

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

25TH JUNE 2015 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Sharon Betts (Town Mayor) and Councillors Shabbir Aslam, Ajmer Basra, Roger Berrington, Nick Brown, Alex Dewinter, David Di Palma, Sam Fox-Kennedy Amanda Hack, Paul Kennedy, Sam Maxwell, Stuart Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Chetan Parmar, Gary Sanders, Robert Waterton and Bill Wright.

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

There were 7 members of the public present at the meeting.

COUNCILLOR SHARON BETTS, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5333 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Muhammad Aslam, Dinesh Joshi and Berneta Layne.

5334 Disclosures of Interest

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

5335 Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14th May 2015 were circulated (item 3 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5336 Vote of thanks to Mrs Jo Fox

Council considered a vote of thanks to Mrs Jo Fox in recognition of her services to Braunstone Town Council and the residents of Braunstone Town (item 4 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED that Braunstone Town Council offers its thanks to Mrs. Jo Fox in recognition of her distinguished long service to Braunstone Town Council and the residents of Braunstone Town.

Reason for Decision

Mrs Fox had first been elected at a bye-election in 1993 and served as a Town Councillor until 2015. In 1995 Mrs Fox became Leader of the Town Council, which with the exception of the year she served as Town Mayor (1998-1999), serving in the office until 2013. During Mrs Fox's time as Leader, significant projects and improvements to services were delivered at Braunstone Civic Centre and in the Town's Parks. In addition, a new Community Centre was opened at Thorpe Astley along with the transfer of the management of Thorpe Astley open spaces to the Town Council.

The Town Mayor presented Mrs Fox with a framed certificate and an engraved flared vase. Mrs. Fox thanked the Town Council for their support and added that it had been a privilege to serve the community.

5337 Statement of Accounts and Assurance 2014/2015

Council considered for approval, the annual accounting and governance statements and internal audit report (item 5 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Sam Maxwell and was:

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2015 be adopted.

Reason for Decision

Corporate Governance Sub-Committee had carried out an assessment of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit process and the Council's systems of internal control and risk management, and concluded that there were sound systems of internal control. Policy and Resources Committee had considered the report of the Corporate Governance Sub-Committee and recommended approval to Council.

5338 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Sharon Betts, reported on her attendance at Blaby District's Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony on 22nd June and the flag raising ceremony held at Braunstone Civic Centre later that day. The Town Mayor had been delighted that the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant and the Vice-Chairman of Leicestershire County Council had supported the event in Braunstone Town along with the cadets.

The Town Mayor also announced forthcoming events including the Family Fun Day at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on 4th July and the Town Fete at Mossdale Meadows on 25th July.

b) Leader of the Council

Councillor Nick Brown advised Council of the recent theft of play equipment from Mosssdale Meadows and Franklin Park. An awareness campaign had been launched and Councillor Brown urged Councillors to raise awareness in the community and encourage anyone who had any information to contact the Police.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5339 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.

Mr Roy Sherwin thanked Mrs Fox for her services to the Town Council and the residents of Braunstone Town adding that Mrs Fox had always delivered her promises, that she would be missed and that her example was a model to follow.

5340 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5341 Reports of Standing Committees: Plans & Environment Committee – 21st May 2015

Council received the Report of the Plans & Environment Committee Meeting held on 21st May 2015 (p5780 – p5783).

It was moved by Councillor Bill Wright and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5342 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 21st May 2015

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee Meeting held on 21st May 2015 (p5784 – p5788).

Page 5787, Minute 9 – Local Area Coordinator

Councillor Sam Maxwell noted that Braunstone Town had been chosen as one of the pilot areas for the Local Area Coordination initiative and was delighted a Coordinator was in place and beginning her work. Councillor Sam Maxwell thanked all those who had been involved in various liaison meetings and had provided information and support to the project.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5343 Reports of Standing Committees: Plans & Environment Committee – 4th June 2015

Council received the Report of the Plans & Environment Committee Meeting held on 4th June 2015 (p5789 – p5792).

Page 5791, Minute 19 – Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders

Councillor Amanda Hack asked whether details of the closures were published and circulated when received. The Executive Officer & Town Clerk responded that notices had been received and were currently waiting to be published by the Town Council and these would be circulated to all Councillors.

It was moved by Councillor Gary Sanders and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5344 Reports of Standing Committees: Corporate Governance Sub-Committee – 11th June 2015

Council received the Report of the Corporate Governance Sub-Committee Meeting held on 11th June 2015 (p5793 – p5795).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5345 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 11th June 2015

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 11th June 2015 (p5796 – p5806).

Page 5797, Minute 5 – Library / Customer Service Shop Update

Councillor Nick Brown updated Council on progress since the meeting of the Committee. The Town Council had received correspondence inviting further discussions; the issue of the Lease would need to be addressed to ensure substantial discussions on a way forward could take place. Councillor Brown added that the Town Council's proposals represented a good scheme, which saved money by combining services and provided for longer opening hours and access to additional services at Braunstone Civic Centre.

Page 5798, Minute 6 – Parks & Open Spaces – Unauthorised Traveller Encampments

Councillor Nick Brown noted that an unauthorised traveller encampment had occurred on land adjacent to Fosse Park Roundabout and noted that the site had been originally secured; however, following the improvement works to the roundabout the site had not been secured to the same standard. Councillor Brown asked that the Town Council write to County Highways to request that once the encampment was removed, the site be similarly secured to the previous standard again.

Page 5804, Minute 19 – LED Lighting

Councillor Roger Berrington had been advised that Glenfield Parish Council had installed LED lighting and had problems. Councillor Berrington asked that the Town Council contact Glenfield Parish Council to ascertain the situation and identify whether there were any issues for the Town Council to address.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5346 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5347 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

5348 Outside Body Reports

Leicestershire County Council

Mrs J Fox, County Councillor for Braunstone Town Division, reported on the following matters:

- a) Local Area Coordination – was being piloted across the County and she was pleased that Braunstone Town was one of the first schemes to be launched, Mrs Fox encouraged Councillors to spread the word about the scheme to ensure it successfully reached those in need,
- b) Employment Committee – the County Council needed to make further savings and it was anticipated that there would be further redundancies as a result, and
- c) Fire Authority – the City Mayor and Leader of the County Council had been appointed to serve on the Fire Authority and Mrs Fox anticipated that their input would ensure a clearer direction for the Authority.

Blaby District Council

Councillor Sam Maxwell reported on the following matters:

- a) Honorary Alderman Jo Fox – Mrs Fox had been honoured with the title of Honorary Alderman of Blaby District for her service to the Council and the District,
- b) Scrutiny – Councillor Wright had been elected as Chair of Scrutiny, and it was important the Scrutiny investigated and challenged to ensure effective decision making, and
- c) New Councillors – the new Council's average age was lower and the number of women Councillors had increased.

Councillor Bill Wright reported on the recent Planning Committee meeting where support was given for the new Holmfield School.

Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils

Councillor Amanda Hack advised that the meeting was currently taking place and therefore, Braunstone Town Council representatives were not in attendance.

Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Roger Berrington reported the sad passing of another trustee, Mr John Goodall, age 67. Councillor Berrington added that the number of trustees was low and he urged Councillors and members of the public to consider becoming a Trustee.

Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Councillor Paul Kennedy reported that the Braunstone Town Community Minibus Annual General Meeting had been held on Tuesday. An appeal has been made for more volunteer drivers. In addition, the Kirby Muxloe mini-bus service was about to end and Braunstone Town Community Minibus would be taking over the service. Councillor Kennedy added that arrangements were also being put in place to cover services during volunteer holidays. The next meeting was scheduled for 7th July at 2pm at Braunstone Civic Centre.

Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board

Councillor Gary Sanders advised that the next meeting would be on 16th July and he would report to the subsequent Council meeting.

School governors

Councillor Nick Brown reported on the proposals for a new Holmfield School and advised that the Academy which operated Millfield L.E.A.D Academy was bidding to run Holmfield School. Councillor Brown added his disappointment that Leicestershire County Council had not made a recommendation to the Secretary of State in support of a bid from an Academy serving the local community.

5349 Approval of Accounts

Council received payments from 1st April until 31st May 2015 (item 13 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Bill Wright and was:

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

Reason for Decision

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

5350 Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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 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 _____