

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

31ST JANUARY 2019 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Sharon Betts (Town Mayor), Councillor Roger Berrington (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Ajmer Basra, Nick Brown, Amanda Hack, Berneta Layne, Phil Moitt, Gary Sanders, Satindra Sangha, Tracey Shepherd, Darshan Singh, Robert Waterton and Bill Wright.

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

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

COUNCILLOR SHARON BETTS, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5707 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Parminder Basra, David Di Palma, Sam Fox-Kennedy and Paul Kennedy.

5708 Disclosures of Interest

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

5709 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 three members of the public present at the meeting.

5710 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 22nd November 2018 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Roger Berrington and seconded by Councillor Amanda Hack and was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 22nd November 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5711 Council Objectives

Council considered its Priorities and Objectives and determined whether they were relevant to address current and emerging issues faced by the Council and the community (item 5 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED

1. that the nine Town Council Priorities for 2019/2020, based on the 2018/2019 Priorities and as updated, be approved as set out in the report; and
2. that the Council Objectives set out in Appendix 1, be approved.

Reasons for Decision

1. *The Council's priorities continued to be the focus for delivering a vision for local services and an environment which reached the highest possible standards, and the approach was supported by the Town's Citizens' Advisory Panel and the Council's Standing Committees.*
2. *To ensure that the Council's objectives were relevant and reflected changing issues within the community.*

5712 Capital Plan

Council considered priorities and projects for the 2019/2020 Capital Plan (item 6 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED

1. that the Completed Projects (section a), having now been completed, be removed from the rolling programme of Capital Projects;
2. that the projects due for completion (section b) be removed, assuming their completion prior to the end of the plan period, otherwise to be included on the 2019/2020 Capital Plan;
3. that the Current Projects (section c) be rolled forward on to the 2019/2020 Capital Plan; and
4. that the Proposed New Project (section d) be added to the 2019/2020 Capital Plan; and
5. that the Projects proposed for Deletion (section e) be removed from the rolling programme of Capital Projects.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To confirm that the projects had been completed and there was no further work outstanding.*

2. *To ensure the plan was updated accordingly reflecting progress with its delivery.*
3. *To confirm that the projects were outstanding and were still required.*
4. *To recognise the need to undertake investment and improvement as identified.*
5. *To recognise that, following review, these Projects were no longer required.*

5713 Budget, Fees & Charges and Precept for 2019/2020 and future estimates

Council considered the budget and precept for 2019/2020, including fees and charges, and set out proposed estimates for future years (item 7 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED

1. that a new Cost Centre for "Library & Customer Services", under the responsibility of Policy & Resources Committee, be created as detailed in the report and set out at Appendix 1;
2. that the review of arrangements for emptying the Council's Dog Waste Bins be noted and that any additional costs in 2019/2020 be met using the Parks & Open Spaces budget;
3. that administrative arrangements for Town Mayor's Allowance, as detailed in the report and set out at Appendix 1, be approved;
4. that no percentage increase be applied to Community Centres, sports pitches and miscellaneous fees and charges;
5. that the Estimates for 2019/2020, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved as the Council's Budget for 2019/2020; and
6. that a Net Precept Requirement for £604,817 for the financial year 2019/2020 be submitted to Blaby District Council.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To align budgets in accordance with the Town Council's proposals for managing, staffing and resourcing Customer and Information Services.*
2. *To allow for a service review of the alternative options for dog waste bin emptying to be undertaken and for any arrangements to be implemented.*
3. *To enable the office to efficiently support the Town Mayor, while enabling the office holder to be compensated for out of pocket expenses in accordance with guidance issued by HMRC.*
4. *Given the economic pressures, to increase hire charges in line with the projected increase in precept over the next 3 to 5 years was likely to have a negative impact on the net income from room hire and more widely on the offer and appeal the centres have in the community.*
5. *To meet the Town Council's operating budgets for 2019/2020 along with funding for the Capital Plan and service pressures as identified in the report on Medium Term Priorities and Financial Planning.*
6. *The precept requirement for the year being the difference between*

expenditure and income, calculated in accordance with Section 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

5714 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Sharon Betts, reported on her recent engagements, which included:

- Blaby District Chairman's Carol Service on 13th December;
- Town Mayor's Carol Service on 16th December; and
- Reception to thank Community Life for the remembrance commemorations and poppy cascade on 18th January.

The Town Mayor read out a thank you letter she had received from Lin Burrows, Braunstone Community Life, thanking the Town Mayor and the Council for its recognition of their work on the remembrance commemorations and poppy cascade.

The Town Mayor also reported on her forthcoming engagements as follows:

- Blaby Chairman's Charity Curry Night on 19th February; and
- Fashion Show on 15th March.

The Town Mayor was in the process of organising an abseil at the end of February and a fundraising curry night at Chef & Spice in April, to raise funds for her chosen charity RSPCA Woodside Animal Centre.

b) Leader of the Council

No announcements were made.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk had received thank you cards for two members of the Braunstone Community Life Group following the Thank You Reception held on Friday 18th January 2019 and he read these out to Council.

5715 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5716 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 13th December 2018

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 13th December 2018 (p6623 – p6631).

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5717 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 13th December 2018

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 13th December 2018 (p6632 – p6637).

Page 6633, Minute 55 – Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

Councillor Bill Wright had discussed concerns over the recent stabbing incident at Mossdale Meadows and a proposal for the Streetvibe bus to visit the Town to reassure young people was being explored.

Councillor Amanda Hack highlighted recent thefts from vehicles in the Town and surrounding area and that the Police had confirmed that arrests had recently been made.

Councillor Nick Brown highlighted the importance of keeping the community up to date with efforts to tackle crime, while recognising the importance of not compromising investigations. This was particularly important on social media, where there was the opportunity to provide facts and reassurance to counter speculation.

It was moved by Councillor Tracey Shepherd and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5718 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 10th January 2019

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 10th January 2019 (p6638 – p6643).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5719 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 17th January 2019

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 17th January 2019 (p6644 – p6655).

Page 6644, Minute 105 – Promotion and Development of Sustainable Travel

Councillor Robert Waterton advised of the presentation received from Robin Pointon of Go Travel Solutions on opportunities to promote and facilitate sustainable travel, which was attached as an Appendix to the minutes of the Committee meeting. He added that he hoped the Council could work with Go Travel Solutions going forward.

Councillor Robert Waterton stated that the recent decisions on planning applications appeared to be inconsistent when it came to parking requirements. The Committee were also concerned going forward that when the new Local Plan was adopted parking would be assessed using a technical document designed for new developments, where the requirement for existing developments was vague.

Councillor Amanda Hack advised that she had been involved with cases where it appeared there was a casual approach to applying the parking policy requirements to planning applications. Councillor Hack added that as a County Councillor parking and highway issues was one of the most important issues raised by constituents.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5720 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5721 Sealing of Documents

a) Land Transfer Documents for Open Spaces at Thorpe Astley, from David Wilson Homes Limited

Policy & Resources Committee on 1st November 2018 had approved the transfer documentation; however, the Executive Officer & Town Clerk withdrew the item at the Council meeting on 22nd November 2018 since the final documentation submitted by David Wilson Homes for the Council to seal did not correlate with the map which had been approved by Committee. The revised version was considered by Policy & Resources Committee on 10th January 2019 and approved (Policy & Resources Minute Reference 65, 2018/2019).

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

RESOLVED that the legal transfer of open spaces from David Wilson Homes Limited and Wilson Bowden Developments Limited at Thorpe Astley, having been finalised, now be completed and that Braunstone Town Council's Common Seal be applied to the transfer documents and plans.

Reason for Decision

To enable the transfer to be completed and for the Town Council to become the legal owner of the public open space.

5722 Outside Body Reports

a) County Councillors

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

- i. proposals for a Unitary Authority Structure, which were ongoing;
- ii. the forthcoming budget and precept setting meeting and the issues identified by Health Scrutiny concerning the budget; and
- iii. health would be part funded by a joint settlement and joint engagement sessions were held but not widely explained and only 350 people had attended, which was disappointing given the implications for services at the hospitals.

Councillor Hack concluded that as the County Councillor she had been delighted with recent the hard work of volunteers from the community such as the remembrance commemorations and clean ups organised at Highway Spinney.

Councillor Louise Richardson, as County Councillor for Enderby and Lubbesthorpe Division, reported on:

- i. budget pressures;
- ii. Fair Funding Review, and the need for this to be addressed to secure necessary funding in the future; and
- iii. Policing and the recognition that updates could be better; however, it should be recognised many officers were tweeting after their shift; and that criminals were often watching social media to assess police tactics; and

Councillor Louise Richardson advised that if the Town Council had any concerns with planning issues, she encouraged these to be raised with Councillor Ben Taylor or herself as Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee.

b) District Councillors

Councillor Bill Wright raised his concerns about planning and in particular policy CS18 and how it was being applied. Councillor Wright also advised of the work of the Communities Scrutiny Working Group.

Councillor Phil Moitt advised the Town Council of the developing Strategic Growth Plan to 2050.

Councillor Ben Taylor advised of a recent recruitment event to the Youth Council, which included many young people from Winstanley. The group were now working on a programme.

Councillor Amanda Hack raised concerns that the Strategic Growth Plan didn't seem to address growing health inequalities and the issues of a community like Braunstone Town which was close to arterial routes.

The Town Mayor invited the Leader of Blaby District Council, Councillor Terry Richardson, to address the Council on the emerging Strategic Growth Plan. Councillor Richardson advised that the plan was a vision for how Leicestershire should develop through to 2050, it sets out a vision for growth and the necessary infrastructure required to deliver that growth. It links in with infrastructure vision of Midlands Connect. Councillor Richardson added that Blaby District Council was now developing a similar vision for Blaby linking the Strategic Growth Plan with the Local Planning Policies. He encouraged Councillors to get involved with the process and make comment on the proposals.

c) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt advised that he had been accidentally removed from the distribution list and that this had been rectified so he would be invited to future meetings.

d) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

No update was given.

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

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that following the cancellation of the December meeting, the next meeting of the Group would be held on Wednesday 6th March.

f) Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Forum

Councillor Robert Waterton had previously reported on the last meeting of the Forum held in November. Councillor Waterton advised that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 27th February.

g) School Governors

Councillor Nick Brown had no further update.

5723 Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

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.