

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

30TH JANUARY 2020 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Parminder Basra (Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Nick Brown, David Di Palma, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Sohan Johal, Paul Kennedy, Phil Moitt, Satindra Sangha, Tracey Shepherd, Christiane Startin-Lorent, Imran Uddin, 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

5816 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shabbir Aslam, Ajmer Basra, Alex Dewinter, Sam Maxwell and Darshan Singh.

5817 Disclosures of Interest

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

5818 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.

5819 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 21st November 2019 were circulated (item 4a on the agenda) and also the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 9th December 2019 were circulated (item 4b on the agenda)

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

RESOLVED

1. that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 21st November 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record; and
2. that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 9th December 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5820 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 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 2020/2021, based on the 2019/2020 Priorities and as updated, be approved as set out in the report; and
2. that the Council Objectives set out in Appendix 1, 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.*

5821 Capital Plan 2020/2021

Council considered priorities and projects for 2020/2021 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 project due for completion (section b) be removed, assuming its completion prior to the end of the plan period, otherwise it be included on the 2020/2021 Capital Plan;
3. that the Current Projects (section c), incorporating the amendment to the Civic Centre Project: "Refurbishment of both sets of Toilets", be

- rolled forward on to the 2020/2021 Capital Plan; and
4. that the Proposed New Projects (section d) be added to the 2020/2021 Capital Plan.

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. To update existing projects where necessary to explore additional improvements.*
4. *To recognise the need to undertake investment and improvement as identified.*

5822 Budget and Precept for 2020/2021 and Future Estimates

Council considered the budget and precept for 2020/2021 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 once full costs were known, an amount be earmarked in the reserves to cover the cost of gateway signage to the Town at the Parish Boundary with Lubbesthorpe and at the entrances to Thorpe Astley estate;
2. that a budget of £1,000 be included as a one-off in 2020/2021 budget for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day to provide financial support of up to £200 for each group/event;
3. that no percentage increase be applied to Community Centres, sports pitches and miscellaneous fees and charges;
4. that £9,000 be earmarked in the reserves in 2020/21 to be used to balance the general fund budget;
5. that £10,000 of the £25,000 one-off Library Transfer Grant received from Leicestershire County Council be earmarked in the reserves in 2020/21 to be used to offset the additional Library staffing costs transferred under TUPE;
6. that the Estimates for 2020/2021, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved as the Council's Budget for 2020/2021; and
7. that a Net Precept Requirement for £646,304 for the financial year 2020/2021 be submitted to Blaby District Council.

Reasons for Decision

1. *The signs would be a capital asset, the cost was likely to exceed the amounts in the annual Planning & Environment Expenditure Revenue Budget; however, the life span of the signs would be approximately 30-40 years.*

2. *To ensure appropriate financial support to enable VE Day anniversary events to be organised and to ensure their success.*
3. *Following a review of budgeted income from Room Hires and consideration by Community Development Committee and Citizens' Advisory Panel of support arrangements for community groups, Policy & Resources Committee had established a Panel to review in detail the community centres offer and associated hire scheme and charges.*
4. *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 3-4 years to avoid any adverse impact a single large precept increase would have on residents.*
5. *To enable the Town Council to employ staff at Braunstone Town Library, as set out in its proposed service model.*
6. *To meet the Town Council's operating budgets for 2020/2021 along with funding for the Capital Plan and service pressures as identified in the report on Medium Term Priorities and Financial Planning.*
7. *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.*

5823 Committee Appointments

Council considered confirming Councillor Phil Moitt as Vice-Chair of Planning & Environment Committee, which was made as an interim appointment by Planning & Environment Committee on 9th December 2019.

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

RESOLVED that Councillor Phil Moitt be confirmed as Vice-Chair of Planning & Environment Committee.

Reason for Decision

To enable the efficient and effective transaction of Planning & Environment Committee's business.

5824 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Parminder Basra, reported that January had been a quiet month, following a busy period in December. The Town Mayor then reported on some of December's engagements as follows:

- (a) 6th December, Celebration of Bill Wright's Life, Braunstone Civic Centre: while a sad event it was well attended and Councillor Sam Maxwell had delivered a fitting tribute; and
- (b) 30th December, Pantomime – Beauty and the Beast, Braunstone Civic Centre: an enjoyable occasion and the Town Mayor recommended using the same production company again.

The Town Mayor thanked Councillors Anthea Ambrose and Satindra Sangha for their support at her events.

Forthcoming Town Mayor engagements were as follows:

- (a) 3rd February, Blaby District Chairman's Curry Night, Chef & Spice;
- (b) 3rd April, Town Mayor's Awards Evening, Braunstone Civic Centre; and
- (c) 24th April, Town Mayor's Charity Dinner and Dance, Marriott Hotel, with the theme Mental Health and net proceeds donated to the Town Mayor's Charity, Life Links.

b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, highlighted that many residents in Braunstone Town were citizens of other EU countries. He added that they worked in the area and many had made the Town their home. Councillor Brown wanted to reassure these residents, that while it was an uncertain time as the United Kingdom left the European Union and determined its future relationship that the Town Council continued to welcome them as important members of the Town's inclusive community.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5825 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5826 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 9th December 2019

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th December 2019 (p6888 – p6895).

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5827 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 9th December 2019

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 9th December 2019 (p6899 – p6904).

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5828 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 9th January 2020

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th January 2020 (p6905 – p6909).

Page 6907, Minute 106 – Planning Decisions

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that one of the decisions Blaby District Council had taken was to approve 1 Gayhurst Close as a House in Multiple Occupation, despite the arguments being similar to 107 Westover Road, which they had rejected and the applicant's appeal had also subsequently been rejected. Councillor Waterton added that on 5th March 2020, officers from Blaby District Council's Licensing Department would be speaking to the Planning & Environment Committee on the regulatory framework and operational practices for regulating Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Page 6908 - 6909, Minute 111 – Houses in Multiple Occupation

Councillor Robert Waterton encouraged Councillors to look at the report relating to this item, it included residents' concerns and a map showing the location of suspected as well as registered Houses in Multiple Occupation.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5829 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 16th January 2020

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 16th January 2020 (p6910 – p6917).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5830 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5831 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

5832 County and District Councillor Reports

a) Leicestershire County Council

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

- i. Budgets were being reviewed ahead of setting the precept;

- ii. health funding was likely to be protected due to most of the money being NHS funds;
- iii. funding for Children's services was likely to be increased given this was a statutory function and more local procurement of services was being introduced, which would increase costs but mean that children were reintroduced into communities;
- iv. at Joint Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Health Scrutiny, Andy Williams, new Chief Executive of all three Clinical Commissioning Groups, was in attendance concerning the restructure of Leicester Hospitals; funding had been granted and NHS England needed to approve the plan prior to consultation, this consultation would involve parish councils; and
- v. Joint Health Scrutiny also looked at NHS 10 year plan, the need to utilise section 106 contributions for improving services, the target for cancer care and the availability of medicine.

Councillor Robert Waterton sought clarity on the hospitals restructure consultation and whether the Ambulance Service targets were being monitored. In response, Councillor Amanda Hack confirmed that the request had been for several consultations to take place in communities rather than the half a dozen large consultation sessions; also the Ambulance Service performance was considered by Joint Health Scrutiny, the main pressure being stacking at Accident & Emergency.

b) Blaby District Council

Councillor Tracey Shepherd, as District Councillor for Winstanley Ward, reported on the presentation concerning Climate Change; however, the District Council had not agreed to declare a Climate Change Emergency.

Councillor Phil Moitt, as District Councillor for Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward, reported on the following matters:

- i. the District Council would shortly be determining its precept for the forthcoming financial year;
- ii. Councillor Sam Maxwell was covering until May the Scrutiny Commissioner vacancy, previously held by Bill Wright; and
- iii. Councillor Moitt welcomed the forthcoming attendance of Licensing Officers at the Town Council's Planning & Environment Committee on 5th March 2020 concerning Houses in Multiple Occupation.

5833 Outside Body Reports

a) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Councillors Sam Fox-Kennedy reported that the Minibus Committee was well established, they appreciated the Council's support and where there were issues these were reported and dealt with.

b) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt reported that he had not received notification of any forthcoming meetings.

c) School Governors

Councillor Nick Brown reported that Millfield Academy had recently received two awards: one was a Heritage Award and the other was an Emotion and Wellbeing Award; which were awarded for the school's work in these areas.

Councillor Robert Waterton raised concerns about the effectiveness of the School Clear Zone around Millfield Academy. In response Councillor Amanda Hack advised that the County Council were reviewing the arrangements and were looking at potential amendments to the scheme.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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: _____