

www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk

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29th June 2022

To: Councillor Nick Brown (Chair), Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Phil Moitt.

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the **EMPLOYING COMMITTEE** to be held on **Thursday**, **7th July 2022** commencing at **6.30pm** to be held in the **Ravenhurst Room** at Braunstone Civic Centre for the transaction of the business as set out below.

Alternatively, members of the public may observe this meeting, and make contributions under the Public Session item, using Zoom video and web conferencing software (details below).

Join Zoom Meeting https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81428581187?pwd=cEFIZHh0cUJnTzJaL2M3VDZVbzRUd z09

Meeting ID: 814 2858 1187 Passcode: 953718

Yours sincerely,

Dartes Elley

Chief Executive & Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. <u>Apologies</u>

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Disclosures of Interest

To receive disclosures of Interest in respect of items on this agenda:

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests,
- b) Other Interests (Non-Pecuniary).

3. <u>Public Participation</u>

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.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held 13th January 2022

To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held 13th January 2022 to be signed by the Chairperson (**Enclosed**).

5. Annual Report 2022 and Capital Plan 2022/2023

To receive the Annual Report of the Town Council setting out achievements from 2021/2022 and priorities for 2022/2023, alongside the Capital Plan for 2022/2023 and beyond **(Enclosed)**.

6. <u>Employee Development/Appraisal Review of the Chief Executive & Town</u> <u>Clerk</u>

<u>RECOMMENDED</u>: - That in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is recommended that the press/public be excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). Reason for exception – Personal Information.

To undertake the Personal Performance & Development Appraisal Review of the Chief Executive & Town Clerk.

Enclosed for Members of the Committee:

- a) Executive Officer & Town Clerk's Personal Performance & Development Appraisal 2021;
- b) Job Description and Person Specification for the Chief Executive & Town Clerk; and
- c) Personal Performance & Development Appraisal Form for 2022, including self-assessment by the Chief Executive & Town Clerk.

7. Annual Leave and Working Hours Record April 2020- March 2022

<u>RECOMMENDED</u>: - That in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is recommended that the press/public be excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). Reason for exception – Personal Information.

To receive the annual leave taken and working hours undertaken by employee 102 between April 2020 and March 2022 (Enclosed for Members of the Committee).



<u>NOTE:</u>

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 reassignment, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity.

MINUTES OF EMPLOYING COMMITTEE

HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

13th JANUARY 2022 at 8.40pm

PRESENT: Councillor Nick Brown (Chair), Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Phil Moitt.

Officers in attendance: Darren Tilley (Executive Officer & Town Clerk).

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

10. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

11. Disclosure of Interest

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

12. <u>Public Participation</u>

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 at the meeting.

13. Minutes of the Meeting held 5th August 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th August 2021 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

14. Flexible Working Time Requests

RESOLVED that in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press/public be temporary excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). *Reasons for exception – Personal Information.*

The Committee considered requests from employees for a fixed term adjustment to their respective contracted hours, starting 1st April 2022 and ending 31st March 2023 (item 5 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

- 1. that the application by Employee 102 for a fixed term reduction in contracted hours of 5 hours per week to an average of 32 hours per week from 1st April 2022 until 31st March 2023 be approved; and
- 2. that the application by Employee 8 for a fixed term reduction in contracted hours of 2 hours per week to an average of 35 hours per week from 1st April 2022 until 31st March 2023 be approved; and

Reasons for Decision

- 1. To allow Employee 102 to balance work and family commitments, while ensuring that staff salary costs were met within existing budgets, and allowing flexibility under the flexible hours and annualised hours system to respond to the needs of the organisation by working longer hours during busier periods and taking time off during quieter periods.
- 2. To allow Employee 8 to balance work and family commitments, while ensuring that staff salary costs were met within existing budgets, and allowing flexibility under the flexible hours and annualised hours system to respond to the needs of the organisation by working longer hours during busier periods and taking time off during quieter periods.

15. <u>Shared Parental Leave Update</u>

RESOLVED that in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press/public be temporary excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). *Reasons for exception – Personal Information.*

The Committee received an update on an employee's Shared Parental Leave arrangements, approved by the Committee on 5th August 2021 (item 6 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the request by an employee to update their approved Shared Parental Leave, as submitted in the letter dated 5th January 2022 at Item 6 on the agenda, be approved.

Reason for Decision

The employee's request to updated the arrangements for their Shared Parental Leave did not raise any issues which would be considered unacceptable for business reasons.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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.

These minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the next meeting.



Welcome to our Annual Report 2022

By Councillor Nick Brown, Leader of Braunstone Town Council

Despite these challenging times, the Town Council continues to provide important services to the community, this Annual Report provides a summary of our achievements during 2021/2022 and looks ahead to our aspirations for the next 12 months.

A full list of our achievements is set out overleaf, however, I wish to reflect on a couple of these here.

In September 2021, the Town Council adopted a Climate Change and Environmental Strategy, which sets out our ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon net zero by 2050.



This coming year we aim to deliver on this first stage, installing solar PV panels on our buildings and installing an air source heat pump at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.

As the Library reopened following Covid-19 we have been successful, working with our partners at the Cultural Communities Network and the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group, in providing a more responsive service to meet the needs of local residents. Family sessions were held over the summer holidays, with an artist in residence to incorporate music, song, finger puppets and crafts. We ran an intergenerational music project incorporating listening to music on vinyl and discussing various strands from the music including art, yoga and creative writing. Workshops were held which involved bulb planting, crafting and making bug/bee homes. Finally, children's story and music sessions are held on Friday mornings for pre-school children. I would like to thank our residents who have and continue to support these initiatives, making our library a vibrant and active community facility for all generations.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the report sets out our 4 strategic aims. Significant projects will be undertaken: improvements to the playground at Shakespeare Park, completing the refurbishment of the facilities at the park. Refurbishment of the Civic Centre toilet facilities, including the provision of a Changing Places toilet to make our facilities accessible to all. Investment in improvements at our facilities and across the town to reduce dependence on carbon and provide for sustainable travel.

A full list of the Council's Capital Projects and Delivery Objectives for the coming year, along with information on our services can be found on our website at www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk or by contacting Customer Services.

Once again, thank you for your time.

Mission Statement.

We exist:

- 1. To ensure that local services and the environment reach the highest possible standards within the resources available for citizens, visitors and those who work in Braunstone Town;
- 2. To provide a focus for civic pride;
- 3. To listen, identify and respond to agreed local needs;
- 4.To help develop a strong, secure, selfreliant, self-confident community, free from unlawful discrimination.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021		YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022
£	- 4100	£
£245,340.26	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	618,174.73
£646,304.00	(+) Annual Precept	681,961.00
£1,124,854.83	(+) Total other receipts	172,030.00
£485,277.95	(-) Staff costs	434,301.32
£66,628.11	(-) Loan interest / capital repayments	94,185.39
£846,418.30	(-) Total other payments	657,361.80
£618,174.73	(=) Balances carried forward	286,317.22
£621,657.04	Total cash and short term investments	243,220.55
£4,563,474.78	Total fixed assets and long term assets	5,400,445.75
£1,128,008.14	Total borrowings	1,061,861.96

Braunstone Civic Centre Customer Services Shop Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm



Achievements (2021/2022)

The Council provides a wide range of services together with social and recreational facilities. The Council also promotes the interests of the town in its representation to other bodies. It works in partnership with the larger District Council and County Council to provide and supplement local government services within the town area.



Our Achievements in 2021/2022

Shakespeare Park Improvements: Completed both Phase
1, new pavilion and site improvements and Phase 2,
refurbishment of tennis courts; of our £1 million
investment in improvements to the sporting, recreation
and play facilities. The New Pavilion is being utilised by
the existing bowling and football clubs.



Successfully put the case to stop Blaby considering proposals to split the Parish, avoiding
our projects and investments being under threat and ensuring residents don't face the
burden of unnecessary tax increases.

- Provided £1100 additional funding to community groups to assist with recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic.
- GRANTS
- Launched an additional grant fund for community groups to assist with the establishment of new groups where there are gaps in community provision, in order to support community activity and social inclusion.



 Implemented new arrangements for hirers of our community facilities; including a simplified pricing framework, reducing the minimum booking time for regular hirers and discount schemes for regular hirers
 and hirers of multiple rooms.



<u> Achievements (2021/2022)</u>



- Adopted a Climate Change & Environmental Strategy setting out how the Council will achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2030 and net zero by 2050; the strategy also sets a framework for the Council to work with its partners to support residents and businesses in the Town make changes towards a less carbon dependent future.
- Made a partnership agreement with the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group to support and enhance services provided through the Library.
- Worked with the Trustees of Drummond to develop proposals for a new public park and recreation space utilising unused land off Meridian Way; providing for supporting the environment and biodiversity, screening Thorpe Astley from the new road and air pollution, while providing a new amenity space for recreation, plan and exercise.



- Commissioned a Carbon Audit, which has made recommendations on actions the Council can take to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 and have developed a Carbon Action Plan, including commencing preparations, including surveys, for it's implementation.
- Wild flower areas planted throughout the town along with planting of trees.
- Successfully applied for a grant to central government through Blaby District Council for a Changing Places Toilet to be installed at Braunstone Civic Centre as part of forthcoming building refurbishment.
- A year-long community project in the Braunstone Town Library encouraged community participation and engagement and reduced isolation of vulnerable residents.

Art, Nature and Music workshops were organised along with engagement sessions with the public.



Over seven community volunteers came forward to restart the weekly Coffee Morning and Storytime sessions in the library.



Your Views

Throughout the year we undertake a range of consultations and surveys to ascertain the views of residents on major projects, such as our improvement proposals, other priorities and services and also to help us to articulate the needs and aspirations of the community. We have a dedicated Consultation page on our website (found under Town Council).

STRATEGIC AIMS AND DELIVERY OBJECTIVES (2022/2023)

1. Protect and Enhance our Parks and Open Spaces

Aim: To invest in and maintain high quality urban green spaces for sport, recreation and play, while enriching the natural environment.

- Complete Shakespeare Park Refurbishment and Open the new Pavilion building.
- Carry out repairs to the Culvert and Bridge at Mossdale Meadows.
- Support existing Clubs at Shakespeare Park to grow while supporting new sporting activities, such as Tennis (Tap 4 Tennis) and Petanque;
- Continue to work wi<mark>th Blab</mark>y Distric<mark>t Council to ensure imp</mark>rovements are made to the culvert at Thorpe Astl<mark>ey Par</mark>k; and to the Culvert and Bridge at Mossdale Meadows.

2. Provide Vibrant Community Facilities

Aim: To provide vibrant, accessible and cost effective community facilities, which continue to be used by and respond to the needs of our community.

- Carry out Improvements to the Braunstone Civic Centre: Refurbishment of toilets and a Changing places toilet to be added. - Promote and attract new activities and hires to Thorpe Astley Community Centre -Ensure Outreach services are available -Expand the Bar Service at the Civic Centre

3. Support and Connect the Local Community

Aim: To both nurture and enhance the Town's community life and connect our communities to reduce isolation and build community cohesion.

- Establish a Go<mark>od Neighbour Scheme</mark>
- Develop Library events, initiatives and continue community engagement.
- Co-ordinate Community Events
- Support new and existing community activities and initiatives through our Community Grants Schemes and Programme of Events; - Support the Local Area Co-ordination project.

<u>4. Respond to Climate Change and champion sustainable development</u>

Aim: To embed climate and environmental awareness in our decision making and actions and play our part in supporting the community to do the same.

Deliver actions with a view to the Council becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030.
 Enhance nature and biodiversity on our urban green spaces.
 Support and facilitate initiatives to improve cycling and walking routes, also provide secure cycle lock up facilities at our centres to support this action.
 Work towards ensuring the development meets present needs to protect future generations.

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CAPITAL PLAN 2022/2023

The Council's Capital Projects have been identified through identified emerging priorities, the Annual Survey, the Citizens' Advisory Panel and the Parish Plan. A review of the Council's Open Spaces and Parks identified priorities for Capital improvements should external funding arise, as a result Policy & Resources Committee on 11th April 2013 adopted "Proposals and Priorities for Improvements to Our Parks and Open Spaces", which form part of this programme.

Each year Policy & Resources Committee, when considering the budget estimates and precept for the forthcoming financial year, reviews progress with Capital Projects and updates the list according to funding and priorities. The Capital Plan forms the foundation of the strategic investment and improvement works undertaken by the Town Council in the year ahead. The Capital Plan proposals are considered and approved at Full Council in January when the budget and precept is set.

	Parks and Open Spaces Projects		
Park	Project	Notes	
Franklin park	Improvement items identified by the Franklin Park Working Group: creation of path in orchard (to enable access to lower part when the ground is water logged)	Scheduled for 2022/23 Winter works	
Impey Close playground	Resurface playground with rubber mulch under play equipment and pathway (Rubber tiles damaged and in places missing. Surfaces having been damaged subject to continued vandalism).	Cost £17k, funding to be identified	
Mossdale Meadows & Merrileys	Replace vehicle and pedestrian culvert bridges at Mossdale Meadows. <i>Existing</i> <i>culverts are not suitable for flow of water</i> <i>which causes flooding on the park on a regular</i> <i>basis</i>	Priority Project for 2022/23	
	Bridle path resurfacing (from Kingsway entrance through to Jelson owned land) Possible resurfacing of footpaths Toddler swings (estimated five year life span – medium risk) MM	On-hold pending review and availability of resources	
	Refurbishment of Changing Rooms and Sports facilities at Mossdale Pavilion. <i>The Changing Facilities and Social Facilities could make more effective use of the space and are in need of improvement and modernisation.</i>	Once Shakespeare Park Improvements completed	

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	Parks and Open Spaces Projects (continued)		
Park	Project	Notes	
Mossdale Meadows & Merrileys	Roof Insulation at Mossdale Depot and Sports Changing Rooms. There is currently no central heating at the premises, with electric heaters for the staff room at the Depot. The building is not energy efficient and needs to be both in the short and long term to reduce energy use and costs.	Once Shakespeare Park Improvements completed	
	Installation of bio-fuel boiler at Mossdale Pavilion for heating the Sports Facilities and Parks Depot. There is no heating at the premises. There are electric heaters for the staff room at the Depot, which are inefficient and a higher risk for fire. The Town Council has to pay at the Waste Disposal site to tip hedge and tree cuttings, which could be reused to fuel heating system.	Await Carbon Audit	
Shakespeare Park	Additional balance in play area (2-5 or 5 – 12 age group) Additional Spinning Equipment in play area (2- 5 year or 5 – 12 year age group) including installation	Part of Shakespeare Park Improvement and Development Project, <i>Priority</i> <i>Project</i> <i>underway and</i> <i>scheduled for</i> <i>completion in</i> 2022/23	
	Safety Surface installed at toddler area Additional seat in play area Improvements to the entrance to the park area (access from the car park to the park) Safety Surface in play area	Priority Project underway and scheduled for completion in 2022/23 (see above)	
All Parks	Purchase of a wood chipper. To enable the installation of a bio-fuel boiler at Mossdale Depot and Sports Changing Rooms. To reduce waste and waste tipping costs to tip hedge and tree cuttings, which could be reused to fuel heating system in pavilion. Chippings can also be used to make natural pathways.	To be scheduled. Business Case to be submitted for consideration by Policy & Resources Committee.	

	Community Centres Projects	
Building	Project	Notes
Civic Centre	Refurbishment of both sets of Toilets including exploring the provision of a Changing Places Toilet. The current toilets are approximately 20 years old. The refurbishment of the toilets provided an opportunity to ensure that the Civic Centre toilet facilities are fully accessible.	Priority Project for 2022/23
	Refurbishment of the Civic Centre Bar, Kitchen and Store Facilities (To enable the expansion of the facility to provide a café service during the day and additional lunches and meals, utilising the space more effectively and providing a wider community social space).	Priority Project for 2022/23
	Civic Centre Roof Refurbishment; Council Chamber side. The roof on the Council Chamber and Fosse Room is leaking and has received several patches. Advice is that the roof has passed its life expectancy and will need refurbishing in the short term.	Schedule 2022/23 Fundamental to building integrity
	Replacement of Civic Centre Windows. The windows are over 20 years old and do not meet modern insulation standards. Some are unsafe to open.	Schedule 2022/23 Health & Safety can't be maintained
	Replacement of Civic Centre foyer skylight and corridor frame and windows. Both the foyer skylight and the corridor and windows are over 25 years old and do not meet modern insulation standards.	
	Civic Centre radiator replacement and review of location. Some areas of the building are well provided for with radiators and are hot, while other areas of the building have limited radiators and are cold.	
	 Council Chamber internal refurbishment: Heating/Air Conditioning Mood Lighting Audio / Visual Equipment, including sound and loop system and fixed projector. The facilities are in need of modernisation for users and hirers: the room is used for meetings, consultations, seminars, training and social events. 	On-hold pending review and availability of resources Await Carbon Audit and obtain quotes
	Refurbish/Replace Fire Doors in Civic Centre (except Millfield Hall). Some doors and frames are rotten and doors stick when the frames swell in the damp. Potential to hinder exit in an emergency.	Currently scheduled for 2022/23 pending resources

	Community Centres Projects (continued)		
Building	Project	Notes	
Civic Centre <i>Continued</i>	Fosse Room – Audio / Visual Equipment, including sound and loop system and fixed projector (The facilities are in need of modernisation for users and hirers: the room is used for meetings, consultations, seminars and training).	Postpone to 2023/24	
	Installation of Sound systems in the Millfield Hall, Council Chamber and Thorpe Astley Main Hall. To make the facilities attractive for hire. Some regular hirers have commented that provision of a sound system means there is less need to move equipment or need storage.		
	Council Chamber & Thorpe Astley main hall Mood Lights. To make the facilities attractive for function hire. Hirers of the Millfield Hall provide positive feedback on the mood lighting.		
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	Install a hybrid air source heat pump. To decarbonise Community Centre heating; 10% reduction of total Council emissions.	Priority Project for 2022/23	
Both Centres	Installation of hearing loop systems in main rooms at both Community Centres. Item already included where refurbishment of specific rooms has been identified.	To be scheduled. Rolling Programme from 2023/24.	

Library Projects		
Project	Notes	
Installation of LED lighting at the Library. The Library building has not been converted to LED lighting; conversion will reduce	Schedule 2022/23	
energy use and costs.		

General Projects		
Location	Project	Notes
	Cycle lock-up rails are available at both Centres and will be available at the new Shakespeare Pavilion. To encourage cycling and to ensure parked cycles are safe –	Schedule 2022/23
	consider covers, lock ups, better signage and CCTV coverage.	

	General Projects		
Location	Project	Notes	
Civic Centre and Franklin Park Car Parks	Resurfacing/ Relining of Civic Centre, including exploring new handrails along footpath on entrance slope from Welcome Avenue, and Franklin Park Car Parks. Poor quality of the surface, particularly near entrances and patching is costly and inefficient. Lines are currently fading and can be relined following resurfacing. The slope at the Civic Centre is considered steep and potentially presented difficulties for wheel chair users and those who	Schedule dependent on Reserves	
Installation of Solar Panels at both Community Centres	are less able. The Town Council has undertaken energy saving projects such as LED Lighting and installation of new heating and air conditioning systems. Shakespeare Park Pavilion will be built to current efficiency standards. The next stage for both reducing the impact on climate change and making savings is generation of some of the Council's electricity from renewable sauces.	To be scheduled following Carbon Audit. Priority Project for 2022/23	
Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging points at community facilities	To provide fast charging for service users, hirers and staff who use an electric vehicle.	Priority Project for 2022/23	
Gateway signage to the Town on the new road from Lubbesthorpe	The Town Council was responsible for the Town's place signs and would be responsible for installation of such signs at the new gateway and could explore incorporating speed reminders and/or safety messages.	To be scheduled.	
Provide new, improved and enhanced notice boards at key locations	Over the past few years, many notice boards have fallen into disrepair and have been removed. Some existing notice boards are in need of refurbishment and replacement. Some notice boards are located where there isn't a high level of footfall, while some key locations do not have notice boards.	Rolling programme over 5 years. Focus on Notice Boards on Council land in 2022/2023	

Adopted by Council 27th January 2022 (Minute Reference 5996).