

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

18TH NOVEMBER 2021 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Darshan Singh (Town Mayor), Councillor Satindra Sangha (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Nick Brown, Alex Dewinter, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Sohan Johal, Leanne Lee, Rebecca Lunn-Scoppie, Sam Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Tracey Shepherd, Christiane Startin-Lorent, Marion Waterton and Robert Waterton.

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

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

COUNCILLOR DARSHAN SINGH, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5977 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ajmer Basra, Parminder Basra, Paul Kennedy and Dipen Nathwani.

5978 Disclosures of Interest

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

5979 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 were no members of the public present at the meeting.

5980 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 23rd September 2021 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Town Mayor and was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 23rd September 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5981 Medium Term Priorities and Financial Planning

The Council received a report setting out the context for the Council's medium-term priorities and financial planning, alongside the Treasury Management, Investment and Reserves Strategy (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 attached at Appendix 1, based on known financial pressures identified in the report, be noted;
2. that the Council's Priorities and Objectives, attached at Appendix 2, be used as the basis for calculating the annual budget and any external funding sought;
3. that the Council's General Reserves be used to invest in infrastructure and assets and in the development and remodelling of services, including the Town Council's operations; and
4. that the Financial, Treasury Management, Investment and Reserves Strategies, as set out in the report, be adopted.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To provide a foundation for preparing budget estimates for 2022/2023 and beyond.*
2. *To ensure the Council focusses its activity and spending on its key priorities and objectives given the future financial uncertainties.*
3. *To ensure the highest possible standards within the resources available in the future.*
4. *To effectively manage the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, taking into account the associated risks.*

5982 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Darshan Singh, announced that on 25th September he presented a clock to Senior Grounds man, Ian Kennett for 25 years' service to the Town Council.

On 21st October he hosted a thank you event for the Covid-19 Community Response volunteers.

The Festival of Remembrance, held at De Montfort Hall on 30th October, was attended by the Town Mayor along with the Armistice Day service at Braunstone Civic Centre Memorial Garden and the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Crispin's Church on 14th November.

On Saturday 20th November the Town Mayor would be hosting the annual Christmas Craft Fair at Braunstone Civic Centre and would be running a stall to raise funds for his chosen charity – Macmillan.

b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown reported that he had no announcements to make.

c) Executive Officer & Town Clerk

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk announced that a problem had been encountered with the heating system in the Civic Centre. The Council's Business Continuity Plan and the Urgency Policies had been activated to deal with the matter. The boiler had been replaced and was now fully working.

5983 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5984 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 8th October 2021

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 7th October 2021 (p7287 – p7293).

Page 7289, Minute 42 – Crime Statistics

Councillor Amanda Hack enquired if the new Police Sergeant would be attending the meeting of the Community Development committee on 9th December 2021. It was confirmed that he would be attending.

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5985 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 28th October 2021

Council received the Report of the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 28th October 2021 (p7294– p7304).

Page 7295, Minute 43 – Shakespeare Park – Improvement & Development

Councillor Nick Brown enquired if the contractor undertaking the refurbishment of the Tennis Court had confirmed the appointment. It was noted that the Purchase Order had been forwarded and confirmation was awaited.

Page 7301, Minute 56 – Carbon Audit

Councillor Nick Brown advised councillors that if they had not responded to the questionnaire regarding their mode of transport to and from Town Council business, to do so as soon as possible.

Page 7302, Minute 59 – Conversion of Lighting to LED – Braunstone Town Library

Councillor Amanda Hack enquired if the grant application to the Shire Environment Grant would be considered in the forthcoming round. It was confirmed that it would be.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5986 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 4th November 2021

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 4th November 2021 (p7305– p7319).

Page 7317, Minute 56 – Draft Character Appraisal for Braunstone Village

Councillor Sam Maxwell advised a motion would be submitted to Blaby District Council to support the process for considering a conservation area in Braunstone Village.

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that details of the proposed conservation area had been included in the November edition of the Braunstone Life along with a survey of residents' views on the proposal.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5987 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5988 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

5989 County and District Councillor Reports

a) Leicestershire County Council

Apologies had been received from Councillor Louise Richardson, as County Councillor for Enderby and Lubbesthorpe Division.

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

The County Council had reported a budget deficit in both social care and education that would have a huge impact on residents. The Covid-19 pandemic had highlighted many more people in need of social care and long-term Covid-19 was now having an impact.

Budgets for schools were also in deficit with Leicestershire County schools having the most poorly funded total per student. Less services were now available for pupils with special needs due to budget pressures.

Leicestershire County Council would be applying for funding from the County Deal proposed by central government but this was a competitive process and the County would have to bid for funding.

Scrutiny Panels had been considering:

- (a) Forward Planning for next few years and would include public consultation.
- (b) The impact of eating disorders which has the highest fatality rate of all mental health conditions and had a 52% increase in one year.
- (c) Defibrillator information.
- (d) East Midlands Ambulance Service – delays in relaying patients from ambulances to the hospitals. Hospitals running at 95% capacity and there was a slow flow through the hospital procedures.
- (e) Climate Change and tree planting strategy.
- (e) Dentistry capacity was a concern as there was little capacity in NHS dental practices.
- (f) Black Maternity Mortality Rate was a concern.

Councillor Bob Waterton enquired about integrated health care in Braunstone Town.

b) Blaby District Council

Councillor Sam Maxwell, as District Councillor for Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward, reported on the following matters:

- (a) Scrutiny panels were considering forthcoming budgets and advised that training would be given to councillors on financial planning.
- (b) Working group was considering the Local Plan, affordable/social housing, open spaces and fly tipping.

Councillor Nick Brown reported on the local government boundary commission proposals to reduce the number of District Councillors to 36. Braunstone Town Council would want to retain suitable ward names for Braunstone Town.

Councillor Amanda Hack requested an update on the temporary closure of Huncote pavilion due to the discovery of methane gas on site. She

asked for an update on the situation regarding the staff and Sure Start Centre on site.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

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: _____