

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

30TH JANUARY 2014 at 8.00PM

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

Officers in Attendance: Mr. I Laughton, Executive Officer & Town Clerk, Miss J Leech, Assistant Executive Officer – Admin.

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

MISS A HACK, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5177 Apologies for Absence

Mr R Berrington, Mrs S Fox-Kennedy, Mr D Joshi, Mr G Sanders, Mr D Widdowson.

5178 Disclosures of Interest

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

5179 Minutes of the Meeting held 5th September 2013

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meetings held 7th November 2013 as previously circulated be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

5180 Items Dealt With Required by Statute

a) Estimates for 2014/2015

The Estimates for 2014/2015 were received, along with Guidance Notes for Members on Capital and Revenue Costs and Long Term Financial Planning Guide.

Mr N Brown proposed the Precept of £463,281 (not including the Council Tax Support Grant payable to the Town Council of £52,046) which would result in a total budget requirement to the Council of £515,327, with the average Council Tax Payer in Band 'B' paying £76.20 per year as Braunstone Town's share of the Council Tax in 2014/2015. This resulted in an increase of 2.8%.

Mr Brown reminded Members that last year the Council set a tight budget but had been successful during the year in managing the budget, despite unforeseen costs such as additional election costs. However, for the forthcoming year there were external factors that would result in a financial risk to the Council, and therefore it was prudent for the Town Council to make longer term financial plans to reduce the risk. Mr Brown referred to Long Term Financial Planning Guidance report that had been circulated to members which set out the key financial implications on the Council over the coming years. These included the potential for the loss of the Council Tax Support Grant from the District Council, the introduction of auto-enrolment of employees into the pension scheme and the depletion of the commuted sums for the maintenance of the Thorpe Astley open spaces.

It was unanimously:-

RESOLVED

That a Net Precept Requirement for £463,281 for the financial year 2014/2015 be submitted to Blaby District Council.

5181 Town Mayor's Report

Miss A Hack reported on events she had attended in her capacity as Town Mayor since the last meeting. It had been a very busy time since the last meeting particularly because of the Christmas events. However, the first events she had attended had been the Remembrance Service. She took the opportunity to thank the Members for representing the Council at the various services across the county. Over the Christmas period the Town Mayor had attended the Flower Demonstration at the Civic Centre and the Craft Fayre. Both events had been popular and the Town Mayor had been able to raise over £200 for her charity at her stall at the Craft Fayre. The Town Mayor had also hosted the annual Carol Service. Following Christmas she had attended the Panto at the Civic Centre and noted that it was pleasing to see the range of age groups attending the Council's events. An up and coming event was the Town Mayor's Fashion Show to be held at the Thorpe Astley Community Centre on 28th February 2014.

5182 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 representations from members of the public.

5183 Questions from Councillors

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

5184 Plans & Environment Committee

The Report of the Plans & Environment Committee Meeting held on 21st November 2013 (p5571/p5573).

Page 5572, Item 8 – East Midlands Homes – Environment Improvement Project

Mrs J Fox reported on the Environment Improvement Project to be carried out around the Hastings Walk/Shakespeare Close/Peveral Court area, funded by East Midlands Homes. Mrs Fox was attending the public meetings regarding the scheme.

RESOLVED: That the Report be adopted.

5185 Community Development Committee

The Report of the Community Development Committee Meeting held on 21st November 2013 (p5574/5579).

Page 5575, Item 4fi – Commemorations to mark the start of WW1

It was noted that the Braunstone Heritage Group had held a further meeting with the neighbouring parishes on 29th January 2014 and that Mr M S Aslam had represented the Town Council. A further meeting was scheduled for 13th February 2014.

Page 5576, Item 4gi – BB19 Youth Bus

Mr W Wright reported it had been the District Council's plans to have the BB19 Youth Bus operational for four evenings per week, however, this had now been reduced to three evenings per weeks due to budget cuts.

Page 5576, Item 4hi – Neighbourhood Takes Charge

Mrs J Fox noted that the Neighbourhood Takes Charge initiative tied in well with the improvement scheme being carried out by East Midlands Homes to the Shakespeare Close, Hastings Walk area. Residents who had attended the consultations for the improvements scheme had expressed an interest in being involved with the Neighbourhood Takes Charge initiative. A leaflet drop was to be carried out as part of the Neighbourhood Takes Charge project on 24th February 2014.

Page 5577, Item 4hii – Speed Activated Sign

Mr N Brown was disappointed to note from the results of the Speed Activated Sign on Murby Way that 61% of motorists were travelling over the speed limit. He was pleased, however, that the Town Council had been able to highlight the problem and already local residents were also expressing their concerns by social media.

Page 5577, Item 4hiii – Part Night Lighting Scheme

Mrs S Maxwell passed on a resident of Evelyn Road's appreciation to Mrs J Fox for resolving with Leicestershire County Council for the street light outside her property to be excluded from the Part Night Lighting Scheme. However, Mrs Fox reported that she had also raised the issue regarding an area of Braunstone Lane, however, this was not progressing as the County Council was awaiting a response from the police.

RESOLVED: That the Report be adopted.

5186 Plans & Environment Committee

The Report of the Plans and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19th December 2013 (p5580/5590).

Page 5582, Item 9 – Pedestrian Warning Signs, Lubbesthorpe Way

In addition to this item, Miss A Hack reported that she had contacted the Highways Agency to ask for signage to advise of the closed M1 Northbound to be improved around the accesses to the Junction 21 area.

Page 5583, Item 15 – Air Quality Action Plan

Mr W Wright reported that Blaby District Council's Air Quality Action Plan was to be received at the next meeting of the Council's Cabinet, however, it had also been called in by the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Report be adopted.

5187 Policy & Resources Committee

The Report of the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 16th January 2014 (p5585/5590)

Page 5586, Item 6 – Thorpe Astley Community Centre – Consultation Rooms

Mr N Brown was pleased to note that a GP had expressed an interest in providing services from the Thorpe Astley Community Centre should there be sufficient demand from residents. He was disappointed however, that local residents had been misled through a petition carried out in 2013 and inaccurate reports that the Town Council would be closing the clinical rooms. Mr N Brown stressed the Council's commitment to ensuring that clinical services be provided from the Centre, however, it should be noted that there was limit to the Council's powers in the action it could take in progressing the matter due to procedures set by NHS England. Mr T Chapman responded that, at the time of the petition, he too had been misled into thinking that the Town Council was proposing to close the clinical rooms and apologised on behalf of himself and Mrs Whailing for the misunderstanding. Mr N Brown thanked Mr Chapman for his statement and hoped that all Members could work together to progress this matter to the benefit of local residents.

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk advised Members that NHS England would be carrying out a procurement process for a service to be provided from the Community Centre, however, due to the commercial and sensitive nature of the process, the Town Council would need to be impartial in its support of a GP service.

Page 5587, Item 8 – Community Governance Review

Mr N Brown reported that he was disappointed to note that, following the last meeting of the Full Council, at which all Members had received background information on the Council's recommendations for the Community Governance Review, the report to be received by the District Council had been withdrawn due to a concern raised by a resident. Mr Brown was concerned that any decisions made on such matters should be made within the public domain in a transparent way where matters could be debated.

Mr T Chapman responded that he had raised his concerns with Blaby District Council regarding the proposals as he was concerned that it may result in a loss of identity for Fosse Ward, however, in light of the fact that there were limitations with any proposals needing to tie in with the District level boundaries, he accepted that the initial recommendations by the Town Council would result in a fair representation and would be withdrawing his initial concerns with Blaby District Council and supporting the Town Council's recommendations.

RESOLVED: That the Report be adopted.

5188 To Consider Resolutions or Recommendations

There were no Resolutions or Recommendations received.

5189 Authorisation of the Sealing of Documents

There were no documents received.

5190 Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies, District and County Councillors, LAPLC Representatives and School Governors Reports

District Councillors

The District Councillors had been pleased to welcome Mr W Wright back to the meetings following his recent absence and Mr Wright took the opportunity to thank them for substituting for him at Blaby District Council meetings.

The current issue affecting the District Council was the budget setting. The Budgets for each portfolio holder had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee. It was noted that the District Council had uncertainty as to whether it was to receive external grants from the County Council or other external bodies. This could have an impact on the loss of posts, that were reliant on external funding.

Mrs J Fox reported that she had been trying to progress with the County Council the repair of the pump to the Kingsway underpass which had recently been flooded. The flooding had restricted pedestrian access across the Narborough Road South, and in addition there was restricted access as part of the Asda Roundabout works. Leicestershire County Council would be contacted to see if improved signage could be provided at the roadworks for pedestrians.

Leicestershire County Council

Mrs J Fox reported that Leicestershire County Council needed to make further cuts over the next five years and reported on some of the services that were to be impacted on by the cuts which included Adults Social Care and Young People's services. Voluntary Groups were also to be affected by the cuts to the introduced to the County Council's grants system. Despite the cuts, Leicestershire County Council was still proposing a 0% increase in Council Tax.

Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils

It was agreed that the LRALC would be contacted for a schedule of future meetings

Blaby North Community Forum

It was noted that the Community Forums had now been folded.

5191 Approval of Accounts from 1st October 2013 to 31st December 2013

RESOLVED: That in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003 the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions for the Period 1st October 2013 to 31st December 2013 (copy filed with Minutes).

5192 Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.