

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

21ST MARCH 2019 at 8.00PM

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

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

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

COUNCILLOR SHARON BETTS, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5724 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Di Palma and Sam Maxwell.

5725 Disclosures of Interest

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

5726 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.

5727 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 31st January 2019 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Roger Berrington and was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 31st January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5728 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Sharon Betts, reported on her charity fundraising activities in aid of her Mayoral Charity, Woodside Animal Centre:

- i. a Fashion Show was held at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on Friday 15th March; the Town Mayor thanked Councillors Ambrose and Hack for their support;
- ii. on 20th April, the Town Mayor was undertaking an abseil at Meridian Fire Station and she asked Town Councillors to sponsor her; and
- iii. on 13th May, the Town Mayor was hosting a curry night at Chef & Spice on Hinckley Road, Leicester.

b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, thanked Town Councillors for their attendance and participation on the Council since their election/co-option. He noted that three Councillors in particular would not be standing at the forthcoming election on 2nd May, Councillors Roger Berrington, Berneta Layne and Gary Sanders. Councillor Brown thanked them for their service to the Council and wished them well for the future.

Councillor Brown noted in particular the length of service given by Councillor Roger Berrington, which dated back to 1991 (with a short break). Councillor Berrington had been Town Mayor twice during his service.

At the discretion of the Town Mayor, Councillor Roger Berrington was invited to comment. Councillor Berrington stated that while it had been hard at first it had been a privilege to serve as a Town Councillor and also maintain 24 years unbroken service.

The Leader, Councillor Nick Brown, also advised that the Town Council's application to Sport England for a Community Assets Fund Grant for Shakespeare Park had been successful with an award of £100,000. There were two other grant applications where a decision was expected over the next couple of months and then it would be for the new Council to determine any potential borrowing application.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5729 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5730 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 7th February 2019

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 7th February 2019 (p6665 – p6672).

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5731 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 7th February 2019

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 7th February 2019 (p6673 – p6677).

It was moved by Councillor Tracey Shepherd and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5732 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 14th February 2019

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 14th February 2019 (p6678 – p6685).

Page 6683, Minute 83 – Braunstone Town Library and Customer Services – Update

Councillor Nick Brown advised that a response from Leicestershire County Council was awaited on proposed amendments to the Grant Agreement. At this stage it looked unlikely that the transfer of Braunstone Town Library to the Town Council's management would take place until the end of June.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5733 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 7th March 2019

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 7th March 2019 (p6686 – p6701).

Page 6688, Minute 128 – Planning and Licensing Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority: Application 18/1041/FUL, Aldi, Meridian Way

Councillor Robert Waterton highlighted concerns with this application, which included a potential adverse impact on the right of way, the drainage plans (including the wrong drainage plans being submitted) and traffic management issues.

Councillor Bill Wright had spoken to the Planning Officer dealing with the Aldi application and had stressed that the application should be considered by the

Planning Authority's Committee. He stated that there were concerns about increased traffic, the proposed site layout (including safety concerns with delivery vehicles passing through the customer car park), air quality, environment and bat survey results, the need for a Sustainable Urban Drainage System and for Section 106 money to compensate for the loss of public open space.

Councillor Amanda Hack was concerned about the lack of information and preparation by Aldi for the community who would lose an amenity during the demolition and reconstruction.

Councillor Berrington added that as a major scheme, a major schemes planning officer should be dealing with the application.

Page 6699, Minute 133 – Consultation on Proposed Modifications to Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan to 2031

Councillor Bill Wright noted that the Town Council had taken the trouble to respond to the consultation, however it had been ignored.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5734 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5735 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

5736 Outside Body Reports

a) County Councillors

Councillor Amanda Hack, as County Councillor for Braunstone Division, reported that the County Council had met to approve the precept, which would be the maximum increase without holding a referendum, and the budget. There would be no general fund grant from Government in the forthcoming financial year. Similarly the Police precept would be increased and similarly there would be no net increase in funding from Government. There continued to be pressure on front line services with only statutory services being protected.

Councillor Hack added that she would be meeting with the Assistant Director of Highways on Monday to discuss the Strategic Growth Plan and the need to include measures on air quality. In addition she would be reviewing school clear zones, the weight restriction on Hazel Drive and traffic related to Lubbesthorpe.

b) District Councillors

Councillor Shabbir Aslam, as District Councillor for Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward, reported on the following matters:

- i. money was tight and it was a struggle to obtain funding,
- ii. there were issues with refuse collection and crews not being professional,
- iii. anti-social behaviour and knife crime was increasing and Councillor Aslam encouraged instances to be reported, and
- iv. parking near schools was also getting out of hand.

Councillor Phil Moitt, as District Councillor for Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward, reported that Performance Scrutiny had considered implementation of the changes to the refuse and recycling collections, which had been completed. Complaints were reducing and the tonnage of general waste collected had reduced. Councillor Moitt had asked for information on the amount of waste taken to the refuse and recycling sites in order to compare whether there was any correlation.

Councillor Bill Wright, as District Councillor for Millfield Ward, reported that the Communities Scrutiny Working Group had been hearing from Air Quality experts and there were other initiatives which could be undertaken to improve air quality and reduce pollution.

Councillor Wright also circulated a copy of the Community Safety Partnership newsletter and urged Councillors to read it since there was informative information about actions and initiatives being undertaken.

c) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt attended the last meeting of the Committee, who were a small group of dedicated volunteers carrying out works and renting the rooms at the Centre, he added that a lot of the work of the group was not high profile but very important.

Councillor Roger Berrington added that having held surgeries at the Centre he had been co-opted as a Trustee, a position he had held since 1997. He would soon be retiring and therefore there would be a vacancy.

d) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Councillor Paul Kennedy reported that new cupboards had been provided and the group would be using a mobile phone since it was cheaper than a landline. The bookings Secretary Mary would be leaving on 26th March to be replaced by Helen. The quiz night had been booked for 29th November. Councillor Kennedy confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for 6th April.

e) Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (Blaby Group)

Councillor Robert Waterton reported on the recent meeting on 6th March. Blaby District Council Director John Richardson was in attendance and fielded questions about infrastructure and development.

The Group unanimously agreed to continue meeting and the next meeting was scheduled for 5th June. Councillor Waterton recommended that the Town Council formally appoint attendees.

f) Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Forum

Councillor Robert Waterton referred members to item 7d on the agenda, page 6700, minute 134. He drew attention to the fact that it was the last meeting of the Forum which it was announced at the meeting would be abolished. The Council had written to Blaby District Council to request formal confirmation with reasons and awaited a response. The Forum had been an opportunity to discuss the wider issues relating to the Lubbesthorpe development and there were few alternative opportunities to do this.

Councillor Waterton advised of the proposals for improving the crossing points on Meridian Way, which was only to install Tactile Paving. Blaby District Council had advised the proposals were with County Highways but subject to their approval would meet the discharging of the condition, which Councillor Waterton described as unsatisfactory.

Other issues which had been discussed at the Forum were the extension of Warren Lane Surgery, which would mean there would be less onsite car parking, and the provision of extra care housing.

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Robert Waterton and was:

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE that in the absence of a suitable response from Blaby District Council Planning Department to the letter referred to in the resolution of Planning & Environment Committee at minute 134, the Council formally write to the Chief Executive of Blaby District Council setting out its objections to the ending of the Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Forum and requesting that the decision be reviewed.

g) School Governors

Councillor Nick Brown advised that a one day Ofsted inspection had been undertaken at Millfield Academy the previous week and publication of the results were awaited.

5737 Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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: _____

DATE: _____