered a Community Grant Application which had been received (item 16 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the following grant application be approved subject to the group encouraging recruitment of members from Braunstone Town to the club:

a) Crafty Stitchers - £288.

Reason for Decision

The grant application met the scheme criteria.

69. Community Development Priorities and Objectives

The Committee considered the Community Development Priorities and

Objectives and determined whether they were relevant to address the current and emerging issues faced by the Council and the community (item 17 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the progress with the Community Development Delivery Objectives (2022/2023), as set out in the report, be received and noted;
2. that the review of Civic Memorial Annual Remembrance Events, approved by the Committee on 6th February 2020 (Minute 69 2019 – 2021), be postponed and considered for rescheduling as part of the 2023 annual review of Objectives, along with plans to mark the anniversary of the D-Day Landings in June 2024,

THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

3. that, with the exception of those which have been completed, the Community Development Delivery Objectives set out in the report, as amended where appropriate, be included in the 2023/24 Business Plan; and
4. that the Community Development Committee/Service Objectives, as set out in the report, be approved; subject to Objective 3 being amended to “Working with the Police, reduce opportunities for crime, increase public safety and establish a community spirit.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To note progress with the implementation of the 2022/23 Community Development Delivery Objectives so far.*
2. *To focus on delivering initiatives and projects within the Strategic Aims and Delivery Objectives.*
3. *To focus the Council’s resources on four main areas of activity in 2022/2023 and focus resources to commemorate significant anniversaries.*
4. *The Service Objectives continue to be the focus for nurturing and enhancing community life, equal opportunities and social inclusion. Objective 3 being slightly amended to focus on the importance of working with the Police to both tackle low level incidents and also reassure the community.*

70. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st October 2022.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

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

71. **Capital Plan and Budget Estimates 2023/2024**

The Committee considered a Statement of Expenditure for 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, a list of capital projects for 2023/2024 and beyond and a proposed budget for 2023/2024 for recommendation to Policy & Resources

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Policy & Resources Committee that it be recommended to Council

1. that a budget of £1,000 be included as a one-off in the 2023/2024 budget for Grants for community events to mark the Coronation of King Charles III;
2. that the Citizens' Advice Bureau SLA budget be deleted;
3. that a new budget of £3,500 be included for Thorpe Astley Summer Event;
4. that a new budget of £1,000 be included for Social Inclusion Initiatives; and
5. that the draft Estimates for the Community Development Committee, as attached at Appendix 2, be included in the Budget Estimates for 2023/2024.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure appropriate financial support to enable events celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III to be organised and to ensure their success.*
2. *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.*
3. *To provide the resources for a summer annual event at Thorpe Astley Park.*
4. *To ensure that important events and social inclusion activities run by local volunteers supported by the Town Council had sufficient funds to remain viable.*
5. *To ensure appropriate resources for the Community Development and Social Inclusion Services.*

72. **Approval of Accounts**

The Committee considered payments from 28th September until 22nd November 2022.

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions, for the period 28th September 2022 until 22nd November 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 9.10pm

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.

These minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the next meeting scheduled for 2nd February 2023.

SIGNED:

DATED: