

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HELD USING ZOOM VIDEO AND WEB CONFERENCING SOFTWARE

THURSDAY 15th APRIL 2021 AT 7.45PM

PRESENT: Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Chair), Councillor Tracey Shepherd (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Nick Brown, Alex DeWinter, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Paul Kennedy, Becca Lunn Scoppie, Sam Maxwell and Christiane Startin-Lorent.

Also in attendance was the Town Mayor, Councillor Parminder Basra.

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

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

127. Apologies

An apology for absence were received from Councillor Ajmer Basra.

128. Disclosures of Interest

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

129. 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.

130. Minutes of the Meeting held 11th February 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th February 2021 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

131. 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. The Town Mayor reported that due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions she had been unable to arrange any fund-raising events. However, she was undertaking a Walk & Talk event where residents could go for a walk with family members or one other person, where

permitted, for exercise and to talk to help with both physical and mental wellbeing. Residents could ask to be sponsored to do this and then donate funds through a “Just Giving” page that the Town Mayor had set up. The Town Mayor would share the link to all Councillors and asked if they could support her with this by sharing to family and friends.

The Town Mayor would also be hosting an Awards of Merit via online conferencing facilities on 7th May 2021 and awarding nominees with an Award of Merit for their work in the community 2019/2021.

RESOLVED that the update be noted

Reason for Decision

To monitor and review the effectiveness of the Town Council’s community engagement activities.

132. Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

The Committee received an update from the Local Neighbourhood Police Beat team on local community safety and policing initiatives. Sergeant Alex Goldsmith had sent his apologies to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed PCSO Duane Wright from the Police who gave an update on the current crime statistics and ongoing issues over the previous 30 days. Crimes recorded included theft from and of vehicles, theft of number plates, residential and commercial burglaries, criminal damage and issues with motorbikes. It was noted that signs had been put in place on parks and open spaces regarding the riding of motorbikes and seizure of bikes if apprehended.

PCSO Wright also advised that two drug warrants had been carried with 9 people being arrested.

Concern was raised about attacks on the person that had taken place at Thorpe Astley. PCSO Wright was unaware of the incident and advised that no Community Impact Statement had been released from the Police regarding public safety following this incident. Full details of crime statistics, including attacks on the person, were available on the Police UK website. It was noted that an attack on a person took place in February 2021 but this was picked up by the Police Response Team and not the local Beat Officers. Members asked for an update on attacks on the person for the next meeting.

It was noted that several number plates had been recovered during recent local litter picks and it was advised that the police be informed of the number plates and location for their records. The plates could then be disposed of as no forensic evidence would be intact.

Work was still going on to apprehend drivers of stolen motorbikes or anti-social behaviour with regards bikes. However, it was very difficult to apprehend these people safely without causing harm to the driver or members of the public.

It was noted that covert speed cameras had been in place on Turnbull Drive following concerns about speeding vehicles but it was noted the mean average speed of vehicles recorded for the road was 27mph. The Town Council had

recently installed one of the speed activation signs on Turnbull Drive that would provide further details of vehicle speed on this road.

RESOLVED that

1. the update be noted; and
2. that an update on attacks on the person be submitted to the next meeting.

Reasons for Decisions

1. To ensure that current community safety and policing updates were received.
2. To enable the committee to ascertain the levels and impact of such crimes.

133. Speed Sign Data

The Committee received an update on the Council's Speed Signs.

It was noted that both speed activation signs were now operational and installed on Turnbull Drive and Murby Way. It was agreed that the sign on Turnbull Drive would remain in place until data was removed for the next meeting and a decision made on where it would be placed next. It was suggested that the sign on Murby Way could be installed on Meridian Way.

A request had been received to install one of the speed activation signs on Ravenhurst Road but it was noted that this road had a high number of parked vehicles and a 20mph speed in the vicinity of the school and it was thought unlikely that vehicles could have the opportunity to speed. Details were being obtained from Leicestershire County Council regarding the installation of the signs on lampposts and the associated costs.

RESOLVED that further information be requested on the reasons for installing the sign in this location.

Reason

To ascertain the need and benefits

134. Options for deterring Speeding

The Committee examined options for deterring drivers from exceeding the speed limit; including schemes offered by Leicestershire County Council (item 8 on the agenda). It was noted that a Community speed Watch initiative and bin stickers had already been in operation on Murby Way along with regular installation of the speed activation sign. Leicestershire County Council were proposing to run a Community Speed Management Initiative and Murby Way and Braunstone Lane had been registered with the scheme as areas of concern. Members requested that Meridian Way is also registered as an area of concern. The County Council had advised that following forthcoming meetings with the Police, they would be in a position to confirm the arrangements for the commencement of the initiative.

RESOLVED

1. That the speed activation signs continue to be used throughout the Town to collect data on vehicle speed;
2. that registration of Murby Way, Braunstone Lane and Meridian Way to the Leicestershire County Council Community Speed Management Initiative be noted and pursued.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that data was collected on speeding vehicles to ascertain the level of the problem and implement appropriate action to help reduce speeding within Braunstone Town.*
2. *To consider all possible options and support for the management of speeding vehicles in Braunstone Town.*

135. Local Area Co-ordination

The Committee received a progress report concerning the priorities and achievements of the Local Area Co-ordination Project in Braunstone Town (item 9 on the agenda).

It was noted that the Local Area Coordinator was now receiving an increasing number of referrals and requests for support. A large amount of the referrals included residents suffering from loneliness, isolation and mental health difficulties due to the Covid -19 restrictions but under the current restrictions in place, local groups and events were unable to go ahead. As from 30th April the Local Area Co-ordinator would be attending the Braunstone Civic Centre between 1pm and 3pm to offer any support to vulnerable residents attending the Foodbank.

Following funding from Leicestershire County Council for Community Libraries that the Town Council had been successful in obtaining, work was ongoing to arrange several community events in the library over the coming year within any restrictions in place at the time. These events would provide opportunities for residents become involved in and help with loneliness and isolation. Consultation work with the community would also be carried out to ascertain what was required in the community.

It was also noted that work to obtain lateral flow testing kits for local residents was being investigated. An update on this was provided to members to advise that Leicestershire County Council was consulting on what opportunities were available to supply the kits to the community and what support or facilities the Town Council could offer.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reasons for Decision

To receive an update on the priorities and achievements of the Local Area Co-ordination Project in Braunstone Town.

136. Summer Fete 2021

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

Following the current easing of restrictions due to the Covid19 pandemic, early preparations for the summer fete 2021 had commenced. Application forms for stalls had been sent to previous stall holders inviting them to participate in this year's events and applications were now being received. Bookings had also been made for Go karts, a food stall and donkey rides. Restrictions due to covid 19 would need to be considered during the arrangements of the fete.

RESOLVED that the approach be supported.

Reason for Decision

To enable a community event to take place in a covid secure environment.

137. Programme of Events 2021/2022

The Committee considered the merits and arrangements for running a Programme of Events in 2021/2022, in the context of potential Covid-19 restrictions (item 11 on the agenda).

It was suggested that local groups be contacted to ascertain their thoughts and willingness to participate in the Programme of Events 2021/2022. It was agreed that any programme of events suggested should be minimal and flexible in order to comply with any covid-19 restrictions put in place at the time of the events. However, members were keen to ensure events were arranged to encourage residents to return to events and activities and give them confidence that this could be done safely. It was also suggested that some events could be arranged outside.

RESOLVED

1. that the principle of undertaking a Programme of Events for the 2021/2022 autumn / winter season, based on the criteria set out at Appendix 1, be approved; and
2. that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk to approve the programme, events, dates, and capacity taking into account Covid-19 regulations and restrictions and to make any changes or adjustments to the approved programme if required.

Reason for Decision

1. *To confirm the format of the Programme of Events for 2021/2022 within any restrictions in place due to Covid-19.*
2. *To ensure flexibility in any schedule that was approved and to allow for any changes in Covid -19 regulations / restrictions to ensure that events planned or suitable alternatives could go ahead in a Covid-19 secure environment.*

138. Summary of Grant Applications

The Committee received a list of grants paid to date and applied for from external sources (item 12 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.

139. Community Grant Applications

The Committee noted that no Community Grant Applications had been received.

140. Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces

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

It was noted that grant applications towards the funding of the Shakespeare Park playground project had been made to Tesco Community Fund and Severn Trent Community Fund. The Tesco application had been successful and £1000 had been granted towards the Shakespeare Park playground project. The application to Severn Trent had been refused due to the high number of applications received and the Town Council would not be able to reapply for the grant for the same project. An application had also been submitted to the Suez Community Fund but due to the location of Shakespeare Park this was not eligible as the boundary criteria did not extend to the park. Very few funding sources were available for the projects requiring a grant with one last application currently being drawn up for the National Lottery.

Following a site visit with the contractor of the Shakespeare Park pavilion and the tennis court refurbishment, it was agreed that the surface to the tennis courts required further work than anticipated due to soft tarmac and damage caused by the use of the courts as an equipment compound for the pavilion work. This would add a further £20,000 to the anticipated costs of the court refurbishment. A recommendation would be made to the next Policy & Resources Committee that savings made on both the Pavilion and the tennis works be used, along with money from the Town Council reserves, to finance the works to the tennis court. This would allow the work to the tennis courts to go ahead rather than delay the opening whilst funding is sourced.

141. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 (item 15 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

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

142. Approval of Accounts

The Committee considered payments from 1st February 2021 until 31st March 2021 (item 16 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions for the period 1st February 2021 until 31st March 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 9.10pm.

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: _____