

**BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**HELD USING ZOOM VIDEO AND WEB CONFERENCING SOFTWARE**

**THURSDAY 8th APRIL 2021 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Nick Brown (Chair), Councillor Amanda Hack (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Leanne Lee, Sam Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Satindra Sangha, Darshan Singh, Tracey Shepherd and Robert Waterton.

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

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

**185. Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Shabbir Aslam.

**186. Disclosures of Interest**

A disclosure of Non-Pecuniary Interest was made by Councillor Nick Brown, Councillor Amanda Hack, Councillor Robert Waterton and the Executive Officer & Town Clerk in agenda item 4, Report of Independent Investigator on the handling of Internal Disputes, due to their involvement, at various stages, with the case.

**187. 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.

**188. Report of Independent Investigator on the handling of Internal Disputes**

**RESOLVED** that in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press/public be excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). *Reason for exception – Personal Information.*

The Committee received the report and considered the findings and recommendations of the independent investigation into the handling of internal disputes (item 4 on the agenda).

The independent investigator, and report author, Danny Moody, Chief Executive of Northants County Association of Local Councils, attended part of the session to provide an overview of his work and findings and to answer questions.

## RESOLVED

1. that the Investigation Report's (attached at Appendix 2 to the item circulated to Councillors with the agenda) overall findings that Braunstone Town Council had not done anything wrong nor disadvantaged the complainant in any way, be noted;
2. that the Conclusions and Findings, at paragraph 7, and the Recommendations for Braunstone Town Council, at paragraph 9.1, of the Investigation Report be referred to the next scheduled ordinary meeting of Policy & Resources Committee, alongside a report setting out Braunstone Town Council's proposed response; and
3. that the Investigation Report not be released to the parties until Braunstone Town Council's response, referred to in resolution 2 above, had been approved.

### *Reasons for Decision*

1. *The report found that Braunstone Town Council, including those acting on its behalf, had acted fairly, reasonably and proportionately; had handled the complaints in a fair and reasonable manner; and that there was no evidence that the complainant had been discriminated against, isolated or ostracised on the grounds of disability.*
2. *To enable the Committee's deliberation of the report, its conclusions, findings and recommendations, to be fully considered and for a detailed response to be prepared for the Committee's consideration.*
3. *To enable the Council, who had commissioned and paid for the report in order to be identify whether any lessons could be learned, had determined any actions necessary in response to the findings and recommendations. Any party who was interested in receiving a copy of the Investigation Report would then have the Council's agreed response and actions, therefore concluding the matter.*

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_