

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2ND OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.30PM

Present: Miss S Betts (In the Chair), Mr R Berrington, Mr N Brown, Mrs S Fox-Kennedy, Mr P Kennedy, Ms A Hack, Mr S Maxwell, Mr P Moitt, Mr G Sanders, Mr W Wright.

Officers in Attendance: Mr D Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk.

Apologies: Miss A Ambrose, Mrs J Fox, Mrs S Maxwell.

1. Election of Chair for the Meeting

While Mr N Brown was in attendance, he considered that he was not fit enough to chair the meeting, therefore, in the absence of the vice-chair Mr Brown requested that another member undertake the role for the meeting.

RESOLVED

That Miss S Betts be elected Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. Disclosures of Interest from Members or Officers

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

3. Public Participation

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.

4. Report of the Meeting held 21st August 2014

The report of the meeting held on 21st August 2014 was taken as read and signed by the Chairperson.

5. Publications

LRALC, LCR, trees, Wildlife News, Natural World, business Issues, DCLG, Braunstone Life, Clerk.

6. Pitch Allocations

- a) **Petition: Reopening of the former Adult Football Pitch at Mossdale Meadows**
The Committee considered a response to a petition which was presented at Council (4th September 2014) which requested that the top field of Mossdale Meadows be reinstated to its original state as a meadow not as a football pitch. This petition had 88 signatories.

RESOLVED

That the petition be noted and that the balance between pitch provision and other uses at Mossdale Meadows be kept under review.

- b) **Progress with reopening of the former Adult Football Pitch at Mossdale Meadows**
The Executive Officer and Town Clerk provided the Committee with an update on progress returning the former adult pitch at Mossdale Meadows (top field) to use as a Senior pitch as soon as practically possible (Report Reference 5b(i) 21st August

2014). The grass had been cut, however, it would need to be collected off the surface prior to the final cuts. A contractor was due to undertake grass collection work in the forthcoming week.

RESOLVED

That the progress made to date and proposed action be noted.

- c) Draft Pitches Policy and Procedure
A draft Pitches Policy and Procedure was submitted as a basis for consultation with stakeholders prior to adoption by Policy and Resources Committee on 15th January 2015.

RESOLVED

- i) *That the draft Pitches Policy and Procedure circulated with the agenda be approved as a basis for consultation with stakeholders and that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer and Town Clerk to correct minor typing errors prior to consultation; and*
ii) *that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer and Town Clerk to undertake the consultation, including identifying those to be consulted, publicity and setting the timescales and deadlines for the consultation, in order to submit a final version to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee on 15th January 2015.*

7. Parks and Open Spaces

- a) Franklin Park Community Orchard/Meadow
The report of the meeting of the Franklin Park Community Orchard/Meadow Project Working Group, held on 11th September 2014, was received.

RESOLVED

That the progress made to resolve the issues raised in the Heritage Warden's letter (Report Reference 6a 21st August 2014) be welcomed and supported.

- b) Winter Works Programme 2014/2015
The Winter Works Programme for 2014/2015 was received and noted.

RESOLVED

That the Winter Works Programme for 2014/2015, circulated with the agenda, be approved.

8. Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Planning

A report was submitted setting out the context for the Council's medium to long term priorities and financial planning and to consider making recommendations as appropriate to Council.

The following suggestions for proposals to meet the identified savings and for service development were made:

- a) installation of LED lighting, payback was estimated to be a maximum of 2 years; and
b) a facility for online scheduling, booking and payments.

RESOLVED

That it be recommended to Council:

- i) that the current projections based on known financial pressures identified in the report be noted;*
- ii) 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;*
- iii) 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;*
- iv) that the Executive Officer and Town Clerk produce proposals to meet the identified savings equivalent to the projected reduction in Council Tax Support Grant;*
- v) 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*
- vi) 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.*

9. Changes to provision and development of Local Public Services

A progress report setting out various changes and developments involving local public services was considered in respect of:

- a) Future of Leicestershire Libraries
- b) Thorpe Astley Community Centre – Medical Rooms
- c) Customer Service Shop
- d) Leicestershire Police Change Programme.

An invitation had been received from Leicestershire County Council, to provide both written and oral evidence to the Scrutiny Review Panel looking at the Community Partnership Libraries Support Package. The Scrutiny Panel would be meeting on 15th October 2014 and the deadline for expressing an interest in providing oral evidence was 6th October 2014. The deadline for written submissions was 13th October 2014.

The Police had launched a change programme and part of the proposals included smaller bases co-locating with partners. Members considered how the Police already co-locate with the Town Council at Thorpe Astley and considered the potential for co-location as part of a joint public services centre at Braunstone Library/Civic Centre.

RESOLVED

- i) that the progress report submitted be noted;*
- ii) that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer and Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee and the Chair of Community Development Committee, to determine whether and how the Council provided evidence to Leicestershire County Council's Scrutiny Review Panel looking at the Community Partnership Libraries Support Package and to determine as appropriate who the Council's representative would be; and*
- iii) that Leicestershire Police be advised and kept informed of the Council's approach in respect of Braunstone Town Library and Customer Service Shop and of the potential development of co-located public services at Braunstone Civic Centre.*

10. Insurance

RESOLVED:- *That in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was in the public interest that the press/public be temporary excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 79 and 84 apply). Reasons for exception – Commercial Interests and Information provided in Confidence).*

The Executive Officer and Town Clerk advised that the Council's Insurance agreement would be entering its final year of the current three year agreement on 1st November 2014. The Insurance Broker had offered a reduction in the premium should the Council agree to a three year extension of the agreement.

RESOLVED

That the agreement with the Council's current Insurance Broker be extended for a further three years from 1st November 2015.

11. Staffing

RESOLVED:- *That in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was in the public interest that the press/public be temporary excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 79 and 84 apply). Reasons for exception – Personal Information).*

RESOLVED

- i) *that a reduction in contracted hours from 20 to 16 per week for Employee reference 78 (Cleaner) be approved; and*
- ii) *that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer and Town Clerk to agree an implementation date in consultation with the affected employee.*

12. Financial Comparisons

The Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2014 to 25th September 2014 were received and noted.

13. Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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 favorable 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.