

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**22ND MARCH 2018 at 8.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Bill Wright (Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Ajmer Basra, Roger Berrington, Sharon Betts, Nick Brown, Alex Dewinter, David Di Palma, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Sam Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Gary Sanders, Tracey Shepherd and Robert Waterton.

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

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

**COUNCILLOR BILL WRIGHT, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR**

**5619 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Parminder Basra (Deputy Town Mayor), Paul Kennedy, Berneta Layne and Darshan Singh.

**5620 Disclosures of Interest**

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

**5621 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 25th January 2018 were circulated (item 3 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Bill Wright and seconded by Councillor Gary Sanders and was:

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 25th January 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

**5622 Co-option to Vacancy on the Council**

Council considered expressions of interest and to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy on the Council for the Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward (item 4 on the agenda).

It was noted that neither candidate was in attendance at the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Roger Berrington and seconded by Councillor Tracey Shepherd and was:

**RESOLVED** that co-option to the vacancy for the Ravenhurst and Fosse Ward be deferred to the Annual Meeting of the Council, with the two applications received (enclosed with the agenda) to be considered at that meeting, and in the meantime, the vacancy be advertised to allow additional expressions of interest.

*Reason for Decision*

*The two applicants who had expressed an interest in the vacancy were not in attendance at the meeting; therefore, the Council was unable to question them on their suitability for the Town Councillor vacancy.*

#### **5623 Committee Appointments**

Council considered whether to appoint to the two vacancies on the Planning and Environment Committee (item 5 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Tracey Shepherd and was:

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Anthea Ambrose be appointed to one of the vacant positions on the Planning and Environment Committee.

*Reason for Decision*

*To ensure that vacant positions on the Committee were filled, while leaving a position for a future co-opted Councillor.*

#### **5624 Braunstone Town Library – future management arrangements**

Council considered the principle that the Town Council should formally accept an offer from Leicestershire County Council to manage and operate the Braunstone Town Library service (item 6 on the agenda).

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

**RESOLVED** that subject to an acceptable offer being received from Leicestershire County Council, Braunstone Town Council take over responsibility for the management and operation of the Braunstone Town Library service under the Town Council's corporate governance, decision making and management structures; and in accordance with the Town Council's policies and procedures and allocation of resources and responsibilities.

*Reason for Decision*

*To approve the principle that the Town Council should formally accept an offer from Leicestershire County Council to manage and operate the Braunstone Town Library service, enabling Policy & Resources Committee and the Executive Officer & Town Clerk to enter into the detailed legal arrangements and make provision for the necessary resources and ongoing*

*management of the Library service.*

## **5625 Internal Audit Services**

The Council considered an appointment for a new Internal Auditor for 2017/2018, following the withdrawal of the offer of the originally appointed Internal Auditor to continue to provide internal audit services to the Town Council, and the Council considered whether to join the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils Internal Audit Service from the next financial year (commencing 1st April 2018) (item 7 on the agenda).

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

### **RESOLVED**

1. that John Marshall be appointed through the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils to undertake the Town Council's Internal Audit for the Year Ending 31st March 2018; and
2. that Braunstone Town Council join the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils' Internal Audit Service from the financial year beginning 1st April 2018.

### *Reasons for Decision*

1. *To ensure arrangements were in place for compliance with Accounts and Audit Regulations.*
2. *To ensure that in future years the Council would be able to access an accredited auditor through a benchmarked local council sector Internal Audit service.*

## **5626 Announcements**

### a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Bill Wright, reported on his forthcoming mayoral engagements as follows:

- i. Quiz Night, Friday 23rd March – ticket price includes refreshments;
- ii. Sunday 1st April – Royal Air Force 100th anniversary commemoration Flag Raising Ceremony;
- iii. Saturday 7th April, 10.30am – Act of Remembrance commemorating 100 years of the Royal Air Force, at Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester;
- iv. Monday 9th April, 7.00pm – Town Mayor's Curry Night, Chef & Spice, Hinckley Road, Leicester – the Town Mayor encouraged Councillors to buy tickets and donate raffle prizes in aid of his Mayoral Charity, Rainbows; and
- v. Friday 20th April, 7.30pm – Town Mayor's Award Evening – the Town Mayor advised that Councillors will have received an invitation to this event.

b) Leader of the Council

No announcements were made.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

**5627 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.

**5628 Questions from Councillors**

No questions had been submitted.

**5629 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (p6410 – p6415).

It was moved by Councillor Phil Moitt and

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**5630 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (p6416 – p6420).

Page 6417, Minute 75 – Crime Reduction Initiatives

Councillor Amanda Hack advised Councillors that the Town and surrounding areas were suffering from vehicle break-ins between 3am and 5am and encouraged everyone to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity to the local police beat team. Councillor Amanda Hack added that she had obtained a map of the part-night lighting scheme and would be working with the police and County Council to review including whether some lights could be dimmed rather than turned off.

Page 6417, Minute 76 – 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1

Councillor Nick Brown thanked the Community Life Group who were organising community activity to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1. There was a lot of work involved and the group had

already made some 3,000 poppies for a poppy cascade at the Civic Centre and were preparing a parade from St. Crispins Church to the Civic Centre on Remembrance Sunday. Councillor Brown added that there were ideas to improve the Memorial Garden at the Civic Centre and the Group were inviting ideas from the Community.

Councillor Amanda Hack added her support to Councillor Brown's comments and stated that the group was made up of various sections of the community and were bringing people together with ideas for the whole community to commemorate the anniversary.

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**5631 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018**

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 (p6421 – p6430).

**Page 6422, Minute 67 – Shakespeare Park – Improvement & Development**

Councillor Nick Brown updated members with progress on the project advising that tenders for the construction and improvement works were being invited and that the tenders were due to be opened and assessed on Wednesday 4th April.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted

**5632 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (p6431 – p6440).

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**5633 Motions on Notice**

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

## 5634 Sealing of Documents

- a) Occupational Licence Agreement for Consultancy Room and Treatment Room at Thorpe Astley Community Centre

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

**RESOLVED** that Braunstone Town Council's Common Seal be applied to the Occupational Licence Agreement for Consultancy Room and Treatment Room at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.

### *Reason for Decision*

*To enable an NHS provider to make use of the Thorpe Astley Medical Rooms, which were built to NHS specifications, providing accessible Primary Care, including General Practitioner Services for the benefit of the community.*

- b) Extension of Civic Centre Licensed Bar Contract

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

**RESOLVED** that Braunstone Town Council's Common Seal be applied to the Extension of Civic Centre Licensed Bar Contract.

### *Reason for Decision*

*The Licensed Bar contract provisions would need to be reviewed to take into account provision of Café Services, however, a decision on the extent and scope of the building refurbishment required to do this could not be made until completion of the Shakespeare Park procurement and conclusion of the future management arrangements for the Library. With a contract value of £19,000 per annum, a one year contract extension could be offered until 9th July 2019, without breaching the requirements of the Procurement Act 2015.*

## 5635 Outside Body Reports

- a) County Councillors

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

- i. questions were being asked about the County Council unsecured loans to other authorities, when proposals continued to be made to save money, for example closing 24 Sure Start Centres;
- ii. at the Council meeting which dealt with the budget it was agreed to raise the precept by 5.99%, which would ease pressures but the Council was likely to return to negative spend within months; and
- iii. concerns had been raised about reductions to community transport, particularly for 16 and 17 year olds with disabilities.

b) District Councillors

Councillor Sam Maxwell reported on the following matters:

- i. the Council recently set its budget and Council Tax and also agreed two new special responsibility allowances;
- ii. the Blaby Lottery had been established to raise funds for local community and charitable organisations; and
- iii. the Lightbulb project had received a Local Government Chronicle partnership award for effective joined up local government and NHS service for disabled and vulnerable people.

Councillor Phil Moitt advised of recent planning training and Government proposals to presume consent to developments of nine dwellings or less at the outline stage.

Councillor Bill Wright reported on compulsory purchase of 9 dwellings in the district in order to bring them back into habitable use as housing. The district were also sharing an additional planning enforcement officer with Harborough District. Councillor Wright added that Air Quality Scrutiny's next meeting was scheduled for 30th April.

c) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt reported that good progress was being made with the Winter Works Programme and that the Committee were looking for additional people to serve as Trustees in the forthcoming year.

d) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Councillor Sam Fox-Kennedy reported on the recent Committee meeting adding that the group do a good job in keeping the Minibus services running. The Group were currently organising their annual quiz night and were looking at alternative options for the main minibus which was becoming unreliable. In addition, Councillor Fox-Kennedy appealed for volunteer drivers, particularly younger drivers.

e) Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group

Councillor Bill Wright advised of recent scams which included ordering items where payment was made 30 days later and intercepting them, leaving the householder with the bill and phone calls asking for bank details in order for parcels to be delivered.

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

Councillor Robert Waterton updated Council on the recent branch meeting where they had received information about the Strategic Growth Plan, air quality obligations following the recent European Court ruling and the trial use of combined litter and dog waste bins in Narborough and Littlethorpe.

Councillor Nick Brown stated he had raise the issue of more rural housing in order to ensure that vital services such as schools and GP surgeries could be retained.

g) Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Forum

Councillor Robert Waterton reported on the following matters:

- i. affordable housing rates were discussed, the developers were focussing on 3 and 4 bedroom houses initially, although at some point more affordable provision would need to be provided;
- ii. with the early opening of the bridge over the M1, Meridian Way had become a through route and the route for construction vehicles, yet the promised improvements for crossings, which was approved on the same phasing, had not been brought forward; and
- iii. there was an ongoing debate about infrastructure improvements keeping pace with development, particularly around the A47, there were concerns about the limited powers of local authorities to require delivery of developments at a rate which would deliver infrastructure improvements.

Councillor Amanda Hack added that developers were building 3 or 4 bedroom houses and these were not selling due to market conditions and therefore, slowing the pace of delivery. Councillor Hack requested that this issue be raised at the next Forum meeting.

h) School Governors

Councillor Nick Brown advised that the Millfield Academy Governors were keeping an eye on the proposals for temporary parking restrictions around Millfield School and would comment on the effectiveness of the trial in due course.

**5636 Termination of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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.