

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

10TH SEPTEMBER 2015 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Sharon Betts (Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Roger Berrington, Nick Brown, Alex Dewinter, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Paul Kennedy, Sam Maxwell, Stuart Maxwell, Robert Waterton and Bill Wright.

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

Also in attendance was District Councillor, Councillor Ben Taylor.

COUNCILLOR SHARON BETTS, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

The Town Mayor opened the meeting and announced the recent passing of former Town Clerk, Mr. Ralph Gill, who passed away peacefully at home on Friday 21st August 2015 aged 101 years. The Town Mayor attended a Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday 8th September 2015. All present stood for a minute in silence to give thanks for Mr. Gill's life and his services to the Town Council and the residents of Braunstone Town.

5351 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Muhammad Aslam, Ajmer Basra, Berneta Layne, Chetan Parmar and Gary Sanders.

An apology for absence was also received from County Councillor, Mrs. Jo Fox.

5352 Disclosures of Interest

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

5353 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2015 were circulated (item 3 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5354 General Power of Competence

Council considered its eligibility for renewing the General Power of Competence (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Amanda Hack and was:

RESOLVED that Braunstone Town Council meets the eligibility criteria in paragraph 2 of the schedule to The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. SI 2012 No. 965 and was an eligible town council for the purpose of completing any activity undertaken in exercise of the General Power of Competence.

Reason for Decision

All of Braunstone Town Council's membership had been elected and the Executive Officer & Town Clerk held the CiLCA qualification (which included the module relating to the General Power of Competence). Being an eligible Council enabled Braunstone Town Council to utilise the General Power of Competence to ensure that local services and the environment reach the highest possible standards, that we responded to agreed local needs; and to help us develop a strong, secure, self-reliant, self-confident community.

5355 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Sharon Betts, reported on her attendance on 4th July at the Family Fun Day at Thorpe Astley Community Centre and the Town Fete at Mossdale Meadows on 25th July, when she had been interviewed about the day and the events on Radio Leicester. The Town Mayor had also attended Radford United's open day at Thorpe Astley Community Centre and Braunstone Swimming Club's Open Meet at Braunstone Leisure Centre where she had presented one of the prizes. It had also been a privilege for the Town Mayor to attend a service of commemoration making VJ Day at Leicester Cathedral.

The Town Mayor also announced a forthcoming event which was a visit to Rainbows in Loughborough.

b) Leader of the Council

Councillor Nick Brown announced that Apple Day would be taking place at Franklin Park Community Orchard on Saturday 3rd October between 11am and 2pm and encouraged Councillors and the community to attend and support the event.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5356 Public Session

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 was one member of the public present at the meeting. There were no representations.

5357 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5358 Reports of Standing Committees: Plans & Environment Committee – 9th July 2015

Council received the Report of the Plans & Environment Committee Meeting held on 9th July 2015 (p5814 – p5819).

Page 5815, Minute 28 – Planning Applications

Councillor Amanda Hack stated that many residents in Thorpe Astley had concerns about the construction of the M1 Bridge in terms of its disruption upon the local environment and amenity and requested that the item be considered by a future meeting of the Plans & Environment Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Bill Wright and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5359 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 9th July 2015

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee Meeting held on 9th July 2015 (p5820 – p5825).

Page 5821, Minute 23 – Town Watchers

Councillor Bill Wright reported on the recent meeting of the Town Watchers and was pleased to announce that the Group now had a Secretary and a Treasurer and as Chair of the Group he felt that they were in a better position to support Town Schemes going forward.

It was moved by Councillor Amanda Hack and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5360 Reports of Standing Committees: Organisation Review Sub-Committee – 23rd July 2015

Council received the Report of the Organisation Review Sub-Committee Meeting held on 23rd July 2015 (p5826 – p5829).

Page 5826, Minute 4 – Organisation Review 2015 – Post-Consultation Proposals

Councillor Nick Brown stated that following complete implementation of the Organisation Review, the Town Council would be a Living Wage employer and he suggested that the Town Council should register this with the Living Wage Foundation.

Councillor Nick Brown asked the Executive Officer & Town Clerk to update Council on progress with the implementation. The first stage of implementation which related to the management, administration, customer services and parks and open spaces services was implemented on 18th August 2015 and all staff had signed their updated contracts and received their new job description, which included where applicable, changes to their line reporting arrangements. The Facilities staff element remained to be implemented since staff rotas and the division of hours between staff was currently being consulted upon, these staff were affected by the living wage proposals and it was anticipated that implementation would be in October 2015.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5361 Reports of Standing Committees: Plans & Environment Committee – 13th August 2015

Council received the Report of the Plans & Environment Committee Meeting held on 13th August 2015 (p5830 – p5842).

Page 5830, Minute 35 – Planning Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority

Councillor Robert Waterton requested that given the Lubbesthorpe Development was a significant strategic development, that the Town Council seek written responses from the District Planning Authority on applications where the Town Council's comments had not been taken on board, so that the Town Council was aware of why this was the case and could inform residents and engage effectively with future applications.

It was moved by Councillor Bill Wright and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5362 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 20th August 2015

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 20th August 2015 (p5843 – p5852).

Page 5843, Minute 27 – Future Options for the Library and Customer Service Shop

Councillor Nick Brown reaffirmed that the Council's preferred option for the Library was to combine it with the service shop since this not only created efficiencies for all partners but provided a strong foundation for a better and more effective services in the future and he thanked Blaby District Council for their engagement and in principle support for the initiative. However, Councillor Brown added that Leicestershire County Council seemed to be fixed on implementing the savings identified in their Community Managed Libraries scheme and that was why a second option had been submitted where the Town Council took responsibility for the Library Service under the Community Managed Libraries scheme while the County Council retained responsibility for the previously agreed premises lease.

Page 5844, Minute 28 – Narborough Road South – Subways

Councillor Sam Maxwell noted that this issue had been pursued by the Town Council following complaints by residents through the Leicester Mercury. Councillor Maxwell added that Blaby District Council had assured her that daily inspection of the cleanliness of the subways took place Monday to Friday and that remedial action was taken when necessary. The issue remained the graffiti, which Leicestershire County Council had confirmed was not going to continually be removed.

Page 5846, Minute 32 – Thorpe Astley Community Centre – Medical Rooms

Councillor Amanda Hack advised Council that the Town Council had a meeting scheduled for Tuesday 15th September with NHS England, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the practice interested in running GP services from Thorpe Astley Community Centre to ascertain how the community could be engaged with the shape of the primary care services to be provided to ensure that the service was sustainable.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5363 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

**5364 Sealing of Documents – Legal Transfer of Open Spaces (Barratt Homes)
Thorpe Astley**

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk reported that while the conditions of the transfer set by Policy & Resources Committee on 20th August 2015 had been met, the Council's solicitor had written to the Council to say that there were restrictions affecting a number of the titles which required a letter to be provided by each of the developers to their solicitors to enable appropriate discharge forms to be prepared to satisfy the Land Registry requirements. Since these had not yet been provided it was not possible to legally seal the documents at the Council meeting. This was a legal administrative process and had no impact upon the Town Council in terms of all necessary decisions having been taken; therefore, sealing was now likely to take place on 5th November, assuming the letters had been received by this date.

5365 Outside Body Reports

Leicestershire County Council

Council had received apologies from Mrs J Fox, County Councillor for Braunstone Town Division, who had submitted a written report to the Council on County Council matters as follows:

- a) Local Highway forums – the Cabinet at LCC have agreed to change the management of the forum by reducing the number of meetings per year from 4 to 3. Meetings would be limited to two hours. TROs, maintenance and improvement updates would now be for information only. This was to improve their effectiveness and to make efficiency savings.
- b) Combined Authorities – Meetings have been taking place between the Leader of the County Council and the City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby, looking at proposals to create a combined authority and to seek collaboration on key issues including Economic growth, Skills, Transport and Planning. A submission has been put to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; this has gained support locally from the LLEP. It was hoped that such an arrangement would enable funding to be devolved from Whitehall.
- c) Midland Mainline Electrification – Work on this has been 'paused' and the Council have with other County councils written to strongly object to this. There was generally dissatisfaction with the government's stance as this was seen as very important in modernising the area and enabling quicker links with London and the regions. A motion was put at Full council by the Labour group strongly opposing the Government's stance. The Motion was supported.
- d) Further Funding Cuts – No Doubt members would be aware that the County Council needed to make further huge cuts which would no doubt involve services and jobs. I'll keep members informed on this when we know the detail.
- e) Casework – I have been pursuing the following since the last meeting: Complaints from residents about overgrowing hedges on cycle way between Enderby and Braunstone Town. Narborough Road South Traffic calming islands - need for maintenance and repair of signage and cutting back of greenery. Narborough Road South County Council

land – the need for security to be enhanced to ensure no further access by travellers.

- f) There has been a summer break so I have nothing further to report. The schedule of meetings has now recommenced with the next full council meeting on 23rd September.

Blaby District Council

Councillor Sam Maxwell reported on the following matters:

- a) Meetings – recent meetings of Full Council and Scrutiny Working Group,
- b) Housing Strategy – initial observations had been made but the strategy did not adequately address the shortages on affordable housing where 200 had been provided against a target of 900, more effective measures were needed to bring empty properties back into use and forthcoming welfare reforms were likely to put further pressures on the situation.

Councillor Bill Wright reported on plans to allow members to switch scrutiny working groups depending upon their interest in a topic. Issues being reviewed by scrutiny were car park charges and whether reviewing this would assist the Council in saving £70,000 a year, this needed to be balanced against the potential for there being fewer visitors to Blaby. Another area under review was distribution of Section 106 monies.

Councillor Ben Taylor, Blaby District Councillor for Winstanley Ward, reported on his role as Youth Champion and the work of the newly established Youth Council. There were currently 20 members of the Youth Council and strong links were being established with local schools.

Councillor Alex Dewinter reported on discussions around the business case for Blaby District to establish a company to build affordable homes. The targets, business case and income streams would be being considered at a forthcoming meeting of Performance Scrutiny.

Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils

Councillor Amanda Hack advised that there was nothing to report.

Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Roger Berrington reported there had not been a meeting since the last report.

Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Councillor Paul Kennedy reported on changes to services provided, that new members had joined the committee and would be an asset to the team and advised that the next Braunstone Town Community Minibus meeting would be held on Tuesday 15th September 2015.

Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board

Councillor Bill Wright reported that the next meeting would be held in October.

School governors

Councillor Nick Brown reported that schools had been on summer holidays and therefore he had nothing to report.

5366 Approval of Accounts

Council received payments from 1st June until 31st August 2015 (item 12 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Amanda Hack and was:

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions for the Period 1st June 2015 to 31st August 2015 be approved.

Reason for Decision

To consider and authorise payments in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003.

5367 Termination of Meeting

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.

SIGNED: _____ (Chair)

DATED: _____