

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Chair) and Councillors Ajmer Basra, Nick Brown, Amanda Hack, Sam Maxwell, Christiane Startin-Lorent and Marion Waterton.

Officers in attendance: Darren Tilley, Chief Executive & Town Clerk

34. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sam Fox-Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Dipen Nathwani and Tracey Shepherd.

35. Disclosures of Interest

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

36. 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.

37. Minutes of the Meeting held 7th July 2022

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th July 2022 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

38. 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).

The Committee were advised that tickets for the Halloween Disco, at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on 30th October 2022, had sold out.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Reason for Decision

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

39. Crime Statistics

The Committee received the latest crime statistics, including comparative figures (item 6 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that clarification be sought as to what constituted "violence against the person";
2. that more up to date figures be obtained; and
3. the location / spread of crimes committed be identified.

Reasons for Decision

1. *Violent/Sexual Crime was high and it would be useful to understand the type and extent of crimes included in this category.*
2. *2022 figures were 3 months behind.*
3. *To identify whether the crimes committed were spread or concentrated in particular area/neighbourhoods.*

40. Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

The Committee received an update on local community safety and policing initiatives.

Details of recent crime statistics and local neighbourhood police beat priorities was circulated (filed with these minutes).

PC Stuart Clough submitted his apologies to the meeting since he had intended to attend, however a pressing commitment had arisen and no colleagues were available to attend.

PC Stuart Clough forwarded the following update, further to the crime statistics and local neighbourhood police beat priorities:

- a) Police Volunteers had been undertaking speed checks across the Parish, one of the areas of speeding was Braunstone Lane behind the Police Station. Once the data had been received it would be passed to the Town Council.
- b) Last weekend a report was received of very loud fireworks being let off in Franklin Park, Police officers attended and dispersed a group of families, adults and youths who said that they were holding a firework display in remembrance of a friend who had passed away. They were told to leave. The fireworks were professional display sized although none were seized

as they had all been let off but they did take most of their rubbish with them.

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. This had included furniture being turned over in the Library and the Library being closed early to protect the safety of users. Incidents were being logged and CCTV images obtained for submission to the police. A Sentinel number had been issued for recording future incidents. The key individuals involved had been advised by the Resources & Facilities Manager that they had been banned for a period of 3 months.

RESOLVED

1. that the update be noted; and
2. that anti-social behaviour incidents at the Civic Centre be logged and reported and both the Police and Blaby District Council be advised.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that current community safety and policing updates were received.*
2. *To avoid further escalation, threats to the safety of users or disruption to public services*

41. Speed Sign Data

The Committee considered the latest speed sign data from Braunstone Lane (item 8 on the agenda).

It was noted that there was no data from Withers Way Speed Sign due to a battery failure.

RESOLVED that the speed signs be replaced on Braunstone Lane and Withers Way in the same area but facing the other direction of traffic.

Reason for decision

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

42. Local Area Co-ordination

The Committee received a progress report concerning the priorities and achievements of the Local Area Co-ordination Project in Braunstone Town.

The Chair welcomed Katie Barradell, Local Area Co-ordinator to the meeting, who provided the following update:

- a) residents needing food parcels were being directed to the Oak Centre;
- b) there has been a significant increase in enquiries relating to poverty and

- fuel poverty; these are referred to the household support fund;
- c) an event was being planned at Braunstone Civic Centre providing information for those struggling with the cost of living and fuel costs;
 - d) Leicestershire County Council were putting together emergency warm packs for vulnerable people who were in immediate need;
 - e) a meeting was scheduled with the Community Engagement Officer at Blaby District Council concerning food poverty initiatives;
 - f) working with a doorstep yoga project following the partnership with Budding Roots, who undertook outreach initiatives in the Library; this would be a 12 week programme to ascertain interest and further grant funding was being sought.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Reason for Decision

To identify current issues and support needs of residents and ensure that the Town Council and Local Area Coordination social inclusion initiatives complimented each other.

43. Outside Body Reports

The Committee noted that there was no further update on the activities at Braunstone West Social Centre.

44. Braunstone Life Patronage

The Committee considered arrangements for the Town Council's patronage to the Braunstone Life (item 11 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Braunstone Life Patronage be renewed with a gift of £500.

Reason for Decision

To support the work of Braunstone Life as a community newspaper, which was the most effective way for the Council and local groups and organisations to communicate and engage with residents. The newspaper was operated by volunteers and increased costs would have an impact on the publication's financial sustainability.

45. Initial Arrangements for Summer Fete 2023

The Committee considered initial arrangements for the Summer Fete 2023.

RESOLVED that the Summer Fete 2023 be held on Saturday 5th August 2023.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure that a date was set in a timely manner to allow for preparation of the event.

46. Review of Community Grants Scheme

The Committee considered amendments to the Community Grants Scheme to support the recovery and ongoing viability of community activity (item 13 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the maximum amount of grant funding available per group, per year be increased to £500;
2. that the condition on the Shakespeare Park Bowls Club and Braunstone Athletic Football Club preventing them from applying for a community grant until 2025/2026 be removed from 1st April 2023; and
3. that consideration be given, as part of the annual budget process, to allocating a portion of the community grant scheme budget to supporting Town Council led volunteer activities from 1st April 2023 and, if approved, that a policy & procedure be developed for consideration.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that local existing community groups would be supported in the current financial climate and could continue to provide services and support in the community.*
2. *To ensure that the bowls and football clubs as existing groups could obtain financial support if needed to remain viable.*
3. *To ensure that important events and social inclusion activities run by local volunteers supported by the Town Council have sufficient funds to ensure they remain viable.*

47. 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 14 on the agenda).

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.

48. HRM Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant Application

The Committee considered a grant application submitted by the Punjabi Cultural Society for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (item 15 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the grant application (submitted in April 2022) from the Punjabi Cultural Society for a grant of £200 from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant Scheme, be approved.

Reason for Decision

That the group had held an event which was in scope and had previously submitted the required application form on time and in good faith but this had been misplaced and consequently not submitted to the Committee at the correct time for consideration.

49. Community Grant Applications

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

RESOLVED that the following grant applications be approved:

- a) Asian Elderly Group - £100,
- b) Namaste Exercise Class - £300, and
- c) SWAGAT - £300.

Reason for Decision

The grant applications met the scheme criteria.

50. Community/Social Inclusion Grant

The Committee considered applying for a grant from the Community/Social Inclusion grant scheme to offer a temporary warm space and hot food to local elderly and vulnerable residents during the cost-of-living crisis (item 17 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that Braunstone Town Council submit an application to the Community/Social Inclusion grant scheme, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report, to offer a warm space, hot soup and refreshments to local residents in response to the current cost of living crisis, and
2. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to determine the details of the warm space initiative and to submit an application to the Community/Social Inclusion grant scheme.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that residents, and particularly elderly and vulnerable residents, would be supported in difficult times and to access unused funding to support the project.*
2. *To finalise details of the initiative, timescales and to work with partners to deliver the project.*

51. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

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

52. Approval of Accounts

The Committee considered payments from 29th June 2022 until 4th October 2022.

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions, for the period 29th June 2022 until 4th October June 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 1st November 2022.