BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

28TH SEPTEMBER 2017 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Wright (Town Mayor), Councillor Parminder Basra (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Ajmer Basra, Roger Berrington, Sharon Betts, Nick Brown, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Paul Kennedy, Berneta Layne, Sam Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Gary Sanders, Tracey Shepherd, Darshan Singh and Robert Waterton.

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

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

COUNCILLOR BILL WRIGHT, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5566 Remembering former Town Councillor – Albert Dowe

The Town Mayor, Councillor Bill Wright, opened the meeting advising Town Councillors that a former Town Councillor, Albert Dowe, had recently passed away. The Town Mayor invited those present to join in a short silence to reflect on Albert's service to the community and to remember his family at this difficult time.

5567 Caribbean Communities affected by recent Hurricanes

Councillor Anthea Ambrose appealed for monetary donations and/or donations of clothes and toiletries for communities in the Caribbean affected by the recent hurricanes. Donations could be given to Councillor Ambrose or directly to the African Caribbean Centre.

5568 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shabbir Aslam, Alex Dewinter and David Di Palma.

5569 Disclosures of Interest

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

5570 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 29th June 2017 were circulated (item 3 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Bill Wright and seconded by Councillor Roger Berrington and was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 29th June 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5571 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Bill Wright, reported that a special lady, Lilian Wignall of Fairbourne Road would be 110 on Sunday 1st October. Earlier in the day, the Town Mayor had visited Lilian to wish her a happy birthday and had taken a card and flowers on behalf of the Town Council and the Town's residents. The Town Mayor found Lilian to be both engaging and remarkable.

The Town Mayor advised that on Saturday 30th September at 12noon he would be abseiling down the tower of Southern Fire and Rescue Station raising money for his charity Rainbows. The Town Mayor encouraged sponsorship.

On the same day, the Deputy Town Mayor would be attending Apple Day at Franklin Park community orchard between 11am and 2pm. The Deputy Town Mayor also attended the Allotments Open Day in August and will be attending the Shakespeare Park Annual Dinner in October.

b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, advised Councillors of the Franklin Park Community Orchard Apple Day taking place on Saturday 30th September between 11am and 2pm and asked for volunteers to assist, including with the Apple Crushing.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5572 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 were no members of the public present at the meeting.

5573 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5574 Reports of Standing Committees: Employing Committee – 19th July 2017

Council received the Report of the Employing Committee meeting held on 19th June 2017 (p6260 – p6271).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5575 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 13th July 2017

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 13th July 2017 (p6272 – p6276).

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5576 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 13th July 2017

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 13th July 2017 (p6277 – p6283).

Page 6280, Minute 24 – Speed Sign Data and Community Speedwatch

Councillor Amanda Hack advised of efforts to establish a community speedwatch scheme in Thorpe Astley and advised 200 signatures from residents was required for an expression of interest to be considered and 115 residents have signed to date. Councillor Hack asked for Councillors to volunteer to knock on doors in Thorpe Astley. Councillor Hack added that similar schemes and mobile cameras around the county had not recorded speeds as high as some of the speeds in Thorpe Astley recorded by the Town Council's speed sign, therefore, the County Council should invest in speed measures in the area.

Councillor Robert Waterton added that the form allows for signatories to express an interest in volunteering to operate a community speedwatch and 11 such expressions had been received so far.

Councillor Parminder Basra asked whether there would be any money from Section 106 relating to Lubbesthorpe for speed mitigation measures in the area.

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5577 Reports of Standing Committees: Employing Committee – 26th July 2017

Council received the Report of the Employing Committee meeting held on 26th July 2017 (p6284a – p6284b).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5578 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 10th August 2017

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 10th August 2017 (p6285 – p6293).

Page 6288, Minute 41 – Additional Planning Applications: 1 Hat Road

Councillor Robert Waterton noted that District Councillors had wanted to call this item in but had been unable to due to it being an individual residential application.

Councillor Gary Sanders also raised concerns about the planning call-in process at Blaby District Council stating clarity was needed about what could be called-in.

Councillor Sam Maxwell advised that recent changes to the constitution had made it easier to call-in applications and also ward members were receiving email alerts about applications in their area.

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk agreed to circulate Blaby District Council's planning call-in rules to all Town Councillors.

Councillor Bill Wright, informed Council that he had spoken to the Head of Planning at Blaby District Council about the concerns in respect of the restrictions on planning application call-in, which had also been raised at Scrutiny Commission. Councillor Wright added that the application for 1 Hat Road had been withdrawn.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5579 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 10th August 2017

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 10th August 2017 (p6294 – p6302).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted

5580 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 14th September 2017

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 14th September 2017 (p6303 – p6312).

Page 6310, Minute 59 – Feedback on Planning Application Decisions

Councillor Robert Waterton raised concerns about the decision to approve the application for 4 Hillrise Avenue, given the changes potentially could result in use of the property as a House in Multiple Occupation. Correspondence from the District Planning Authority indicated that the application had been considered under the residential planning rules. Councillor Waterton stated that greater clarity should be sought on planning rules for Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Councillor Roger Berrington stated he had spoken to the planning case officer in respect of 4 Hillrise Avenue and it had been considered acceptable in planning terms.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5581 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5582 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

5583 Outside Body Reports

a) County Councillors

Councillor Amanda Hack, as County Councillor for Braunstone Division, gave the following report:

"I'm pleased to report that letter from Braunstone Town Council was put onto the Health Scrutiny agenda in September. As the spokes for the Labour Group I was able to put the case forward to include this as an agenda item – but it was agreed that the concerns about GP capacity issues needed to be widened to North Blaby. This proposal was supported by the scrutiny chair and the cabinet member for Health. The report itself was functional and not the result we wanted, but was debated and questioned fully by councillors from across Scrutiny. The report indicated that a plan for the area would be produced and it's been agreed by the chair (after I put in a separate request) to have this included for information to the November meeting".

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"Cllr L Richardson set up a meeting with Tim Sacks and invited 3 District Councillors, myself and Cllr T Richardson to discuss the issue of GP capacity further. This was well received by the cross section of councillors". Councillor Hack added that Tim Sacks understood the problems and felt that the issues around access and capacity in Braunstone Town were being seriously considered and she was cautiously optimistic that there would be a positive outcome.

"Health Scrutiny also reported the improvements for EMAS in the CQC, which is great news. However, it's difficult not to note that the struggles felt by EMAS could be sorted in part if A&E services across the region were able to take patients more quickly. EMAS lost 200 hours in Leicestershire on the day that the new A&E opened".

"I've met with Nigel Thomas from the Library Service at County Hall to understand what was going on with our Library. Nigel assures me that we will have progress on the next stage of our Library in November".

"We had Full Council yesterday and this covered:

- The growth plan for Leicester & Leicestershire, most of which is in the public domain and reported in the Mercury. I think it would be useful for Braunstone Town Council to have a briefing on the impact on our local community as the process goes through consultation.
- Councillors allowances, which was recognised that it was an independent process by most. It was disappointing to note that the Highway Forums have been scrapped through this document; it is yet to be agreed on the best way forward to ensure that the views of local people are included.
- A motion from the Labour Party, following on from allowances about public sector pay which was broadly supported across the council.
- A motion to keep pressure on the Government about the Electrification of the Midland Mainline".

b) <u>District Councillors</u>

Councillor Sam Maxwell reported on the review of the refuse and recycling service and the public consultation. Councillor Maxwell added that it was disappointing there was not a question about whether residents would prefer a weekly or fortnightly refuse collection. The argument being put forward for the change was that the District Council needed to save £740,000, with funding for weekly collections from Central Government and recycling credits from the County Council ending and only 6 authorities across the country provided a weekly refuse collection. However, Councillor Sam Maxwell argued that the service was considered "gold star" and that while supporting the consultation she did not support the underlying reasons for changing the service.

Councillor Gary Sanders added that the consultation did not give a choice, the service was going to be halved and the consultation asked how this should be done.

Councillor Amanda Hack asked whether if residents now required a larger bin, would they have to pay for this or would grants be available. Councillor Sam Maxwell responded that provision of 240 litre bins and whether residents should be charged was in the consultation. However, Scrutiny asked that people with disabilities be exempt and those requiring "specific lifts".

Councillor Nick Brown asked that the District Council ensure that should a two weekly refuse collection be implemented that the collection schedules are reviewed to avoid collections being three weeks over the Christmas/New year period.

Councillor Sam Fox-Kennedy was concerned that on implementation of two weekly refuse collections that there would be an increase in fly-tipping and urged that measures be taken to prevent/respond to this.

Councillor Robert Waterton was concerned about staff redundancies and asked that scrutiny received a report and ensured that it was being handled properly. Councillor Sam Maxwell responded that the District Council had a policy of avoiding compulsory redundancies through voluntary redundancies and redeployment opportunities.

Councillor Bill Wright reported on the scrutiny working group looking at Air Quality. He advised that a meeting would be held on 5th October at 3.30pm, which was open to the public, which would involve the Director of Public Health, Leicestershire County Highways and Highways England, and would scope the scrutiny review.

c) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt advised that he had been unable to attend the last meeting.

d) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Councillor David Di Palma, who had given his apologies, submitted the following statement concerning the meeting held on 15th August 2017:

1. "I attended the meeting without P.A. support as there was a conflict of interest in respect of P.A. Anne Ward. My other P.A. Alesha was unavailable".

2. "A comprehensive report in respect of fares, charges and bookings was presented by the Coordinator".

3. "As one of the elected members of council serving the committee and an active service user of the bus a number of suggestions, issues and concerns have repeatedly been raised with the committee via myself but have largely gone unanswered. Having taken the residents views on board I've worked with a number of Service Users and my support staff and we have devised a satisfaction and suggestion survey for the Service Users to

complete. The Service Users are very much in favour of a survey but it would be fair to say that the committee were not overly impressed with the proposal. The survey was put to the committee for consideration at the meeting of 15/8/17. The satisfaction survey was debated and reluctantly accepted by the committee. It was accepted on the following conditions -

3.1. The production, circulation and collative costs are met by myself.
3.2. The driver is not responsible for the circulation and collection of the survey.
3.3. The responsibility for the circulation and collection of is my responsibility.
3.4. It is made clear that my name is put upon the survey so service users know the survey is my work".

- "Summary – I'm pleased that the survey will go ahead as the main reason for me joining the committee was to ensure that the service user's views are taken on board and responded to, that I am proactive in improving the service delivery and the opportunities on offer for the wider community. If anyone would like a copy of the survey please let me know".

4. "The date of the next meeting 12th September".

Councillor Paul Kennedy advised that he had sent his apologies to the meeting on 12th September but would be in attendance at the next meeting.

e) Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group

Councillor Bill Wright reported on crime statistics in Blaby District: crimes were down compared to last year, accept violence and sexual assault. No specific area was affected more than any other.

f) Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils

Councillor Nick Brown reported that the members of the group represent Parishes, although often they answered on behalf of the District Council. Discussions had taken place about GP surgeries and provision and about services across the district generally.

Councillor Robert Waterton noted that some parishes were getting involved in litter picking with volunteer litter pickers.

g) Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board

Council received a report on the meeting of the Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board held on 23rd August 2017 (item 10g on the agenda).

There were no questions.

h) School Governors

Councillor Nick Brown reported that the Chair of Millfield Academy had resigned and Councillor Brown confirmed he had put his name forward for the position.

5584 Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

These minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the next meeting, scheduled for 23rd November 2017.

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.

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