

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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

21ST NOVEMBER 2019 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Parminder Basra (Town Mayor), Councillor Darshan Singh (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Nick Brown, David Di Palma, Amanda Hack, Sohan Johal, Sam Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Satindra Sangha, Tracey Shepherd, Christiane Startin-Lorent, Marion Waterton and Robert Waterton.

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

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

COUNCILLOR PARMINDER BASRA, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5798 Reflections on the life and public service of Councillor Bill Wright

The Town Mayor, Councillor Parminder Basra opened the meeting reflecting on the sad news that Councillor Bill Wright had passed away on Sunday 17th November 2019 following a recent illness.

The Town Mayor addressed Council:

“Councillor Bill Wright was first elected to the Town Council in 1995 when he became involved from the outset in Neighbourhood Watch development, chairing Town Watchers and representing the Town at County level, working with the Police and other Councils to promote community safety and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour”.

“Bill also was an active member of the Planning & Environment Committee where he pursued the need for improvements to air quality and for sustainable urban drainage systems with tenacity”.

“Bill was the Town Mayor of Braunstone Town three times, most recently in 2017/2018. He was extremely enthusiastic about the role, and about his charity Rainbows, going so far as to abseil down Meridian Fire Station to raise over £1,000 on the day and a total of £3,374 during his year”.

“I’m sure you will join with me in reflecting on Bill’s contribution to our Town’s civic and public life and remembering Sharon and his family at what must be a very difficult time as they come to terms with their loss”.

The Town Mayor invited those present to join in a minute’s silence to remember the life and public service of Councillor Bill Wright.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown highlighted how having been persuaded to stand as a Town Councillor and having been elected, Bill Wright threw himself whole heartedly into the Town’s political and civic life.

Bill had always undertaken the role of Town Mayor with in a dignified and professional manner. During his service as a Town Councillor, Bill Wright led on the Town's commitment to launch and expand Neighbourhood Watch and for the need to address air quality. Councillor Brown added that Bill was raising environment and green issues long before these issue became as prominent as they are today.

Councillor Brown concluded that Bill Wright would be missed by the Council, the community and his fellow Councillors. Bill had a fantastic sense of humour and was a good example for anyone who volunteers for public office.

Councillor Sam Maxwell reflected on Bill Wright's work on scrutiny at Blaby District Council and in particular his work on the impact of air quality on health. The report which calls for action on monitoring results would be dedicated to Bill's memory.

Councillor Phil Moitt reflected on 8 years of service with Bill Wright on Planning Committee, where Bill both has a jolly and a serious side.

Councillor Robert Waterton stated that when he first arrived in Braunstone Town as a resident, Bill Wright was the first person to help with the complexities of local government. On the Town Council, Councillor Waterton as Chair had worked closely with Bill as Vice-chair on Planning & Environment Committee on significant matters affecting the Town.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Amanda Hack stated that having first been elected to the County Council, Bill Wright was often the Councillor to go to assist with particular community issues, for which it was never any trouble and Bill relished the challenge. Councillor Hack concluded that Bill had a cheeky sense of humour and she would personally miss him.

Councillor Shabbir Aslam stated that Bill Wright was a personal friend as well as a Councillor colleague. Bill was always available and punctual and would be truly missed.

Councillor Anthea Ambrose reflected on Bill Wright's commitment to raising money for charity as Town Mayor and how Bill always supported other Town Mayor's events and charitable fund raising efforts.

5799 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ajmer Basra, Alex Dewinter, Sam Fox-Kennedy and Paul Kennedy.

5800 Disclosures of Interest

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

5801 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.

5802 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 26th September 2019 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Parminder Basra and seconded by Councillor Nick Brown and was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 26th September 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5803 Request for Approved Absence – Councillor Bill Wright

Following the sad news that Councillor Bill Wright had passed away, the Executive Officer & Town Clerk withdrew this item.

5804 Medium Term Priorities and Financial Planning

Council received a report setting out the context for the Council's medium term priorities and financial planning (item 6 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED

1. that the current projections based on known financial pressures identified in the report be noted;
2. that the Council's Mission Statement and the Objectives for each Service Area be used as the basis for calculating the annual budget and any external funding sought; and
3. that the Council's General Reserves be used to invest in infrastructure and assets and in the development and remodelling of services, including the Town Council's operations.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To provide a foundation for preparing budget estimates for 2019/2020 and beyond.*
2. *To ensure the Council focusses its activity and spending given the future financial uncertainties.*

3. *To ensure the highest possible standards within the resources available in the future.*

5805 Committee Appointments

Council considered Committee Appointments following changes in the membership of the Council (item 7 on the agenda).

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

1. Councillor Tracey Shepherd be appointed to fill one of the vacancies on Policy & Resources Committee;
2. Councillor Sohan Johal be appointed to fill one of the vacancies on Planning & Environment Committee; and
3. that Planning & Environment Committee be invited to appoint an interim Vice-Chair from among the Committee's membership.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor David Di Palma and seconded by Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent that Councillor David Di Palma be appointed as a member of the Citizens' Advisory Panel, increasing its Councillor membership to six members. Upon being put to the vote the amendment failed.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

1. that Councillor Tracey Shepherd be appointed to fill one of the vacancies on Policy & Resources Committee;
2. that Councillor Sohan Johal be appointed to fill one of the vacancies on Planning & Environment Committee; and
3. that Planning & Environment Committee be invited to appoint an interim Vice-Chair from among the Committee's membership.

Reason for Decision

To enable the efficient and effective transaction of the Council's business.

5806 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Parminder Basra, reported on her recent engagements as follows:

- (a) Remembrance Events – including Festival of Remembrance at De Montfort Hall on 26th October; Service of Remembrance at Saint Crispins Church on 10th November and a Remembrance Service at the Civic Centre Memorial Garden on 11th November; and
- (b) Charity Dinner and Dance at Bistro Live on 15th November which raised funds for the Town Mayor's Charity, Life Links.

The Town Mayor advised of forthcoming engagements as follows:

- (a) Christmas Craft Fair at Braunstone Civic Centre on 23rd November between 11.00am – 3.00pm;
- (b) Town Mayor's Carol Service at St Crispin's Church on 15th December at 6pm; and
- (c) Christmas Pantomime, Beauty and the Beast, at Braunstone Civic Centre on 30th December at 6.30pm.

b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, thanked all those who attended and supported the Library launch celebration event on 2nd November 2019 for the transfer of the Library to the Town Council's management.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5807 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5808 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 10th October 2019

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 10th October 2019 (p6833 – p6838).

It was moved by Councillor Phil Moitt and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5809 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 10th October 2019

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 10th October 2019 (p6839– p6844).

Page 6839/6840, Minute 33 – Minutes of the Meeting held 11th July 2019

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that the results of the recent Community Speed Watch initiative, which included Murby Way, would be presented to the December meeting of Community Development Committee.

Page 6842, Minute 39 – Civic Commemorations

Councillor Nick Brown drew attention to the initiative to support community groups organise events to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Councillor Brown advised that the Community Life Group already had ideas for a community event.

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5810 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 31st October 2019

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 31st October 2019 (p6845 – p6855).

Page 6849, Minute 38 – Tennis Court Improvements

In response to a question by Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent concerning accessibility and pricing structure, Councillor Nick Brown responded that it had been agreed to look at introducing bookings and installing a gate access system in principle, the aim of making the courts more accessible for those who wanted to play tennis rather than it being used for other purposes.

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that there was a problem with people allowing their dogs to enter the tennis courts. Despite notices being put up, they were often removed.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5811 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 7th November 2019

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 7th November 2019 (p6856 – p6870).

Page 6857, Minute 75 – Arriva Click

Councillors Amanda Hack and Robert Waterton confirmed that following the presentation, an offer had been made to host Arriva at the Community Centres so that that could talk to residents about the Click service.

Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent added that it would be useful to know the pattern of speeding incidents since public safety was an important priority.

Page 6862/6863, Minute 83 – Motion on Notice from Council: Houses in Multiple Occupation

Councillor Robert Waterton stated that the legislation surrounding Houses in Multiple Occupation was very complex and therefore it was difficult to take an overview. New legislation was needed to ensure that the Licensing and Planning processes were linked.

Councillor Sam Maxwell advised of the meetings held with senior officers at Blaby District Council and advised that officers responsible for Houses in Multiple Occupation were happy to attend meetings at Parish Councils to give an overview of the rules and monitoring. The District Council had additional

resources in place with the aim of increasing monitoring and enforcement where necessary.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5812 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5813 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

5814 County and District Councillor Reports

a) Leicestershire County Council

Councillor Amanda Hack, as County Councillor for Braunstone Division, reported on the following matters:

- i. consideration of the Unitary status report had been postponed due to the General Election purdah;
- ii. Health Scrutiny considered performance against the national cancer care targets and Leicestershire's average was below target which was similar across England;
- iii. Health Scrutiny had also received the Annual Report from the Director of Public Health which analysed Health Outcomes; which included physical activity highlighting that teenage girls were less active on average than teenage boys; and
- iv. the impact of poor air quality was also considered and the number of deaths and respiratory illnesses associated with this.

b) Blaby District Council

Councillor Sam Maxwell, as District Councillor for Ravenhurst and Fosse Ward, reported on the following matters:

- i. Full Council was held on Tuesday which was overshadowed by the sad news of Councillor Bill Wright's passing; Councillor Wright had been a scrutiny commissioner since 2012; and
- ii. the quarterly review of capital spending identified £16.5k from the community safety budget, which would be match funded by the County Council for flood gates near Thurlaston, this was being challenged by some members on the ground there was insufficient linkage to Council Policy for the scheme.

Councillor Phil Moitt updated the Council on reviewing of the call-in procedure for planning applications, which had been raised as an issue for review by the scrutiny commissioners.

5815 Outside Body Reports

a) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

No report was given since both Councillors Sam Fox-Kennedy and Paul Kennedy had sent their apologies and were not in attendance.

b) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt advised that the winter works programme at the Centre was underway and volunteers were needed to assist with putting up the Christmas decorations.

c) School Governors

No reports were given.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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: _____