

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

6TH NOVEMBER 2014 at 8.00PM

Present: Mr M S Aslam (In the Chair), Mr A S Basra, Miss S Betts, Mr N Brown, Mr T Chapman, Mrs J Fox, Mr P Kennedy, Mrs A Hack, Mr D Joshi, Mrs S Maxwell, Mr S Maxwell, Mr P Moitt, Mr G Sanders, Mrs I Whailing, Mr W Wright.

Officers in Attendance: Mr D Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk, Miss J Leech, Assistant Executive Officer (Admin)

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

MR M S ASLAM, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5261 Apologies for Absence

- a) Miss A Ambrose, Mr R Berrington, Mr N Chamberlain, Mrs S Fox-Kennedy, Mr P Patel.
- b) RESOLVED That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Mr D Widdowson's failure to attend a meeting of local authority for reasons of ill health be approved in order that he does not cease to be a Member of the Authority on 15th November 2014 and the absence be approved for a period of 6 months from 15th November 2014.

5262 Disclosures of Interest

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

5263 Minutes of the Meeting held 4th September 2014

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held 4th September 2014 as previously circulated be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

5264 Items Dealt With Required by Statute

- a) Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Planning

An updated version of the Town Council's Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Planning document was received. The document had been revised since it was received at last year's budget meeting, to take into account changes arising from the future of the Library Services and other issues that could potentially impact on the Council financially including changes to the Pension Scheme, the Council Tax Support Grant and the depletion of the Commuted Sums from the Thorpe Astley Open Spaces.

It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

That the Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Planning document be received and the following recommendations be approved:-

1. that the current projections based on known financial pressures identified in the report be noted;
2. that the Council's Mission Statement and the Objectives for each Service Area be used as the basis upon which the annual budget will be calculated and any external funding sought;
3. that the Council's Reserves be used to invest in infrastructure and assets and in the development and remodelling of services, including the Town Council's operations, in order to ensure the highest possible standards within the resources available in the future;
4. that the Executive Officer and Town Clerk produce proposals to meet the identified savings equivalent to the projected reduction in Council Tax Support Grant;
5. that the Executive Officer and Town Clerk produce proposals aimed at mitigating the pressures on resources and the precept identified in the current projections for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2019/20; and
6. that the Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Planning be revised at least on an annual basis in order that changed circumstances and revised predictions can be incorporated into the Council's Medium to Long Term planning process.

5265 Town Mayor's Report

Mr M S Aslam reported on events that he attended in his capacity as Town Mayor since the last meeting. Mr Aslam had represented the Town Council at Blaby District Council's Outstanding Achievements Awards evening to see Mrs Henderson receive the runners-up award for the category of Good Friend/Neighbour. As part of the Programme of Events, Mr Aslam had enjoyed the 60s and 70s night and he was pleased to note that people in attendance had made positive comments about the Civic Centre facilities. Mr Aslam had attended this year's Apple Day event, which unfortunately, had been affected by poor weather. Mr Aslam had been delighted to attend the Diwali Celebrations at the Civic Centre, which had been enjoyed by around 100 people. It was also an opportunity to raise funds for his charity, Leicester Charity Link. Mr Aslam had also attended the Halloween Disco at the Thorpe Astley Community Centre.

5266 Public Session

In accordance with Standing Orders 16f and 70 the meeting was adjourned to give an opportunity for members of the public present to raise matters of public interest for the purpose of making representations, giving evidence or answering questions.

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

5267 Questions from Councillors

There were no questions raised by Councillors submitted in accordance with Standing Order 15.

5268 Plans & Environment Committee

The Report of the Plans & Environment Committee Meeting held on 10th July 2014 (p5683/p5687).

Page 8684, Item 5 – 1/0823/1/PX Land to East of 24/ - 34 Evelyn Road

Mrs S Maxwell reported that, through the previous success from the Town Council working with residents and Planning Officers, the original planning application and its subsequent appeal had been overturned. The reasons for refusal had been that the proposals were out of keeping and over-development of the site. Residents had expressed their appreciation to the Council for its support. An amended application had now been submitted by the developer which comprised 2 pair of semi-detached bungalows. The proposals were much improved, however, there were still some concerns from residents with regard to the height of the dormer windows. Members that were representatives on the District Council's Development Control Committee agreed to keep local residents informed of the progress of the applications.

RESOLVED: That the Report be adopted.

5269 Community Development Committee

The Report of the Community Development Committee Meeting held on 10th July 2014 (p5688/5690).

Page 5689, Item 4h – Local Area Co-ordinator

Mr W Wright reported that he, Mrs S Maxwell, Miss S Betts and the Executive Officer & Town Clerk had attended a presentation at Blaby District Council as to what the post of Local Area Co-ordinator would entail. It was acknowledged that this would be a scheme that would be beneficial to the Town. It was expected that the Co-ordinator would be in place in January 2015.

RESOLVED: That the Report be adopted.

5271 Policy & Resources Committee

The Report of the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 21st August 2014 (p5691/5694)

Mr N Brown took the opportunity to thank those Members who had substituted as Chair for him at recent meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Report be adopted.

5270 Plans & Environment Committee

The Report of the Plans & Environment Committee Meeting held on 14th August 2014 (p5695/p5698).

Page 5696, Item 7 – Lubbethorpe Strategic Consultation Board

Mr W Wright reported that he and the Executive Officer & Town Clerk had attended the Lubbethorpe Strategic Consultation Board Meeting held on 30th October 2014. There had been discussion about the provision of the health service facility, with a representative of NHS England present at the meeting, as well as the general timescale for the infrastructure being in place. Mr Wright noted that the Town Council would need to monitor the access to the site during construction as increase in traffic would have an adverse impact on the Town and its air quality. The date for the next meeting of the Board was 15th January 2015.

RESOLVED: That the Report be adopted.

5271 To Consider Resolutions or Recommendations

There were no Resolutions or Recommendations received.

5272 Authorisation of the Sealing of Documents

a) Acquisition of Open Spaces at Thorpe Astley – Persimmon Homes

RESOLVED

That the Deeds of the Thorpe Astley open Spaces transferred to the Town Council by Persimmon Homes be received and the Common Seal applied.

5273 Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies, District and County Councillors, LAPLC Representatives and School Governors Reports

Leicestershire County Council

Mrs J Fox reported that issues arising at Leicestershire County Council included the decision making process on the Library Services. The Leader of the Council and the Executive Officer & Town Clerk had attended a Scrutiny Meeting at County Hall to put forward the case for the County Council retaining Braunstone Town Library. Mrs Fox understood that the County Council needed to make cuts in services, however, she felt that a review should have been carried out across the Library service as a whole or that there be an increase in Council Tax to continue the service.

Another issue at the moment was with regard to the state of the Narborough Road South underpasses, with Leicestershire County Council refusing to continue to remove graffiti on a regular basis, unless it was what they considered offensive. There were issues raised by Members with regard to other underpasses in the Town.

RESOLVED

That an item be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee to consider underpasses.

Blaby District Council

Mrs J Fox reported that Blaby District Council had arranged a meeting with the new management of the Fosse Park Shopping Centre. There were a number of developments planned for the site, including the Everards site, and it was therefore an important meeting to build a positive relationship with them.

Mrs J Fox reported that the District Council was hosting an interest meeting on 15th November 2014 at Blaby District Council's Offices for anyone who might be interested in becoming a Councillor, whether at Parish or District level.

Mr P Moitt reported on the Scrutiny Finance Working Group meeting with regard to the disposal of land and assets. The Town Council had put forward the recommendation for the Scrutiny Commission to consider this issue. The Commission had concluded that it felt that the disposal of the garage stock had been sufficiently explained to the Council. As with regard to the open spaces, it did not consider there to be significant amounts of space that would merit there being a strategy to dispose of it. It was noted that the District Council had, last year, asked if the Parish Councils would be interested in taking over the ownership of open spaces, and would also be allowing them more freedom to utilise and enhance those open spaces. The District Council's current process to dispose of open space was to establish access and ownership to individual open spaces, consult with the planning department with regard to change of use and for an external valuation to be obtained. If it was decided to dispose of the land, if it was valued above £10k the

Council would be required to make the decision, otherwise the decision would be delegated to an officer.

Mr W Wright reported that the Scrutiny Commission had received a presentation from the Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership at its last meeting. He noted that the Blaby District Community Safety Partnership was to merge with that of Hinckley & Bosworth, however the terms of reference in relation to how it was to be governed had not yet been agreed.

Mrs S Maxwell reported that she had attended a working group meeting the last week to look at the impact on the County Council's cuts on Children's Services. The cuts were also impacting on the schemes run at District level. In particular, a Blaby District Council scheme to support families had had its funding cut by the County Council and the scheme would not therefore be able to continue. The District Council was currently investigating sponsorship ideas working with the local businesses.

Mrs Maxwell also raised her concerns for local residents who were currently facing difficult financial situations. She gave an example where she had been contacted by a local resident and had been able to direct him to the District Council's Benefits Team and they had been able to provide him with food from their foodbank scheme and assist him through its Hardship Fund. Mrs Maxwell recommended these schemes for Members to recommend to other residents in a similar position.

Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Mr P Kennedy reminded Members that the Minibus' Christmas Quiz and Games Night was on Friday 28th November 2014 at the Civic Centre.

School governors

Mr N Brown was pleased to report that, following on from Millfield LEAD Academy coming out of special measures on becoming an Academy, it had since been given a full Ofsted inspection and was now rated good across all areas. As a governor for the school, Mr Brown was keen for the school to move on to a rating of outstanding. At present, all schools within the Town were rated good.

5274 Approval of Accounts from 28th August 2014 to 20th October 2014

RESOLVED: That in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003 the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions for the Period 28th August 2014 to 20th October 2014 be approved (copy filed with Minutes).

5275 Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.