

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

12TH MAY 2022 at 8.00PM

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

Officer in Attendance: Darren Tilley, Chief Executive & Town Clerk, Pauline Snow, Deputy Chief Executive & Community Services Manager and Debbie Almey, Personal Assistant & Administrative Officer.

There were 8 members of the public present at the meeting.

COUNCILLOR DARSHAN SINGH, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

6019 Election of Town Mayor

As retiring Town Mayor, Councillor Darshan Singh called for nominations for the Office of Town Mayor for the year 2022/2023.

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

RESOLVED that Councillor Satindra Sangha be elected Town Mayor for 2022/2023.

Councillor Satindra Sangha duly signed the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested with the Chain of Office by his predecessor, Councillor Darshan Singh.

COUNCILLOR SATINDRA SANGHA, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

Councillor Satindra Sangha announced that her son Daniel, would be her Consort during her year as Town Mayor and that her Charity for the year would contribute to Rainbows Children's Hospice. A representative from the organisation addressed Council setting out their work.

6020 Vote of thanks to Retiring Town Mayor

Council considered a vote of thanks to the retiring Town Mayor, Councillor Darshan Singh.

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

RESOLVED that Councillor Darshan Singh be thanked for his service to the Town as Town Mayor and that Councillor Sohan Johal be thanked for his service to the Town and support to the Town Mayor as Consort.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Satindra Sangha then presented Councillor Darshan Singh with his Past Town Mayor's Medallion.

6021 Election of Deputy Town Mayor

The Town Mayor called for nominations for the Office of Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2022/2023.

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

RESOLVED that Councillor Tracey Shepherd be elected Deputy Town Mayor for 2022/2023.

Councillor Tracey Shepherd duly signed the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested with the Deputy Town Mayor's Badge of Office by the Town Mayor.

6022 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

6023 Disclosures of Interest

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

6024 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 8 members of the public present at the meeting.

6025 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 24th March 2022 were circulated (item 7 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 24th March 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

6026 Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Scheme of Delegation and Councillor Code of Conduct

Council reviewed the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Scheme of delegation and Councillor Code of Conduct (item 8 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED

1. that the proposed amendments to the Council's Standing Orders, as set out in the report, be approved;
2. that that the proposed amendments to the Council's Financial Regulations, as set out in the report, be approved;
3. that the proposed amended Braunstone Town Council Councillor Code of Conduct, attached at Appendix 1 as highlighted, be approved, with the inclusion of the replacement Appendix A on Interests; and
4. that, as a result of 1 to 3 above, delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to renumber paragraphs and update cross-references accordingly.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To give clarity to intended meaning and to provide for better discussion and engagement with the business of the Council and its Committees.*
2. *To accommodate provisions identified by the internal audit and to update references to reflect current policy.*
3. *Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils and local Monitoring Officers had proposed a "local" model code and relevant changes, including the proposed Appendix on Interests, had been incorporated into the Town Council's Councillor Code of Conduct to provide a consistent approach, particularly for those Councillors who served on other authorities.*
4. *To enable the administrative changes resulting from the agreed additions and amendments to be applied to ensure consistency and accuracy.*

6027 Appointment of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council

Council considered the appointment of Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council for the Council Year 2022/2023.

It was proposed by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and seconded by Councillor Robert Waterton and was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Nick Brown be elected Leader of the Council and Councillor Amanda Hack be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for 2022/2023.

6028 Establishment of Standing Committees, Sub-Committees and Advisory Panels

Council considered establishing, confirming terms of reference, and making appointments to Standing Committees, Sub-Committees and Advisory Panels, including appointment of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons (item 10 on the agenda).

The proposed appointments were circulated (filed with these minutes), which was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Amanda Hack and was:

RESOLVED

1. that the following Standing Committees be established, the terms of reference approved and the members be appointed, including to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, as follows:

Appeals Committee (3 members)

Responsibility for considering all appeals provided for under the Council's Policy & Procedures, including staffing appeals (disciplinary, dismissal, grievance, job evaluation) and complaints appeals.

Cllr Amanda Hack (Chair)
Cllr Shabbir Aslam (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Leanne Lee

Community Development Committee (11 members)

Terms of Reference as set out under the scheme of delegation to Committees.

Cllr Anthea Ambrose (Chair)
Cllr Tracey Shepherd (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Ajmer Basra
Cllr Nick Brown
Cllr Sam Fox-Kennedy
Cllr Amanda Hack
Cllr Paul Kennedy
Cllr Sam Maxwell
Cllr Dipen Nathwani
Cllr Christiane Startin-Lorent
Cllr Marion Waterton

Employing Committee (3 members)

Responsibility for recruitment and selection and overall management, including appraisal and disciplinary, of the Council's Chief Executive & Town Clerk.

Cllr Nick Brown (Chair)
Cllr Anthea Ambrose (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Phil Moitt

Planning & Environment Committee (10 members, plus Heritage Warden Ex-Officio)

Terms of Reference as set out under the scheme of delegation to Committees.

Cllr Robert Waterton (Chair)
Cllr Parminder Basra (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Anthea Ambrose
Cllr Sohan Johal
Cllr Leanne Lee
Cllr Becca Lunn Scoppie
Cllr Phil Moitt
Cllr Darshan Singh
Cllr Christiane Startin-Lorent
Cllr Marion Waterton
Mr John Dodd (Ex-Officio)

Policy & Resources Committee (11 members)

Terms of Reference as set out under the scheme of delegation to Committees.

Cllr Nick Brown (Chair)
Cllr Amanda Hack (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Anthea Ambrose
Cllr Shabbir Aslam
Cllr Alex DeWinter
Cllr Sohan Johal
Cllr Leanne Lee
Cllr Sam Maxwell
Cllr Phil Moitt
Cllr Tracey Shepherd
Cllr Robert Waterton

2. that the following Sub-Committees and Advisory Panels be established, the terms of reference approved and that the members be appointed, including to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, as follows:

Braunstone Town Citizens' Advisory Panel (5 members)

Terms of Reference as set out under the scheme of delegation to Committees.

Cllr Phil Moitt (Chair)
Cllr Leanne Lee (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Parminder Basra
Cllr Becca Lunn Scoppie
Cllr Darshan Singh

Civic Centre Facilities Improvements Sub Committee (3 members)

To advise on and shortlist both the tenders received and the Changing Places quotes for the Civic Centre Facilities Improvements.

Cllr Nick Brown (Chair)
Cllr Anthea Ambrose
Cllr Robert Waterton

Corporate Governance Sub Committee (4 members)

Responsibility for detailed oversight of the Council's Financial, Corporate Governance and Risk Arrangements, including Audit.

Cllr Nick Brown (Chair)
Cllr Amanda Hack (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Anthea Ambrose
Cllr Phil Moitt

Shakespeare Park Improvement Project Sub Committee (3 members)

To advise on and develop detailed proposals for the redevelopment and improvement of the Shakespeare Park recreation and pavilion facilities.

Cllr Nick Brown (Chair)
Cllr Amanda Hack
Cllr Sam Maxwell

Reason for Decision

To enable the efficient and effective transaction of the Council's business.

6029 Appointments to Outside Bodies

Council considered appointing representatives to Outside Bodies and reviewed arrangements for reporting back (item 11 on the agenda).

The proposed appointments were circulated (filed with these minutes), which was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Amanda Hack and was:

RESOLVED that appointments be made to Outside Bodies, with reporting back arrangements, as follows:

- a) Braunstone West Social Centre (1 member)
To report to the Community Development Committee.
Cllr Phil Moitt

- b) Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils – Annual General Meeting (1 member)
To report to the Policy & Resources Committee.
Cllr Robert Waterton

Reason for Decision

To ensure appointments were made where there were requests for the Town Council to be represented and to ensure that Councillors had the opportunity to receive feedback and engage with the work of outside bodies.

6030 Annual Report 2022

The Council received, for consideration and adoption, the Annual Report 2022/2023 (item 12 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED that the Annual Report 2022, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be received and adopted.

Reason for Decision

To report on the Town Council's achievements and to set out its priorities for the forthcoming year.

6031 Schedule of Meetings

Council received the proposed Schedule of Meetings for 2022/2023 for consideration and adoption (item 13 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED that the schedule of Council and Committee Meetings for 2022/2023, as circulated as item 13 on the agenda, be approved.

Reason for Decision

To enable the Town Council to undertake its business and meet its statutory obligations.

6032 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Satindra Sangha, made the following announcements:

- (a) that her first engagement would be at Friar Lane & Braunstone Baptist Church's 60th Anniversary celebration to be held on 21st May; and
- (b) on the 19th June the Town Mayor will also be formally opening the new Shakespeare Park Pavilion facilities and there would be a family open day.

b) Leader of the Council

Councillor Nick Brown commented on the recent Community Governance Review and advised that only 11 responses had been received by Blaby District Council, which favoured a change. As a result Blaby District Council had resolved to take no further action. The Leader added that Braunstone Town Council had not supported the review and thanked residents and community organisations for positively supporting the Town Council's case.

c) Chief Executive and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

6033 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 7th April 2022

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 7th April 2022 (p7411 – 7419).

Page 7412, Minute 93 – Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

Councillor Bob Waterton advised that there had been a decrease in the number of motorbikes using the footpaths at Thorpe Astley and that he had sent a message of thanks to the Police Beat Team for their action on this.

Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent advised that in other areas of Thorpe Astley the incidents of motorbikes using public footpaths was still prevalent.

Councillor Sam Maxwell reported that issues with youths gathering in Shakespeare Park car park had now been resolved.

Councillor Anthea Ambrose advised that the police be advised of any incidents in order to monitor ongoing situations.

Page 7413, Minute 94 – Celebration of her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

Councillor Amanda Hack was pleased to note that the Town Council was supporting events in the community to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee including a Jubilee Coffee Morning in the Library run by the volunteers and a “Picnic in the Park” at Thorpe Astley Community Centre run by Pop Up Care.

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

6034 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 28th April 2022

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 28th April 2022 (p7420 – p7432).

Page 7426, Minute 114 – Community Governance Review – Proposed Braunstone Town Council Response

Councillor Nick Brown enquired if any formal response had yet been received from Blaby District Council regarding sharing the results from the public consultation in order that the Town Council could determine whether it could address any concerns.

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk advised that a request had been submitted but, to date, no response had been received.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

6035 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 5th May 2022

Council received the Report of the meeting of Planning & Environment Committee held on 5th May 2022 (p7433– p7443).

It was moved by Councillor Bob Waterton and

RESOLVED that the report by adopted.

6036 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

6037 County and District Councillor Reports

a) Leicestershire County Council

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

- i. Health Scrutiny Committee:
 - a) considered the impact of Covid -19 on NHS waiting lists; and
 - b) concerns were raised over the proposed closure of Forest House Surgery in Leicester Forest East
- ii. Environment Scrutiny Committee:
 - a) considered the Climate Change emergency;
 - b) planting of trees and review of tree strategy;
 - c) biodiversity and waste management consultation;
 - d) management of water quality as no improvement since 2015 and 2024 deadline would not be reached; and
 - e) petition raised against the closure of the surgery had been presented to the CCG in January 2022.

Councillor Bob Waterton expressed concern over the proposed closure of the Forest House Surgery and the loss of services for the local residents.

Councillor Louise Richardson, as County Councillor for Enderby and Lubbethorpe Division reported on the following matters:

- i. Mental health issues and covid recovery;
- ii. The same support was required for mental health issues as for physical health;
- iii. The NHS and District Councils were working on an integrated care system to bring services to neighbourhoods; and
- iv. Thorpe Astley – more police now present with regards to parking on pavements.

b) Blaby District Council

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

- a. at the annual meeting an update on the National Freight Exchange was received;
- b. Huncote land fill management plan established with recruitment of Contaminated Land Officer;
- c. Community Governance Review – disappointment that no formal response received from Blaby District Council; and
- d. Annual Scrutiny Reported on
 - i. Affordable housing
 - ii. New Local Plan
 - iii. Improve number of affordable houses

Councillor Amanda Hack commented on the building on former landfill sites and noted that waste is not degrading as fast as previously thought.

Councillor Ben Taylor, as District Councillor for Winstanley Ward reported on the following matters:

- a. Huncote landfill site;
- b. unmet housing needs; and
- c. Blaby fleet vehicle conversion to HVO

Councillor Nick Brown queried if joint working could be done between the district and Town Council on the procurement and conversion of fleet vehicles.

Councillor Amanda Hack commented on the Community Governance Review and expressed concern that formal response regarding the consultation had not yet been received from the District Council.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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: