

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE**

26TH SEPTEMBER 2019 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Parminder Basra (Town Mayor), Councillor Darshan Singh (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Ajmer Basra, Nick Brown, David Di Palma, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Sam Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Satindra Sangha, Tracey Shepherd, Christiane Startin-Lorent, Imran Uddin, Marion Waterton and Robert Waterton.

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

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

COUNCILLOR PARMINDER BASRA, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5781 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alex Dewinter, Amanda Hack and Bill Wright.

5782 Disclosures of Interest

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

5783 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 three members of the public present at the meeting.

A gentleman and a lady introduced themselves as representatives of Mossdale Residents Association, which covered the area from Kingsway to Shakespeare Close. The Association was aiming to foster community spirit, reduce isolation and mental health issues, clean up the community and take action to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Town Mayor thanked the residents for introducing themselves and advised of a Mental Health Awareness session being held at Braunstone Civic Centre on 10th October between 10am and 12noon, which was being run by the Town Mayor's Charity, Life Links.

Councillor Nick Brown also thanked the residents for introducing themselves and stated that the initiative was a welcome and positive development for the

community. Councillor Brown advised that once the Association was formally established with a constitution that the Town Council could assist the group through its Community Grants Scheme and Community Group room hire rates.

5784 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 27th June 2019 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Parminder Basra and seconded by Councillor Nick Brown and was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 27th June 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5785 Co-Option to Vacancy on the Council

Council considered expressions of interest in order to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy on the Council for the Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward (item 5 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Shabbir Aslam and seconded by Councillor Satindra Sangha that consideration of the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Council (scheduled for 21st November 2019). The reason given was to enable another resident, who had expressed an interest to Councillors in being co-opted to the vacancy, to be considered. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated.

A Notice of vacancy in the Office of Town Councillor was published on 15th July 2019 for the Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward, due to resignation of Sharon Betts. A request for an election was not received within the required 14 days.

Public elections would not be held until May 2023; therefore, for the interim period the vacancy could be filled by co-option, voted for by the incumbent members of Braunstone Town Council.

On 20th August 2019 the Town Council published a notice setting out its intention to co-opt to the vacancy. An application was received from Sohan Johal of 19 Woodcote Road.

The candidate addressed Council explaining how he intended to serve as a Town Councillor.

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Tracey Shepherd and was

RESOLVED that Sohan Johal be co-opted as a Town Councillor to fill the vacancy for Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward.

Reason for Decision

The submission provided background on Sohan Johal, who had set out how he would serve as a member of the Town Council and the Council considered him suitable to serve as a Town Councillor.

Councillor Johal duly signed the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took up his seat on the Council.

5786 Shakespeare Park Improvement & Development – Borrowing Application

Council considered a report, setting out a recommendation of Policy & Resources Committee of 22nd August 2019, to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to borrow up to £936,936 towards the cost of the Pavilion and Site Improvement Works (including demolition of the existing clubhouse) at Shakespeare Park (item 6 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Sam Maxwell and was

RESOLVED

1. that the detailed arrangements and justification for the Shakespeare Park Improvement Project, as set out in the report, including the Business Plan (attached at Appendix 6), be supported and endorsed;
2. that approval in principle be sought from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to borrow up to £936,936 (£500,000 in 2019/2020 and up to an additional £436,936 in 2020/2021) over the borrowing term of no more than 40 years, with annual repayments estimated at £34,678.30, towards the cost of the Pavilion and Site Improvement Works (including demolition of the existing clubhouse) at Shakespeare Park;
3. that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk to prepare and submit the borrowing application in accordance with the requirements (as set out at Appendix 3 of the report) and to apply to the Public Works Loan Board to draw down the funds at the appropriate time in order to meet the costs of the project;
4. that it be noted that the Council had already made provision for £21,306 within its revenue budget towards meeting the loan repayments, as detailed in the report; and that it was intended to meet the remaining cost of funding the loan repayments by increasing the Council Tax Precept by 2.2%, which was the equivalent of an additional £2.74 per year on a band D property and £2.13 per year on a typical band B property; and
5. that £53,707 be earmarked in the Council's Reserves towards the project reserve for the Pavilion and Site Improvement Works at Shakespeare Park and £4,000 be earmarked in the Council's Reserves towards the project reserve for the refurbishment of the playground and tennis courts at Shakespeare Park.

Reasons for Decision

1. *The project would enable an increase in sport participation and improve recreation and play facilities in a Ward which had high rankings of multiple deprivation across a range of domains, including income, employment and education and had the worst proportion of overweight or obese children in the County of Leicestershire.*
2. *To enable the Council to fund the project, which had been identified in the Council's Priorities, Financial Strategy and Capital Plan and for which provision had and would be made to finance the borrowing from the Council's Revenue Budget.*
3. *To enable the detailed supporting evidence to be gathered and submitted with the Council's application without undue delay. To ensure best financial management to meet the Project's costs.*
4. *The Council had made provisions to fund the loan through its medium term financial planning process, which included a combination of savings and precept rises. If outstanding grant applications were unsuccessful, the additional element of the borrowing would need to be funded through small rises in the council tax precept. A precept rise consultation had been undertaken between November 2018 and 1st April 2019.*
5. *To ensure that finance was available to enable the delivery of the works, should unforeseen costs occur or in the event that costs increase due to elapsed time.*

5787 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Parminder Basra, reported on her recent engagements as follows:

- (a) Summer Fete, 3rd August 2019, Mossdale Meadows: with good weather and a variety of stalls it had been a good day;
- (b) Allotment Open Day, 10th August 2019, Rosamund Avenue Allotment Site: the Town Mayor had given out the awards;
- (c) Blaby District Chairman's At Home Event, 21st September 2019; and
- (d) Licensing of The Revd David Hover, 23rd September 2019, Saint Andrew's Church, Hinckley Road, who would be the new priest for Braunstone Town.

The Town Mayor advised of forthcoming engagements as follows:

- (a) Coffee Morning and mental health wellbeing workshop, 10th October 2019, 10am – 12noon, Braunstone Civic Centre;
- (b) Diwali Celebration, 18th October 2019, 7.30pm, Braunstone Civic Centre: £6.50 per ticket was good value for a meal and entertainment;
- (c) Charity Dinner and Dance, 14th November 2019, 7.00pm, Bistro Live: half of the funds from ticket sales would be donated to the Town Mayor's Charity, Life Links.

b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, provided an update on the following matters:

- (a) Braunstone Town Library: The transfer agreements had been signed and the Library would transfer to the Town Council's management on Tuesday 1st October 2019. An official launch event had been arranged at the Library for Saturday 2nd November between 10am and 1pm. The Leader urged Councillors to promote opportunities for residents to volunteer and get involved. The Town Council's model had funding and staffing in place to run the Library and secured the service for the long term.
- (b) Remembrance Sunday: Discussions had been held at Citizens' Advisory Panel on 5th September 2019, following a letter in the Braunstone Life, on whether an act of remembrance should be held in the Civic Memorial Garden on Remembrance Sunday. While there was not time to organise an event this year, consultation would take place in 2020 with local organisations and community groups to develop a joint programme for annual remembrance events at the Civic Memorial.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5788 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5789 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 11th July 2019

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 11th July 2019 (p6780 – p6786).

Page 6780, Minute 26 – Public Participation

Councillor Robert Waterton drew attention to public attendance at the meeting in respect of application 19/0553/HH, 28 Holmfield Avenue East.

Pages 6781 - 6783, Minute 29 – Planning Applications and Licensing Applications

Councillor Robert Waterton drew attention to the Committee's resolutions to object to application 19/0553/HH, 28 Holmfield Avenue East and to object to application 19/0745/FUL, 107 Westover Road. Councillor Sam Maxwell added that the application relating to 107 Westover Road had been refused by Blaby District Council.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5790 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 11th July 2019

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 11th July 2019 (p6787– p6792).

Page 6789, Minute 21 – Speed Sign Data

Councillor Robert Waterton asked if the Committee had only considered matters relating to Braunstone Lane rather than Murby Way. In response Councillor Sam Maxwell confirmed that the data for Braunstone Lane had raised concerns and there had been considerable discussion at the Committee concerning how to address safety on Braunstone Lane. Councillor Sam Fox-Kennedy added that it was important that action was taken to address speeding on Braunstone Lane before there was a casualty.

Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent stated that at the meeting she had raised issues concerning road safety in Thorpe Astley, which included traffic calming measures.

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5791 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 8th August 2019

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 8th August 2019 (p6793 – p6800).

Page 6798, Minute 43 – Welcome Signage – Thorpe Astley

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that Leicestershire County Council had approved the principle provided the signs were funded and maintained by the Town Council.

Councillor Nick Brown asked about signage on the new route into the Town from Lubbethorpe being appropriately signed. In response, Councillor Robert Waterton stated that this was something the Committee wished to pursue but was unable to until the road had been adopted.

Councillor Christiane Startin-Lorent asked that the Committee discuss the wording of the signs and Councillor Imran Uddin added that it was important to reflect Thorpe Astley was an integral part of Braunstone Town.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5792 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 22nd August 2019

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 22nd August 2019 (p6801 – p6808).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5793 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 12th September 2019

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 12th September 2019 (p6809 – p6819).

Page 6809, Minute 52 – Arriva Click

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that a representative of Arriva Click would be attending Planning & Environment Committee on Thursday 7th November and advised Councillors of the earlier start time of 7pm.

Page 6816, Minute 57 – Feedback on Planning Application Decisions

Councillor Robert Waterton updated Council as follows:

- (a) Aldi, Meridian Way – feedback was awaited from the planning case officer on the letter sent to Aldi concerning the crossing and the footpath. In addition the Town Council was offering Aldi the opportunity to engage with the community through an information session at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.
- (b) 28 Holmfield Avenue East – concern that Blaby District Council's call-in rules did not allow call-in of residential applications irrespective of the number of objections.

In response, Councillor Imran Uddin raised concerns that the case officer did not seem to be able to use judgement to refer an application to the Planning Committee. Councillor Phil Moitt added that the issue of call-in was being pursued at Blaby District Council and there was a need to review the procedure and he would report back on progress.

Page 6818, Minute 60 – Lubbesthorpe

Councillor Robert Waterton confirmed that the first meeting being organised by Leicester Forest East Parish Council to discuss the impact of the Lubbesthorpe development had been scheduled for Wednesday 9th October 2019.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5794 Motions on Notice

Council received and considered motions moved on notice in accordance with Standing Order 4.13:

a) Houses in Multiple Occupation

It was proposed by Councillor Robert Waterton and seconded by Councillor Nick Brown and was:

RESOLVED that the following Motion on Notice in respect of Houses in Multiple Occupation be referred to the Planning & Environment Committee for consideration:

“this Council requests that

- (1) a report be submitted to Planning and Environment Committee on the issues raised by the development of Houses In Multiple Occupation (HIMOs) in the Parish and
- (2) upon receipt of that report;
 - (a) Blaby District Council and any other relevant authorities be written to asking them to seek changes in the legislation relating to licencing and planning approval of properties which either formally or informally are acting or intend to act as HIMO's, the purpose of changes being to significantly improve control over the expansion of HIMOs.
 - (b) Blaby District Council be asked to review its policies and enforcement procedures for dealing with HIMOs”.

Reason for Decision

Braunstone Town was witnessing a growth in the number of Houses In Multiple Occupation (HIMOs) in the parish and was concerned at the apparent difficulties in controlling this growth. In particular, Town Councillors have become aware of problems arising from the separation of the licencing and planning approval processes and were also concerned that properties which fall below the official definition of an HIMO were nevertheless operating as such with implications for, inter alia, parking and noise nuisance.

5795 Sealing of Documents

Council considered authorising the sealing of documents.

- a) Land Transfer Documents for Open Spaces at Thorpe Astley, from David Wilson Homes Limited

Policy & Resources Committee on 1st November 2018 had approved the transfer documentation; however, the Executive Officer & Town Clerk withdrew the item at the Council meeting on 22nd November 2018 since the final documentation submitted by David Wilson Homes for the Council to seal did not correlate with the map which had been approved by Committee. The revised version was considered by Policy & Resources Committee on 10th January 2019 and approved (Policy & Resources Minute Reference 65, 2018/2019); it was then sealed by Council on 31st January 2019 (minute 5721).

On 22nd May 2019, the Council's Solicitor advised that the Land Registry had rejected the David Wilson Homes Transfer Plan due to the inclusion of land which was not in their ownership. A revised plan was submitted to and approved by Policy & Resources Committee on 22nd August 2019 (Policy & Resources Committee Minute Reference 20).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Sam Maxwell and was:

RESOLVED that the legal transfer of open spaces from David Wilson Homes Limited at Thorpe Astley, having been finalised, now be completed and that Braunstone Town Council's Common Seal be applied to the transfer documents and plans.

Reason for Decision

To enable the transfer to be completed and for the Town Council to become the legal owner of the public open space.

5796 County and District Councillor Reports

- a) Leicestershire County Council

Councillor Amanda Hack, having submitted her apologies to the meeting, submitted a written report as County Councillor for Braunstone Division as follows:

“September sees getting back into the full swing of the meeting cycle and as I am continuing on the Health Scrutiny it has meant that the Labour group does have some continuity on the Committee. Which is particularly useful now I have seen the annual reports over a couple of annual cycles”.

Joint Health Scrutiny

“The chair for this committee has rotated to the County for the next 2 years”.

“We received reports from UHL on the 3 year plan for the hospital. The main issues included:

- Budget rounds for capital is still unknown, so the plan has been written to ensure the transformation of culture and colleagues is not waiting for building improvements. The budget rounds have been delayed yet again...due to Government.
- Sell off of land at the General Hospital”.

“Reports were also received from the CCGs on their transformation of services one being musculoskeletal so I raised the x-ray machine failure at the Hinckley site and the likely impact if this breakdown would have on this transformation”.

“We had a report from the new Director of Nursing and the unannounced CQC re-inspection of UHL. The introduction of the new teams has given confidence to the inspectors and therefore confidence to the JHOSC that we might get out of ground hog day with the CQC performance particularly with the Bradgate unit. This is really good news as the performance for these services has been rated as poor for the last couple of years”.

“It was also great to have EMAS back with us, they have had a great CQC inspection, in part due to more investment, but more importantly it did feel like EMAS has turned a corner and you may have seen in the Mercury the areas of best practice they have been commended for inc: dementia friendly ambulances”.

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- Health Watch – Hospital Discharge: “The hospital discharge process does need improving, this was recognised by UHL, but the numbers/sample time was simply too small. So whilst useful, felt short of being a full analysis”.
- Health Performance: “This is the annual stats update. Disappointingly some of our cancer metrics are 10% points lower than National guidelines. I have asked to see, like we do in Social Services, how the Authority area compares to its Statistical Neighbours on performance”. Asked again about breast feeding rates...third year in a row where the data hasn't been entered in time...this is really frustrating as this does feed into the Substance misuse Strategy”
- Substance misuse Strategy – “Early conversations on the strategy, will be going to Cabinet”.

Full Council

“In light of the issues we have been having with the Millfield School Clear Zone, I raised a number of questions at full council yesterday. These questions were raised after a number of pieces of correspondence with the Highways Department. The questions we raised following a meeting that I had with a member of the public and the Leader of the Town Council in the Summer”.

“The responses did provide some assurance that the County is working with the school to support sustainable transport solutions, however the tone and approach to the response was disappointing as the compromises reached in the zone, was done after consultation with the community and agreement with Highways – full text is available if anyone would like it. I will continue to work to ensure that the zone remains on the agenda at Highways”.

“The Leader presented information on the County’s plans for a No Deal Brexit, which generated an interesting debate about the validity of ‘No Deal’ however, it would be remiss of the Council not to be prepared for a ‘worst case’ scenario. I will forward to members the published version of the briefing note on Brexit”.

“Discussions on Unitary continues, which will come to Council on the 4th December”.

“The Leader also provided some detail on the work being progressed since the County adopted the Climate Change emergency in May”.

“There were position statements on Finance – which was claimed to be positive, but my view was sort of positive...but not really that positive. I suspect it will still be a difficult few years in Local Government”.

“Cllr Richardson provided a position statement on her portfolio, which Cllr Richardson will be best place to report on”.

“The Minerals and Waste Plan was adopted”.

“There were some governance changes and a Cabinet change reported”.

“The Final Agenda item was on a campaign being championed by the Labour PPC for Harborough Celia Hibbert to ‘Close the Loop’. There is a statutory loophole in SEND transport, there is a requirement in the Educational, Health and Care Plan for over 16’s with disabilities to stay in Education, but transport provision isn’t statutory. The motion requested County to work with local parents to raise this issue with them to work towards a suitable solution”.

b) Blaby District Council

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

- i. *Waste and Recycling* – Scrutiny had heard from a Lead Practitioner concerning waste collections and the Portfolio Holder had set out why the Council had changed the service. It had been noted that there had been an increase in fly tipping, trips to Waste Disposal sites and contamination of recycling. This resulted in increased costs and impact on the environment. The District Council had received a residents' petition calling for the reinstatement of the weekly refuse collections, which contained over 4,000 signatures collected over 12 months. The meeting of the District's full Council noted the petition and took no further action.
- ii. *Houses in Multiple Occupation* – changes in legislation meant that it was now easier to extend houses and with the abolition of the National Landlord Register it was harder to regulate the growth in Houses in Multiple Occupation. Scrutiny would be receiving information about Houses in Multiple Occupation and determining what steps the District Council could take to ensure they were managed effectively.
- iii. *Illegal Advertising* – advertising signs, located illegally on the highway, had appeared around the Town over the weekend for the second time and these had been reported to Blaby District Council for enforcement action. Councillor Maxwell urged members to report any sightings immediately to prevent a growth in this practice.

Councillor Shabbir Aslam, as District Councillor for Ravenhurst and Fosse Ward, reported on the following matters:

- i. support among residents for the petition for a return to weekly refuse collections;
- ii. it was important to report illegal advertising signs to ensure that these were removed from the highway as soon as possible; and
- iii. speeding was a concern, particularly on bus routes and near schools, Councillor Aslam asked Community Development Committee to review the locations of the Town Council's speed sign in order to address.

5797 Outside Body Reports

a) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Councillor Paul Kennedy advised that sadly the Over 60s Group had closed due to ill health of those organising it. Councillor Kennedy advised the next Minibus Committee meeting would be in November.

b) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt advised that the Committee would be meeting in the forthcoming week.

c) School Governors

No reports were given.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

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.

These minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the next meeting, scheduled for 21st November 2019.