

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

24TH JUNE 2021 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Darshan Singh (Town Mayor), Councillor Satindra Sangha (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Ajmer Basra, Shabbir Aslam, Parminder Basra, Nick Brown, Alex DeWinter, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Sohan Johal, Paul Kennedy, Leanne Lee, Rebecca Lunn-Scoppie, Sam Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Dipen Nathwani, 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 two members of the public present at the meeting.

COUNCILLOR DARSHAN SINGH, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5945 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Tracey Shepherd.

5946 Disclosures of Interest

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

5947 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 two members of the public present at the meeting.

5948 Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 13th May 2021 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

Councillor Nick Brown moved approval of the minutes which was seconded by Councillor Amanda Hack and was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 13th May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5949 Internal Audit Report 2020/2021 and Internal Audit arrangements 2021/2022

The Committee received the Internal Auditor's Report in respect of compliance with relevant procedures and controls in operation during the financial year ended 31st March 2021 and to appoint an Internal Auditor for 2021/2022 (item 5 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED

1. that the observations of the Internal Audit (attached at Appendix 1 of the report) and confirmation of compliance with the internal control objectives (attached at Appendix 2 of the report) be received and noted;
2. that the recommendations for improvement, along with the proposed response, as set out in the Internal Audit Improvement Action Plan (attached at Appendix 3 of the report), be adopted; and
3. that the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils Internal Audit Service be appointed to undertake the Town Council's Internal Audit for the Year Ending 31st March 2022.

Reasons for Decision

1. The Internal Auditor, having tested all the aspects of the Council's internal controls, was satisfied that in all significant respects the internal control objectives were achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the Council's needs.
2. To ensure that the observations of the Internal Audit would be addressed with appropriate and balanced measures.
3. To ensure arrangements were in place for compliance with Accounts and Audit Regulations.

5950 Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021

The Committee received a report to ensure sound systems of internal control, including the management of risk and the preparation of accounting statements during the financial year ended 31st March 2021 and to authorise the completion and submission of the Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 accordingly (item 6 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED that the systems of internal control and management of risk, as set out in the report and at Appendix 1, be approved and confirmed as sound; and that Section 1, Annual Governance Statement 2020/21, of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/2021, attached at Appendix 2 of the report, be completed, signed and submitted accordingly.

Reason for Decision

Having reviewed the control measures for each of the areas listed on the Annual Governance Statement and the assessment of risks facing the Council and associated mitigating measures, the Corporate Governance Sub-Committee were confident that to the best of their knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31st March 2021, there were sound systems of internal control and management of risk.

5951 Accounting Statements 2020/2021

The Committee received the End of Year Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2021 and to adopt and submit the Accounting Statements 2020/2021 accordingly (item 7 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED

1. that Section 2, Accounting Statements 2020/21, of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2021, attached at Appendix 9 of the report, be completed, signed and submitted accordingly; and
2. that an explanatory statement be published with the Accounts setting out the background to the increase in borrowing in respect of the value of the asset and the payments made towards the construction of the new Shakespeare Park Pavilion.

Reasons for Decision

1. The Corporate Governance Sub-Committee, having carried out an assessment of the effectiveness of the Council's financial arrangements, concluded that there were sound systems of internal control. The Internal Auditor, having reviewed the annual accounts, found the Accounting Statements to have been prepared on the correct basis and were supported by adequate audit trails to underlying records.
2. The Council had drawn down funds to pay for the cost of the new Shakespeare Park Pavilion; once the builder had completed the works and handed over the facility to the Council, the asset would appear on the fixed assets list.

5952 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Darshan Singh announced that to date he had not attended any engagements but the Braunstone Town Summer Fete would take place on Mossdale Meadows on Saturday 7th August and he invited all councillors to attend.

Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown advised that there had been a rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in the district and urged everyone to continue to follow government guidelines. He also reported that mobile testing centre had now been established on the Braunstone Working Men's club car park for residents to access.

In accordance with Standing Order 4.116, the Leader invited Councillor Kennedy to report to the Council that the Braunstone Community Minibus would not be continuing its service once all the Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

The Executive Officer and Town Clerk invited the Town Mayor to present Mrs Pauline Snow with an engraved vase to recognise 25 years' service to the Town Council.

5953 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5954 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 20th May 2021

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment meeting held on 20th May 2021 (p7195 – p7200).

It was moved by Councillor Bob Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5955 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 20th May 2021

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 20th May 2021 (p7201 – p7206).

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5956 Reports of Standing Committees: Corporate Governance Sub-Committee – 10th June 2021

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Corporate Governance Sub-Committee held on 10th June 2021 (p7207– p7210).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5957 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 10th June 2021

Council received the Report of the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee held on 10th June 2021 (p7211– p7218).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5958 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 17th June 2021

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 17th June 2021 (p7219– p7231).

Page 7228, Minute18 - Lubbesthorpe

Councillor Alex DeWinter suggested that a presentation was made to the Planning & Environment Committee on the progress and Section 106 monies from the new Lubbesthorpe development. It was noted that information on the development should be provided by Blaby District Council. Councillor Amanda Hack suggested that clarity was required on where and how information on the Lubbesthorpe development could be obtained.

Councillor Nick Brown suggested that District Councillors ought to raise these matters through the formal mechanisms that existed at Blaby District Council.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5959 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5960 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

5961 County and District Councillor Reports

a) Leicestershire County Council

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

- a) Scrutiny committee was considering meeting dates in order to avoid school holidays
- b) Hospital review consultation was currently underway
- c) Briefing sessions would be considering the following points:
 - i. Climate Change Emergency;
 - ii. Divisions of Environment and Transport Scrutiny meetings;

- iii. Air quality in the environment and transport;
- iv. Flood areas in the County;
- v. Ongoing mental health consultation;
- vi. Consultation on providing equivalent services at all GP surgeries;
- vii. Covid-19 and the Delta variant within the County;
- viii. Increase in testing and concern at spikes in covid cases within schools in the area.

b) Blaby District Council

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

- a) Councillor Phil Moitt was congratulated on becoming Chairman of Blaby District Council for 2021/2022;
- b) The first briefing on the electoral review had held with consideration being made on the district, population and the appropriate number of councillors required;
- c) The Scrutiny Committee had Blaby District Council had three commissioners to oversee Performance, Finance and Climate;
- d) Training on planning issues had been undertaken;
- e) An appeal was being considered on the legal resumption for councils to return to face-to-face council meetings. A response had been submitted to a Government Consultation on the merits of online/hybrid meetings;
- f) Air Quality monitoring report had been received and would be forwarded to DEFRA to apply for funding to undertake the proposed action plans in the report.

Councillor Phil Moitt advised the Council that he had chosen Rainbows for his charity to support for his year as Blaby District Council Chairman and is planning on arranging fund raising events later in the year. A Just Giving Page has been set up and he invited the councillors to support his fundraising effort.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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: _____