

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 21st MAY 2015 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Chair) and Councillors Shabbir Aslam (substituting for Ajmer Basra), Sharon Betts (substituting for Alex DeWinter), Nick Brown, David Di Palma, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Sam Maxwell, Chetan Parmar and Bill Wright (substituting for Amanda Hack).

Officers in Attendance: Darren Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk and Pauline Hurd, Community Development & Centres Manager

There were two members of the public present at the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ajmer Basra, Alex DeWinter and Amanda Hack.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Bill Wright declared a Non-Pecuniary interest in agenda item 5, Town Mayor's Report, by reason of being District Chairman of the South West Leicestershire Scouts Association.

3. Public Participation

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 at the meeting. In respect of agenda item 6e, Community Grant Applications – Braunstone Heritage Group, Mr John Dodd advised members that the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group would be organising an archaeological dig in the church field of St Peter's Church. Permission had been received for the work to be carried out and a geophysical survey would be carried out in order to establish if there were any remains of a manor house in the field. The group were planning to make this a community event and encourage local residents to participate. Further details of the event would be forwarded to the Town Council in due course.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held 10th March 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th March 2015 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5. Town Mayor's Report

The Committee received a report from the Town Mayor for 2015/2016, Councillor Sharon Betts (item 5 on the agenda).

The Town Mayor advised that she was looking forward to her year as Town Mayor and would be organising a sponsored bike ride between Braunstone Town and Hinckley. She would forward full details in the near future and hoped that councillors would help to support her.

A request had been received from South West Leicestershire Scouts Association for the Town Mayor to sponsor a Summer Fete at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on Saturday 4th July 2015. Councillor Nick Brown suggested that the Town Mayor could support up to two events each year and offer groups free use of Town Council facilities to organise events. He suggested that a draft formal policy be produced for consideration.

RESOLVED

1. that the South West Leicestershire Scouts Association request for the Town Mayor to sponsor the Summer Fete be approved; subject to the Town Mayor to be offered a table to promote her chosen charities at the event; and
2. that a policy/procedure concerning Town Mayor sponsored events be drafted for consideration by the next meeting of the Committee.

Reasons for Decision

1. *The Scouts Summer Fete was a significant Community event which takes place at Thorpe Astley over the summer months, by offering use of Thorpe Astley Community Centre enabled the event to go ahead organised by the Scouts while not impacting on Town Council staff resources; and*
2. *to ensure a transparent procedure would be developed for considering future Town Mayor sponsorship for events.*

6. Community Grant Applications

The Committee received applications requesting a Community Grant (item 6 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that Community Grants be awarded as follows:
 - a) 3rd Braunstone Brownies - £300 to help towards costs of overnight accommodation for pack holiday in August;
 - b) 050 Friendship Group - £150 to help with costs to hire room and

- speakers;
 - c) Thursday Over 60's Group - £282 to help with costs of transport for trips for group members;
 - d) Braunstone Heritage Group - £290 to help toward costs of electronic filing systems and information on internet site;
 - e) Namaste Exercise Group - £300 to help toward tutor fees for yoga and exercise group; and
2. that consideration of the Community Grant Application from the Punjabi Cultural Society be deferred until accounts, a full constitution and information on the number of members who were Braunstone Town residents was received from the group.

Reasons for Decision

1. *(a, c, d and e) The applicants had met the criteria serving mostly Braunstone Town residents and had submitted the required information; (b) The application was for £300, however, £150 was awarded since the majority of members were not from Braunstone Town; and*
2. *to enable information which needed to be considered in accordance with the scheme to be submitted by the Punjabi Cultural Society.*

7. Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces

The Committee received an update from the Executive Officer and Town Clerk on the funding towards improvements to Parks and Open Spaces (item 7 on the agenda).

Concerning Holmfield Park, £5,000 had been received from the Blaby Community Grant scheme and £3,890 in Section 106 monies. The Town Council was currently awaiting confirmation from Biffa for a further grant of £10,687 toward the cost of play equipment on Holmfield Park.

There was an agreement with "Shared Access" for a £20,000 grant towards improvements at Shakespeare Park subject to an assessment which was currently awaited on the suitability of the site for Shared Access' purposes.

8. Crime Statistics and Part-Night Street Lighting

The Crime Reduction Officer had prepared a map of Braunstone Town showing the areas where street lights were switched off at night along with the number of recorded crimes for the past year (item 8 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that Councillor Bill Wright view the plans in more detail and highlight any areas of concern that could be investigated in more detail;
2. that the number of crimes committed in each area before the initiative to switch off street lights at night commenced be obtained for comparison; and
3. that an update on the above be presented to the next meeting of the

Committee.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To enable further and more detailed analysis to take place, Councillor Bill Wright being the Chair of Braunstone Town Watchers;*
2. *To ascertain whether the part-night lighting scheme had an impact on the number of crimes committed; and*
3. *to enable the Committee to give full consideration to the information and analysis.*

9. Local Area Coordinator

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk introduced Roo Peake, Local Area Coordinator for Braunstone Town, who was in attendance at the meeting, and updated the Committee on the Local Area Coordination pilot (item 9 on the agenda).

This pilot project was funded by Leicestershire County Council, NHS and Blaby District Council and would offer support to residents to help reduce visits to doctors, emergency care and social services by working with residents to help them before they reached the need for critical care. Councillors, local community groups, community centres were ideal sources of information on local residents that may need support and preventing social isolation. Braunstone Town Council would be supporting Roo by providing a base to work from and local knowledge of the groups and residents in the area. Pilot projects carried out in other areas of the country had highlighted that residents were often passed from one agency to another following referral. Measures had been put in place to reduce this happening in Leicestershire to ensure that residents receive ongoing care.

10. Town Watchers

Councillor Bill Wright reported to the Committee on the meeting of the Town Watchers Group on Monday 18th May 2015 (item 10 on the agenda).

The Town Watchers were an independent Community group for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators that was supported by the Town Council. For several years the group had not had a Treasurer or Secretary. At the recent meeting the situation with regards to the group had been discussed in detail and members of the group were made aware that unless support from them was received then the Town Council may not be able to continue to support the group.

RESOLVED

1. that a meeting be held between Councillor Bill Wright, the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, the Community Development & Centres Manager and Crime Reduction Coordinator to discuss options for future capacity support for the Town Watchers group; and

2. that an assessment of the Crime Reduction Coordinators support for the Town Watchers be undertaken.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that the work of the Town Watchers would be effective in supporting Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators, the Police and the Town Council in reducing crime; and*
2. *to ascertain whether the resources of the Crime Reduction Coordinator were effectively employed in supporting this Group in terms of contributing towards crime reduction.*

11. Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.57pm

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 _____ (CHAIR)

DATED _____