

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 at 8.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Satindra Sangha (Town Mayor), Councillor Tracey Shepherd (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Ajmer Basra, Nick Brown, Callistus Fonjong, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Paul Kennedy, Rebecca Lunn-Scoppie, Sam Maxwell, 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 two members of the public present at the meeting (one via Zoom Video Conferencing).

**COUNCILLOR SATINDRA SANGHA, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR**

**6073 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Parminder Basra, Sohan Johal, Leanne Lee, Dipen Nathwani and Darshan Singh.

**6074 Disclosures of Interest**

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

**6075 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 two members of the public present at the meeting.

**6076 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Town Mayor and was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

## **6077 Medium Term Priorities and Financial Planning**

The Council received a report setting out the context for the Council's medium-term priorities and financial planning, alongside the Treasury Management, Investment and Reserves Strategies (item 5 on the agenda).

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

### **RESOLVED**

1. that the current projections attached at Appendix 1, based on known financial pressures identified in the report, be noted;
2. that the Council's Priorities and Objectives, attached at Appendix 2, be used as the basis for calculating the annual budget and any external funding sought;
3. that the Council's General Reserves be used to invest in infrastructure and assets and in the development and remodelling of services, including the Town Council's operations; and
4. that the Financial, Treasury Management, Investment and Reserves Strategies, as set out in the report, be adopted.

### *Reasons for Decision*

1. *To provide a foundation for preparing budget estimates for 2023/2024 and beyond.*
2. *To ensure the Council focusses its activity and spending on its key priorities and objectives given the future financial uncertainties.*
3. *To ensure the highest possible standards within the resources available in the future.*
4. *To effectively manage the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, taking into account the associated risks.*

## **6078 Carbon Reduction Initiatives – Borrowing Application**

The Council considered whether to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities to borrow up to £196,056 towards the cost of installing solar panels and battery storage, an air source heat pump, and electric vehicle charging points at the Council's Community Facilities (item 6 on the agenda).

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

### **RESOLVED**

1. That the following resolutions be approved:
  - a) "to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £196,056 over the

borrowing term of 15 years towards the cost of installing solar panels and battery storage, an air source heat pump, and electric vehicle charging points at the Council's Community Facilities; the annual loan repayments will come to around £18,225.88"; and

- b) "it is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments"; and
2. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk, to put together and submit the borrowing application with supporting evidence.

*Reasons for Decision*

1. *To enable the Council to reduce dependence on carbon technology, meet more of its own energy needs, reduce its CO2 emissions and generate savings and additional income, from which funds would be available to finance the loan repayments.*
2. *To enable the detailed supporting evidence to be gathered and submitted with the Council's application without undue delay.*

**6079 Committee Appointments**

Council considered Committee Appointments following changes in the membership of the Council (item 7 on the agenda).

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

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Callistus Fonjong be appointed to Planning & Environment Committee and the Councillor membership be increased to eleven.

*Reason for Decision*

*To enable the efficient and effective transaction of the Council's business.*

**6080 Announcements**

a) Town Mayor

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

- 21<sup>st</sup> October: Diwali Celebrations at the Civic Centre;
- 30<sup>th</sup> October: Sikh War Memorial Unveiling at Victoria Park;
- 30<sup>th</sup> October: Children's Halloween Disco at Thorpe Astley Community Centre;
- 11<sup>th</sup> November: Armistice Day at the Civic Memorial Garden; and
- 13<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance Sunday at St Crispin's Church.

In addition, the Deputy Town Mayor had attended the Remembrance Sunday Service on the 13<sup>th</sup> November at Christchurch.

Forthcoming engagements included:

- 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.

b) Leader of the Council

No announcements were made

c) Chief Executive and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

**6081 Questions from Councillors**

No questions had been submitted.

**6082 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Community Development Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (p7545-7551).

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**6083 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (p7552 – p7560).

**Page 7559, Minute 39 – Proposed Conservation Area for Braunstone Village**

Councillor Robert Waterton confirmed that work on the proposed Conservation Area was still progressing and Blaby District Council had confirmed that they were liaising with Leicester City Council with a view to considering extending the existing Braunstone conservation area in Leicester City's administrative area to cover the parts of Braunstone Village within the Parish / District's administrative area.

Councillor Sam Maxwell confirmed that Blaby District Council had agreed a motion to progress the project but it would be a slow process.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton.

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**6084 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

Council received the Report of the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 (p7561– p7571).

Page 7563, Minute 48 – Queen’s green Canopy

Councillor Nick Brown advised that a short consultation was currently underway regarding the two proposed places for the planting of the Queen’s Green Canopy trees. Members were asked to submit their comments through the consultation.

Page 7569, Minute 60 – Improvements to Walking and Cycle Routes

Councillor Amanda Hack expressed concern at the frequent flooding of the Narborough Road South subways and had raised this with officers at Leicestershire County Council and had been advised that repairs were awaited on the pump system. Leicestershire County Council were responsible for the maintenance and repair of the pumps and subways but Blaby District Council were responsible for cleansing and clearing up the mess following issues with flooding.

Councillor Sam Maxwell advised that this causes pressures on the budget costs for the cleansing at Blaby District Council and a long-term solution to the frequent flooding issues with the subways would be needed.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

**RESOLVED** that the report by adopted.

**6085 Motions on Notice**

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

**6086 Sealing of Documents**

There were no documents for sealing.

## 6087 County and District Councillor Reports

### a) Leicestershire County Council

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

1. Melton Mowbray distributor Road had a 40% uplift in its costs and was now overbudget; however, the project was likely to go ahead with the County Council funding the uplift given it was likely to cost more to scrap the project at this stage;
2. a performance compendium on accidents on roads was currently underway particularly following the tragic death of a young person in Braunstone Town; roads would be assessed to ascertain if the road/layout etc. contributed to the accidents; and
3. Scrutiny Commission had been advised that the County Council had a £50 deficit in the budget and had already overspent on the Special Education Needs budget due to increasing demand; there were acute pressures on this service area and parents of Special Educational Needs children were having to wait too long for support.

Councillor Sam Maxwell advised that social services all over the county were stretched and social worker numbers were decreasing. The threshold criteria for assessing special educational needs had now increased resulting in a lot more children being referred by schools for support.

### b) Blaby District Council

Councill Sam Maxwell, as District Councillor for Ravenhurst and Fosse Ward, reported on the following matters:

1. Budget Scrutiny Meeting would shortly be considering budgets prior to the Executive meeting in January where budgets would be set;
2. there was concern over the lack of affordable housing in the District and the District was not meeting its targets; a Scrutiny report had been submitted to Cabinet and a response was awaited;
3. following approval of Ward boundary changes, polling places and stations were being reviewed ahead of the local elections in May 2023.

Councillor Nick Brown advised that the boundary changes were for new Millfield Ward, with a new polling place at St Crispin's Church, however, the polling place for most residents would remain unchanged.

Councillor Robert Waterton added that the New Lubbesthorpe was a major source of affordable housing but progress was very slow.

Councillor Amanda Hack advised that along with social housing consideration should be made on affordable rents. Blaby District Council need to view what was available for affordable rent.

Councillor Sam Maxwell advised that Blaby District Council needed to work with developers to ensure that affordable housing would be in place although developers say it was not viable to provide a higher percentage of affordable housing. At the planning stages developers wanted to place all affordable housing in one area but Blaby District Council prevented this and stated that affordable housing had to be mixed in with privately owned houses and be of the same design.

Councillor Bob Waterton advised that more one bed homes at New Lubbesthorpe would be made available.

Councillor Callistus Fonjong queried if schools in New Lubbesthorpe were yet open. Councillor Amanda Hack advised that the primary school was now open and a secondary school would be delivered once the required number of homes had been sold and occupied.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

**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: .....

DATED: .....