

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

25TH JANUARY 2018 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Parminder Basra (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Shabbir Aslam, 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 four members of the public present at the meeting.

**COUNCILLOR PARMINDER BASRA, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR,
IN THE CHAIR**

5600 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Ajmer Basra, David Di Palma and Bill Wright (Town Mayor).

5601 Disclosures of Interest

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

5602 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 23rd November 2017 were circulated (item 3 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 23rd November 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5603 Agenda Variance

The Deputy Town Mayor (in the chair) moved that Agenda Item 9, Public Session, be considered, prior to Agenda Item 4, Council Objectives. Having been seconded by Councillor Nick Brown it was:

RESOLVED that Agenda Item 9, Public Session, be considered, prior to Agenda Item 4, Council Objectives.

Reason for Decision

To allow members of the public who wanted to raise an issue with the Council to do so, prior to consideration of the items on the agenda.

5604 Council Objectives

Council considered the Council's Priorities and Objectives and determined whether they were relevant to address current and emerging issues faced by the Council and the community (item 4 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED

1. that the Council Priorities for 2018/2019 be based on the 2017/2018 Priorities; and
2. that the Council Objectives set out in Appendix 1 of the report, as amended, 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.*

5605 Updated Medium Term Priorities and Financial Planning

Council received an updated context for the Council's medium term priorities and financial planning prior to setting the budget and precept for 2018/2019 (item 5 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;
3. that the Council's Commuted Sums Reserve be used in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to offset the loss of Council Tax Support Grant and avoid significant increases in the precept in one year; and
4. that the Priorities and Financial Planning process be revised to medium term, updated at least on an annual basis, and covering a rolling 5 year period.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To provide a foundation for preparing budget estimates for 2018/2019 and beyond.*
2. *To ensure the Council focusses its activity and spending given the future financial uncertainties.*
3. *Following the withdrawal of Council Tax Support Grant, to use reserves to protect services, while phasing the equivalent in precept increases over a period of 3 years to avoid any adverse impact a single large precept increase would have on residents.*
4. *The current economic and political climate meant that long term predictions was an exercise projecting over ten years the impact of existing and known pressures and this had limited value.*

5606 Capital Plan 2018/2019

The Council considered priorities and projects for the 2018/2019 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 2018/2019 Capital Plan;
3. that the Current Projects (section c) be rolled forward on to the 2018/2019 Capital Plan; and
4. that the Proposed New Projects (section d) be added to the 2018/2019 Capital Plan; and
5. that the Project 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, this Project was no longer required.*

5607 Budget, Fees & Charges and Precept for 2018/2019 and future estimates

The Council considered the budget and precept for 2018/2019, including fees and charges and 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 the Estimates for 2018/2019, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved as the Council's Budget for 2018/2019;
2. that no percentage increase be applied to Community Centres, sports pitches and miscellaneous fees and charges, while noting that some Community Centres fees may slightly increase as part of a proposed alignment of fees to category of room, to be determined by Policy & Resources Committee on 22nd February 2018; and
3. that a Net Precept Requirement for £574,107 for the financial year 2018/2019 be submitted to Blaby District Council.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To meet the Town Council's operating budgets for 2018/2019 along with funding for the Capital Plan and service pressures as identified in the report on Medium Term Priorities and Financial Planning.*
2. *Given the economic pressures many are facing, 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.*
3. *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.*

5608 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Bill Wright, was unable to be present at the meeting since he was not well. Therefore, his consort for the year Councillor Sharon Betts reported on Councillor Bill Wright's mayoral activities as follows:

- i. attended "Dick Wittington" Family Pantomime on Saturday 6th January at Braunstone Civic Centre; and
- ii. a performance by Bowjangles of "Myths & Legends" on Sunday 21st January at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.

The Town Mayor would be attending Winstanley Community College on Friday 26th January for the Braunstone Swimming Club photoshoot.

Forthcoming events, with net proceeds being donated to the Town Mayor's chosen charity, Rainbows, included:

- i. Murder Mystery Event featuring the Whetstone Drama Group, Saturday 10th February, 7.30pm at Braunstone Civic Centre;
- ii. Fashion Show, 23rd February 2018 at Thorpe Astley Community Centre; and

iii. Town Mayor's Charity Curry Night, Monday 9th April, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Chef & Spice, Hinckley Road, Leicester, tickets are £15.00 each, with the charity receiving £9.00 of the ticket price.

b) Leader of the Council

No announcements were made.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5609 Public Session

Following the resolution at minute 5630, this item was considered prior to Agenda Item 4, Council Objectives.

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 four members of the public present at the meeting.

At the discretion of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned to give members of the public present an opportunity to raise other matters, not included on the agenda, of public interest.

Lin Burrows, Editor of Braunstone Life, advised the Council of a community meeting held on Friday 19th January 2018 concerning commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the end of the Great War (World War 1) and in particular plans by the community for a Poppy Cascade at Braunstone Civic Centre.

She stated that the plan was to create 14,177 poppies, one for every Leicestershire man who died in the First World War. Around 2000 had been made so far. Once completed the aim was to attach them to a grid on the back wall of the Civic Centre in the Memorial Garden.

Lin Burrows added that Braunstone Town also did not have a memorial to those from the Town who had died in war and there was an opportunity to create a permanent memorial and improve the paths in the Memorial Garden. Many individuals and groups would like to organise various events and it was hoped money would be available to support them to do this.

The next meeting of the group had been arranged for Tuesday 20th February at 7pm at Braunstone Civic Centre.

Councillor Nick Brown welcomed the proposals and advised he would attend the next meeting of the group and confirmed that the proposed budget for 2018/19 included an amount to assist groups with commemorating the end of World War 1. Councillor Brown thanked the Group for their ideas, particularly for a permanent memorial to those who had died in war.

5610 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5611 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 14th December 2017

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 14th December 2017 (p6362 – p6372).

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5612 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 14th December 2017

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 14th December 2017 (p6373 – p6377).

Page 6374, Minute 60 – Speed Sign Data

In response to a question from Councillor Waterton, the Executive Officer & Town Clerk confirmed that the secure fixings for the new speed signs had been ordered and were soon to be delivered. Currently no data was being gathered and once operational the speed signs would be located on Foxon Way and Braunstone Lane as set out in Community Development Committee minute 60.

Councillor Amanda Hack stated that at a recent drop in session held by the Police at Thorpe Astley Community Centre, residents raised concerns about speeding. The police confirmed that the majority of speeding vehicles were Thorpe Astley residents.

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that Thorpe Astley had been accepted by Leicestershire County Council for a Community Speedwatch Scheme and a meeting would be convened in the near future.

It was moved by Councillor Amanda Hack and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5613 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 11th January 2018

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 11th January 2018 (p6378 – p6385).

Councillor Nick Brown welcomed the potential for a General Practice Surgery to be operating at Thorpe Astley. He added that the original group which oversaw the building of the community centre, which included the Town and District Councils and members of the community, wanted to use the Section 106 monies allocated for health care at the Centre. The Medical Rooms were ready in 2010 but since that time there had not been any doctor's surgery using the facility, which had been frustrating to residents, despite several major efforts by the Town Council working with the NHS and Clinical Commissioning Group.

Councillor Brown added that the Town Council was able to provide support with modifications to the building, premises staffing and IT; Blaby District Council would be providing £10k towards equipment costs. Nevertheless, the community would now receive primary care services from Thorpe Astley Community Centre as a result of the positive can do attitude of the Partners and Practice Manager at Kingsway Surgery, who had come forward with sensible proposals to expand their provision to meet increasing demand.

Councillor Gary Sanders added that thanks to the tenacity of the Town Council, Thorpe Astley would finally get the GP service it needed and deserved.

Councillor Amanda Hack while welcoming progress was cautious adding that the Town Council had reached this stage with the NHS and a Surgery before. Nevertheless she welcomed the proposal from Kingsway Surgery, which particularly benefited residents without the use of a car, adding that the Practice Manager had explored the option with the Town Council at a meeting on 24th August 2017 when he attended and faced questions from over 60 residents about pressures on primary care services.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted

5614 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 18th January 2018

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 18th January 2018 (p6386 – p6398).

Page 6396, Minute 114 – Planning Decisions

Councillor Waterton added that Braunstone Town Council had objected to an application on land adjacent to 82 Kingsway on the grounds it was overdevelopment of the site due to factors including scale and mass; however, Blaby District Council had approved it. Under the new approach the Committee were taking, a member of the Committee would now make arrangements to meet the Planning Case Officer to discuss the Town Council's concerns and understand the reasoning behind the Planning Authority's approval.

Councillor Waterton drew attention to the minute adding that the outline planning conditions for Lubbethorpe required proposals to improve safety around Meridian Way be brought forward upon opening of the bridge over the M1. The Town Council would seek the assistance of the Planning Authority to ensure that the Highways Authority was fulfilling its obligations.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5615 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5616 Sealing of Documents

Legal Transfer of Open Spaces (Barratt Homes) Thorpe Astley

On 10th March 2016 Council resolved “that the legal transfer of the 12 open spaces from Barratt Homes at Thorpe Astley, having been finalised, now be completed and that Braunstone Town Council’s Common Seal be applied to the transfer documentation” (Minute 5416). However, the Land Registry rejected two of the transfer documents since two of the four joint owners had not been listed – Beazer Homes Bedford Limited and Ideal Homes Limited. Therefore, two of the transfer documents and plans had to be revised in order to proceed to complete the adoption of 12 areas of open space from Barratt Homes at Thorpe Astley, which had been agreed by Policy and Resources Committee on 20th August 2015 (Policy & Resources Minute Reference 33, 2015/2016).

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

RESOLVED that the legal transfer of the 12 open spaces from Barratt Homes at Thorpe Astley, having been finalised, now be completed and that Braunstone Town Council’s Common Seal be applied to the two revised 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.

5617 Outside Body Reports

a) County Councillors

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

- a) the County Council had received its first petition relating to the closure of a residential facility at a school for those with learning difficulties, the decision was made to proceed, however, it was useful to hear the debate on both sides;
- b) a report on Air Quality had been received, and Councillor Hack hoped that progress would be made on reducing poor air quality;
- c) the Health Scrutiny Report needed to be considered as part of the Strategic Growth Plan, which currently lacked information on the environmental impact of the proposals;
- d) it was sad to hear that Ernie White had passed away, and thanks should go to Ernie for his support for addressing the capacity issues in health in the area, which had also been pursued through Health Scrutiny, of which both Councillors Hack and Richardson were members;
- e) forthcoming additional budget cuts had been identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy which included putting at risk the Sure Start Centre in Braunstone Town, Councillor Hack added that communities with higher deprivation should have such services protected; and
- f) Councillor Hack was pursuing the issue concerning why County Councillors who represented areas impacted by the Leicester City Flood Plan had not been made aware nor formally consulted.

Councillor Louise Richardson, as County Councillor for Enderby and Lubbethorpe Division, reported on the following matters:

- a) consideration by Health Scrutiny of NHS provision in the North Blaby area had provided opportunities to collaborate to resolve capacity issues, including using the facilities at Thorpe Astley;
- b) traffic movements around the Lubbethorpe development had been monitored in order to model highway improvements in the surrounding area, and the results were being reviewed for Enderby after which Thorpe Astley results were due to be reviewed;
- c) Councillor Richardson had liaised with the Police concerning parking issues on Meridian Business Park and in Thorpe Astley and there were proposals for Royal Mail to use an nearby car park for an empty unit to resolve issues in the short term while a wider review was undertaken;
- d) air quality was being monitored and checked and Councillor Richardson was in regular contact with the relevant departments concerning opportunities to reduce pollution; and
- e) the Budget consultation was seeking views on different ways of delivering services in order to ensure sustainable and affordable services.

b) District Councillors

Councillor Sam Maxwell fed back on the District Council's budget proposals and the impact from the loss of Council Tax Support Grant on parishes. Councillor Maxwell provided an update on the meeting of the Council convened to discuss the consultation results of the proposed alternate weekly refuse and recycling collections. She added that £750,000 was being saved from this service, following the removal of Department for Communities and Local Government funding and dry recycling credits by Leicestershire County Council.

Councillor Gary Sanders paid tribute to former District Council Leader, Ernie White, who had recently passed away, stating he was a good man and politician.

Councillor Shabbir Aslam reported on the budget proposals and the changes to refuse and recycling. He added that the Blaby Lottery would be launched at Fosse Park on Saturday, which would raise much needed funds for good causes.

c) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt reported that the group were undertaking their winter works programme and in response to a request from the Committee, the Town Council had confirmed Councillor Moitt as the Town Council's appointment to the committee.

d) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Councillor Paul Kennedy reported that a new driver had been appointed and that all volunteer drivers would need to wear identity badges. The second mini-bus had been repaired and was up and running. An invitation had been received for the Braunstone Life party. Councillor Kennedy advised that the next meeting would be Tuesday 13th February.

Councillor Nick Brown advised that Councillor David Di Palma had tendered his resignation from this body and he advised that Councillor Sam Fox-Kennedy was willing to fill the vacancy until the annual appointments were considered in May (the appointment would be made by the Executive Officer & Town Clerk under delegated authority).

e) Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group

In the absence of Councillor Bill Wright no report was given.

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

Councillor Robert Waterton provided feedback from the meeting on Wednesday 6th December, which included feedback on the Blaby Annual Seminar and debate around the Council Tax Support Grant. The next meeting was scheduled for 7th March 2018.

g) Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board

Councillor Robert Waterton had reported to the previous Council meeting on the meeting of the Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Forum held on 15th November 2017. He informed Council that the next meeting was scheduled for 28th February 2018.

h) School Governors

There was no further update given.

5618 Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

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.