

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

THURSDAY 15th DECEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Councillor Nick Brown (Chair), Councillor Amanda Hack (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Sohan Johal, Leanne Lee, Sam Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Tracey Shepherd, Darshan Singh (substituting for Councillor Shabbir Aslam) and Christiane Startin-Lorent (substituting for Councillor Robert Waterton).

Councillor Rebecca Lunn Scoppie was also in attendance.

Officers in Attendance: Darren Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk.

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

61. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shabbir Aslam and Robert Waterton.

62. Disclosures of Interest

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

63. 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 at the meeting.

64. Blaby District Council – Proposed Community Governance Review of Braunstone Parish

The Committee received a report concerning a Community Governance Review of the parish of Braunstone (item 4 on the agenda).

The Committee received a supplementary report setting out the context and the implications of Blaby District Council's decision on Tuesday 14th December 2021 to conduct a Community Governance Review of the governance arrangements in the parish of Braunstone; along with recommendations on how Braunstone Town Council should respond (filed with these minutes).

RESOLVED

1. That the *Context and Impact on Braunstone Town*, as detailed in the respective sections of the Supplementary Report submitted to the Committee, be supported and endorsed;
2. Braunstone Town Council support a Community Governance Review of the arrangements in Braunstone Parish in either of the following circumstances:
 - (a) receipt a Community Governance petition, signed by 7.5% of the electorate of the parish of Braunstone (in accordance with Section 80 (3) (c) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as amended by The Legislative Reform (Community Governance Reviews) Order 2015) calling for such a review; or
 - (b) there being material changes to the parish, such as a large scale development, since the last Community Governance Review in 2011;
3. that where any Community Governance Review takes place, any recommendation to split the existing parish and create a new parish of Thorpe Astley must have the support of the majority of electors of the whole parish;
4. that Braunstone Town Council have no role in supporting or facilitating the Community Governance Review process, except where the circumstances set out in 2 above apply;
5. that a report be submitted to Policy & Resources Committee, scheduled for 24th February 2022, setting out the Town Council's proposed formal response to the Community Governance consultation for consideration and submission; and
6. that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to take such action as necessary to facilitate the discharging of actions, tasks, functions or responsibilities in pursuit of 1 to 5 above.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To recognise that the potential impact of any changes to the arrangements in Braunstone Parish were disproportionate compared to the level of evidence gathered from residents to justify a need for a Community Governance Review.*
2. *To recognise that citizens of a place had the ultimate right to request changes to how they were governed and that significant changes to the nature and population of an area could result in the need to review the effectiveness of how a place was governed in order to improve community engagement, bring communities closer together, create better local democracy and provide for more efficient delivery of local services.*
3. *To recognise that all residents were entitled to good and efficient government, improved community engagement and efficient delivery of local services.*
4. *Given the Town Council's limited and pressurised resources, along with the evidence and rationale behind Blaby District Council's decision on 14th December 2021 to undertake a Community Governance Review of Braunstone Parish; the Town Council did not see any community, governance or public service benefit from refocussing its priorities and*

- resources to support the review process.*
5. *To ensure that the facts and impact resulting from any proposed split to the Parish of Braunstone and associated changes were clearly set out to Blaby District Council in the Town Council's consultation response.*
 6. *To ensure effective and timely implementation of actions in support of the authorised decisions of the Committee and therefore the associated position taken by Braunstone Town Council.*

65. Urgent Decision – Covid-19 Delegations to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk

The Committee considered whether to receive an urgent item in respect of Covid-19 delegations.

RESOLVED that an urgent item, Covid-19 Delegations to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, be considered.

Reason for Urgency

The news of the recent spread of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 and uncertainty around its impact had developed since the publication of the agenda and there was a significant likelihood that decisions would need to be made in response prior to the next scheduled meeting on 13th January 2022.

The Committee considered reinstating the Covid-19 Delegations to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk (additional urgent item 5 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Covid-19 Delegations to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, attached as Appendix 1 of the report, be approved on a fixed term until the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee, scheduled for 13th January 2022.

Reason for Decision

To provide flexibility to respond to the ongoing and evolving Covid-19 situation, providing an open and transparent approach for this to be achieved under the Council's existing governance arrangements and structures.

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: _____