

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

THURSDAY 7th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Chair) and Councillor Ajmer Basra, Nick Brown, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Paul Kennedy, Becca Lunn-Scoppie, Sam Maxwell.

Officers in attendance: Darren Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk and Mrs Pauline Snow, Deputy Executive Officer & Community Services Manager

Councillors Alex DeWinter and Christiane Startin-Lorent observed the meeting remotely through Zoom Video Conferencing.

35. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Tracey Shepherd.

36. Disclosures of Interest

A disclosure of Non-Pecuniary Interest was made by Councillor Anthea Ambrose in agenda item 16(d), Community Grant Applications, Leicester City Permanent Allotment Society, since Councillor Ambrose rents an allotment from the organisation.

37. Public Participation

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 no members of the public present.

38. Minutes of the Meeting held 8th July 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th July 2021 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

39. Town Mayor's Report

The Committee received a report on the activities of the Town Mayor and any proposals for initiatives during the Civic Year (item 5 on the agenda).

It was noted that the Town Mayor attended the Apple Day at Franklin Park on 18th September that was very well attended and a great success.

The Town Mayor had also presented a member of staff with a clock to commemorate 25 years' service to the Town Council.

40. Outside Body Reports

The Committee received reports from members of Outside Bodies:

a) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

It was noted that Commbus had now been given permission to take over the running of some of the services previously operated by the Braunstone Town Community Minibus.

RESOLVED

1. that a representative from Commbus be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee;
2. that Commbus be invited to give twice-yearly updates on the services that Commbus was offering to residents; and
3. that where Groups were organising social trips, the Town Council offer to assist with advertising and raising awareness of these trips.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To provide an update on the new service.*
2. *To forge an ongoing relationship to ensure the success of the service.*
3. *Given Commbus would be providing services to local destinations and Centres; it was important to publicise day trips that local groups were organising as an alternative to those previously organised by Braunstone Town Community Minibus.*

b) Braunstone West Social Centre

No update was received on Braunstone West Social Centre.

41. Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

The Chair welcomed PCSO Kurk Brookes and PCSO David Goss to the meeting who advised that for the month of September there had been 28 crimes within Braunstone Town/Thorpe Astley as follows:

Common Assault: 18
Vehicles: 7 (from: 5 and of: 2)
Burglaries: 3.

Several crime trends had been noted around the area including:

Use of gas canisters and anti-social behaviour on the parks – the police had increased patrols on the parks to reduce this and to liaise with youths gathering on the parks

Motorbikes – still an ongoing issue in the Town but very difficult to catch the perpetrators.

It was reported that suspects in a number of burglaries in the Town had been arrested and sentenced.

RESOLVED

1. that further details of the pilot scheme, Street Safe, set up by the police regarding the reporting of unsafe areas, be provided; and
2. that details of the Crime Commissioners' response to the increase violent crime be requested.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To enable the reporting of unsafe areas within the Town.*
2. *There were concerns regarding the increase in violent crime.*

42. Crime Statistics

The Committee received the latest crime statistics, including comparative figures (item 8 on the agenda).

Members asked that the new sergeant of the Police Beat Team be invited to attend the next meeting to report on the current crime trends.

RESOLVED that the new police Sergeant be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

Reason for Decision

To welcome the new Beat Team Police Sergeant and to foster partnership working to effectively address issues with crime in the Town.

43. Initial Arrangements for Summer Fete 2022

The Committee considered initial arrangements for the Summer Fete 2022.

RESOLVED that the Summer Fete 2022 be held on Saturday 6th August 2022.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure that a date is set in a timely manner to allow for preparation of the event.

44. Local Area Co-ordination

The Chair welcomed Katie Barradell, Local Area Co-ordinator to the meeting.

Members noted that the Local Area Co-ordinator was very busy and was now making contact with residents of Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley that require support and help. She was now available to meet residents at Braunstone Civic Centre face to face during the week but advised that many of the queries she was receiving would be better suited to be dealt with by the Citizen's Advice Bureau. It was anticipated that referrals would increase shortly due to the announced drop in Universal Credit payments, increasing household fuel prices and the ending of the furlough scheme.

Good connections had been established with the local schools and St Crispin's Church. Transport issues had become a problem with local residents and it was suggested that the Community Response Volunteers be approached to see if any would be willing to help with transporting local residents to appointments, events etc.

45. Celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Committee considered arrangements for a one off mini-programme of events in June 2022 along with a specific grants scheme to support local community groups with organising and holding community celebratory events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (item 11 on the agenda).

Members suggested that the Town Council should consider organising some events to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee, such as competitions, garden trail, etc.

RESOLVED

1. that a programme of events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee be coordinated by the Town Council to be operated over the bank holiday weekend 2nd – 5th June 2022 and based on the same principles as the Annual Programme of Events;
2. that consideration be made at the next meeting to include a budget of £1,000 for 2022/2023 to provide community grants in order to arrange events for the Platinum Jubilee; and
3. that consideration be made to suitable events that the Town Council could organise for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To provide a coordinating role for community celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.*
2. *To ensure appropriate events and financial support to enable events to be organised and ensure their success.*
3. *To ensure that events would be organised to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.*

46. Covid-19 Community Response and Good Neighbour Scheme

The Committee received an update on the Council's coordination role for the Braunstone Town Community Response Scheme and to set out proposals for establishing a Good Neighbour Scheme (item 12 on the agenda).

It was noted that all the Community Response volunteers had been invited to attend a civic function to thank them for the work and support during the Covid-19 pandemic although, to date, only three volunteers had advised that they would be attending. Details of Good Neighbour Schemes would be circulated to the volunteers at the event along with other volunteering opportunities that were available in Braunstone Town in order to encourage the volunteers to carry on the good work that they were already involved in.

RESOLVED

1. that the proposal to support and encourage community volunteers to set up a Good Neighbour Scheme be approved.
2. that the Town Council offers support to volunteers who wish to set a group, help with promotion and provide an access point for vulnerable residents to contact the scheme members.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that vulnerable residents would be able to access help following the Covid pandemic and that the good work of the volunteers was not lost.*
2. *To ensure that volunteers willing to continue helping residents would be supported and that vulnerable residents had easy access to help being provided.*

47. Foodbank Services

The Committee received an update on foodbank services and arrangements to support those who need access to emergency food through the autumn and winter (item 13 on the agenda).

Contact had been made with Leicester South Foodbank to assess if there was any opportunity for them to use Braunstone Civic Centre as a satellite drop off point for local residents to receive food parcels. Despite numerous phone calls and email contact, no response had yet been received but further contact would be made to discuss the possibility of a satellite base at the Civic Centre.

RESOLVED that the option of using Braunstone Civic Centre as a satellite collection centre for Leicester South Foodbank be explored further.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that Braunstone residents that require support via a foodbank were able to access a local service.

48. Review of Amendments to Community Grants Scheme

The Committee considered fixed term amendments to the Community Grants Scheme to encourage the formation of new community groups following the Covid-19 pandemic (item 14 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the Fixed Term Amendment to the Community Grant Scheme to provide an additional £200 for the formation of new groups, be approved;
2. that the Fixed Term Amended criteria for Community Grants Scheme, as attached at Appendix 1, be approved; and
3. that the Fixed Term Amendment to the Community Grant Scheme be reviewed at the October 2022 meeting of the Committee.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that local residents would be supported in setting up new community groups that provide services and support in the community that was no longer available.*
2. *To ensure that funds would be appropriately granted and that groups were aware of the criteria for applying for grant funding.*
3. *To review the amended grant scheme in terms of number of applications and ongoing need to provide additional support to the community.*

49. Summary of Grant Applications

The Committee received a list of grants paid to date and applied for from external sources (item 15 on the agenda).

It was noted that an external grant application had been made by the Town Council to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government in the sum of £17,676 for the proposed Changing Places Toilet at Braunstone Civic Centre.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

To monitor progress with supporting community groups with identifying sources of funding and with the award of grants under the Council's Community Grants scheme.

50. Community Grant Applications

The Committee considered Community Grant Applications which had been received (item 16 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the following grant applications be approved

- a) Ratby Co-Operative Band - £300
- b) Swagat Group - £300
- c) Namaste Group - £300
- d) Leicester City Permanent Allotment Society - £300
- e) Asian Elderly Group - £300

Reason for Decision

The grant applications met the scheme criteria.

51. Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces

The Committee received a progress report on current projects and funding.

It was noted that progress was being made on Shakespeare Park Pavilion Management Committee. Both the football and bowls club committees had indicated an interest in being part of the management committee.

Difficulties had been encountered with the tennis court contractor in setting a date for work to commence on the refurbishment of the tennis courts due to

shortages in materials and agreeing the amended tender price.

Members were disappointed that no further progress had been made and frustrated that the site was not yet finished despite the completion of the newly built pavilion. Discussions were held on the possibility of employing the second-choice contractor for the tennis court refurbishment but the issue of material supplies could still present the same problem to a new contractor. Members requested that a press release be distributed outlining the issues faced and advising the current situation with the contractor and possible completion date of the project.

52. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2021 to 28th September 2021 (item 18 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

There were no issues identified with income and expenditure to date.

53. Approval of Accounts

The Committee considered payments from 30th June 2021 until 28th September 2021 (item 19 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions for the period 30th June 2021 until 28th September 2021 be approved.

Reason for Decision

To authorise payments in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations and the Council's Financial Regulations.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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: _____