

## **BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE**

**THURSDAY 8th JULY 2021 AT 7.45PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Chair), Councillor Tracey Shepherd (Vice-Chair), and Councillor Ajmer Basra, Nick Brown, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Paul Kennedy, Sam Maxwell and Christiane Startin-Lorent.

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

Councillors Alex DeWinter and Becca Lunn-Scoppie observed the meeting remotely through Zoom Video Conferencing.

Two members of the public observed the meeting remotely through Zoom Video Conferencing.

#### **15. Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

#### **16. Disclosures of Interest**

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

#### **17. 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 two members of the public present.

#### **18. Minutes of the Meeting held 20th May 2021**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

#### **19. 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 would be attending Shakespeare Park to receive the keys to the newly constructed pavilion on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Members were also reminded that the annual summer fete would be taking place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August on Mosssdale Meadows, 11am – 4pm.

## **20. Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update**

The Chair welcomed PCSO Callum Loades and PSCO Kurk Brookes to the meeting to present an update on local community safety and policing initiatives.

It was noted that there was an increase in the number of anti-social behaviour issues relating to quad bikes which was being monitored.

There was also an increasing problem with E-scooters around the town. It was noted that these were illegal in Leicestershire and that there was a requirement for them to be insurance and taxed to use them.

A slight increase in crime had been noted following the relaxation of the covid-19 regulations.

Concerns were raised regarding an incident that had recently taken place in Thorpe Astley, where a resident had been arrested and then released and returned home. It was noted that this was a domestic incident and was not a community safety issue.

## **21. Outside Body Reports**

The Committee received reports from members of Outside Bodies:

a) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

The Committee welcomed Ingrid Turner to the meeting who gave an update on the Braunstone Town Community Minibus and informed the Committee that, with great sadness, the Braunstone Town Minibus would not be resuming any services. It was reported that due to lack of volunteers and the health of the existing Committee members, they could not continue to provide the efficient and professional service that was required to run a transport service. Talks were already taking place with CommBus that may take over the running of some of the essential services and that the Committee would be updated once this had been approved and finalised.

b) Braunstone West Social Centre

No report was received regarding the Braunstone West Social Centre due to the Committee not meeting during the regulations in place regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **22. School Governing Body Reports**

The Committee received reports from members of School Governing Bodies (item 8 on the agenda).

It was noted that there was currently a vacancy for a school governor at Ravenhurst Primary School.

**RESOLVED** that the reports of the School Governing Bodies be publicised on the

Town Council's website.

*Reasons for Decision*

*To ensure all members of the community have the opportunity to access the work of the school governors in the area.*

**23. Braunstone Town Community Foodbank**

The Committee received an update on the Braunstone Town Community Foodbank and considered the Council's support for the initiative (item 9 on the agenda).

Lin Burrows advised the members that the Braunstone Town Community Foodbank would no longer be operating from the end of September 2021. Lin advised that it was set up to provide emergency support during the Covid-19 pandemic and was entirely run by volunteers. The volunteers were concerned that the residents could become dependent on the service and that the small number of volunteers were now struggling with the work load and pressures of the weekly commitment to the foodbank. All the residents using the foodbank had been advised that it would no longer be operating after September and signposting to other services and support would be offered to help the vulnerable residents. Members considered what support the Town Council could offer residents up to and after the closure of the foodbank.

**RESOLVED**

1. that space be provided free of charge at Braunstone Civic Centre to Braunstone Town Community Foodbank until 30th September 2021; and that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk to determine which rooms should be made available and on what basis;
2. that the offer in 1 above be conditional upon:
  - (a) the Town's Community Response Scheme, Town Council and its partners being able to refer anyone in need;
  - (b) priority being given to residents of Braunstone Town (including Thorpe Astley) although the foodbank would not be limited by area;
3. that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, to extend the offer in 1 above to 31st October 2021; and
4. that a list of contact details of other foodbanks and support agencies be collated and forwarded to appropriate staff in order to support vulnerable residents that may ask for help.

*Reasons for Decision*

1. *To provide a base for the Community Foodbank to operate, a vital support service providing food and essential supplies to residents who had suffered from the economic impact of Covid-19.*
2. *To support access to a community foodbank for Braunstone Town residents given that since the outbreak of Covid-19, Braunstone Foodshare had focussed on Braunstone, Leicester City, which had reduced options for accessing foodbank services for Town residents.*
3. *To provide for flexibility, should there be a need for the foodbank to*

*continue in the short or medium term.*

4. *To ensure that support and signposting would be available to residents when the foodbank ceases to operate.*

#### **24. Speed Sign Data**

The Committee considered locations for locating the speed sign; and considered recent speed sign data (item 10 on the agenda).

Members received details of the approved lamp posts available in Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley for installing the speed activated sign. Traffic accident statistics had also been received and circulated from Leicestershire County Council that indicated that there had been 109 accidents in Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley between 1/1/2016 and 30/4/2021, mostly which had been slight injuries.

Members suggested that Kingsway, Braunstone Lane and Meridian East were the main areas where accidents had occurred and where signs could be installed.

Members were advised that both speed activation signs were inoperable again and not recording any information whilst in place. The manufacturer of the signs was contacted to discuss options regarding the repair/replacement of the signs.

**RESOLVED** that the speed activation signs be installed on Kingsway, Braunstone Lane and Meridian East in the future.

*Reasons for Decision*

*To ensure the most appropriate locations are selected to install the speed activation signs based on the number of accidents occurring.*

#### **25. Library - Community engagement/involvement and social inclusion**

The Committee considered further initiatives to develop community involvement in Braunstone Town Library and provide for social inclusion (item 11 on the agenda).

**RESOLVED** that the proposed community events to take place in the library, as detailed in the report, be approved.

*Reasons for Decision*

*To promote the wider use of the library as a community hub and provide activities and events for the community to participate in.*

#### **26. Fete - progress update**

The Committee received a progress report on arrangements for the Summer Fete 2021.

It was noted that a wide variety of stalls had been booked for the fete but not as many as in previous years. Several food outlets would be attending providing a wide variety of food.

Activities booked included Go Karts, Donkey Rides, Children's Rides, Viking Re-enactment group, Bouncy Castle and Inflatable Activity area, Motorbikes and petting zoo.

Members were reminded that volunteers to help set up and dismantle on the day, where required.

## **27. New Year's Eve Events**

The Committee considered the use of the Council's facilities for fundraising events on New Year's Eve (item 13 on the agenda).

### **RESOLVED**

1. that free use of the Millfield Hall and Council Chamber at Braunstone Civic Centre and Main Hall at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on New Year's Eve, 31st December 2021, be advertised to local groups on the basis that money raised would be donated to charity, with at least 25% of the proceeds being donated to the Town Mayor's Charity,
2. that the Executive Officer & Town Clerk be given delegated authority to consider applications received and offer the use of the facilities at Braunstone Civic Centre and Thorpe Astley Community Centre on the basis that applications meet the criteria

#### *Reasons for Decision*

1. *To ensure a fair and transparent process for free use of rooms for New Year's Eve fundraising events.*
2. *To ensure that any applications are considered in a timely manner in order to advise groups of the decision in order for them to commence preparations for their event if their application is successful.*

## **28. Summary of Grant Applications**

The Committee received a list of grants paid to date and applied for from external sources (item 14 on the agenda).

**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.*

## **29. Community Grant Applications**

The Committee considered Community Grant Applications which had been received (item 15 on the agenda).

**RESOLVED** that the grant application submitted by the Shakespeare Park Bowls Club for £500 be approved;

*Reason for Decision*

*The grant application met the scheme criteria.*

### **30. Climate Change and Environmental Strategy – Consultation Draft**

The Committee received the Consultation Draft of the Climate Change and Environmental Strategy in order to determine whether the Committee have any comments (item 16 on the agenda).

Members considered the consultation and suggested a clearer explanation and comparison with other figures, of the 14.8t carbon calculator, would be useful to include in the consultation for residents.

### **31. Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces**

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

It was noted that the keys to the new Shakespeare Park Pavilion building would be handed over to the Town Council on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July and the Town Mayor would be receiving them.

A meeting with the tennis court contractor had been arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> July in order to assess the surface of the tennis courts once the building contractor had removed the final machinery, supplies and waste material. The Tennis court contractors had provided a modified costings and contract following amendments to the works required. Due to a delay in sourcing material following the covid pandemic, the works to refurbish the courts had been delayed.

An alternative addition to the climbing frame on the playground had now been agreed and funding sources would now be sought for the playground refurbishment.

### **32. Committee Meeting Times**

The Committee noted that Planning & Environment Committee meetings previously scheduled prior to Community Development Committee had now been cancelled and considered rescheduling the Committee's start time to 7.30pm for the remainder of the 2021/2022 Council Year.

**RESOLVED** that the Community Development Committee meetings commence at 7.30pm for the remainder of the 2021/2022 Council Year.

*Reason for Decision*

*To bring the start time of the Community Development Committee in line with other committee start times.*

### **33. Financial Comparisons**

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2021 to 29th June 2021 (item 19 on the agenda).

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

*Reason for Decision*

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

**34. Approval of Accounts**

The Committee considered payments from 12th May 2021 until 29th June 2021 (item 20 on the agenda).

**RESOLVED** that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions for the period 12th May 2021 until 29th June 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 10.05pm.

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: \_\_\_\_\_