

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

23RD MARCH 2017 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Berneta Layne (Town Mayor), Councillor Bill Wright (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Ajmer Basra, Roger Berrington, Sharon Betts, Nick Brown, Alex Dewinter, David Di Palma, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Amanda Hack, Paul Kennedy, Sam Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Gary Sanders, Darshan Singh and Robert Waterton.

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

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

COUNCILLOR BERNETA LAYNE, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5513 Reflection on recent incidents in Westminster

The Town Mayor, Councillor Berneta Layne, opened the meeting reflecting on the horrific incidents that occurred on Wednesday 22nd March in Westminster. The Town Mayor invited those present to join in a minute's silence to think about the families of loved ones who were tragically killed and those who suffered injury; over 40 people from 12 different countries. The Town Mayor invited those present to reflect on the risks that the police and security services take in protecting our freedoms and our democracy and to lead the community's determination to remain united, along with communities across the country, in upholding our values.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, added that less than a year after the murder of Jo Cox, we continued to face difficult times and that the community was a shining example of the positive benefits of working together and he urged everyone to remain strong.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Amanda Hack, reflected on the words of Brendan Cox that an act of hate from one individual generated love and good will among thousands of people.

5514 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Parminder Basra Dinesh Joshi and Tracey Shepherd.

5515 Disclosures of Interest

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

5516 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 26th January 2017 were circulated (item 3 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Berneta Layne and seconded by Councillor Bill Wright and was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 26th January 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5517 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Berneta Layne, reported as follows:

“At our last full meeting on 26th January I told you all about my extra event namely the Caribbean Dinner and Dance in aid of my chosen charity Arthritis Research UK on Friday March 24th. Well! It’s tomorrow and there will be a lot of my friends and other visitors coming to support my evening. Any member wishing to attend will be welcome and I have tickets here ready to sell priced at £10 per person, so why don’t you come and join us and have some fun. Come along with your family and friends to enjoy loads of prizes and surprises”.

“My list of engagements since our last meeting has been very light. I and my consort attended the Kingsway Flower Club evening on 1st March here at the Civic Centre. At the end of the event I was presented with a cheque for £100 for my chosen charity. There was the fashion show at the Thorpe Astley Centre on March 10th. It was a very enjoyable evening but I have to say it was rather poorly supported. I, together with a number of your fellow councillors raised the flag here at the Civic Centre on Commonwealth Day on 13th March”.

“That was my last but one Town Mayor’s report”.

b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, highlighted the forthcoming pressures and difficult decisions the Council faced as a result of Blaby District Council’s decision to end passing on the parish share of Council Tax Support Grant and New Homes Bonus from April 2018. For Braunstone Town, the loss of this funding equated to an approximate increase of 17% of the Town Council’s precept, which for a typical household in a Band B property would mean paying around £15 per year extra.

The Leader added that Policy & Resources Committee had already put in motion the process to review the Town Council’s options and as Leader of the Town Council he had written to the Leader of Blaby District Council to formally express his concern and dismay at their

decision which disproportionately affected areas where there was a higher proportion of residents who were claiming housing benefit and rely on access to public and community services for their wellbeing. The Leader stated that the response from Blaby District Council's Leader was neither helpful nor sympathetic and he urged members of the Council to make it clear to residents where the blame lied.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5518 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 was one member of the public present at the meeting.

5519 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5520 Reports of Standing Committees: Plans & Environment Committee – 9th February 2017

Council received the Report of the Plans & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th February 2017 (p6175 – p6179).

Page 6178, Minute 128 – Lubbethorpe Strategic Consultative Board

Councillor Robert Waterton updated Council on recent requests made by the Town Council in respect of the Lubbethorpe Strategic Consultative Board. The review of the Board had resulted in an offer to include two representatives from each parish council in addition to the clerk. However, the open meeting for local Councillors interested had been rejected with only Braunstone Town Council representatives supporting the proposition. Councillor Waterton concluded that the meeting also had identified a programme of topics to work through.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5521 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 9th February 2017

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 9th February 2017 (p6180 – p6184).

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5522 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 23rd February 2017

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 23rd February 2017 (p6185 – p6191).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5523 Reports of Standing Committees: Plans & Environment Committee – 9th March 2017

Council received the Report of the Plans & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th March 2017 (p6192 – p6201).

Page 6199, Minute 139 – Highways and mitigating air pollution

Councillor Robert Waterton reported that following attendance at the Committee by Blaby District Environmental Health officers, it became apparent that highway management and design was a contributing factor to poor air quality, therefore, an invitation had been sent to County Highways to attend the Committee to discuss how air quality could be improved through highway management actions and design, however, the invitation was declined. The Committee had sent a follow up letter requesting that the County Council reconsider their response in light of a BBC report that highlighted how the management and design of highways was the most significant contributor to poor air quality.

Councillor Sam Maxwell added that poor air quality was resulting in health issues among the local population, particularly respiratory problems and would only get worse if no action was taken. It was currently acute because of the access problems at local GP surgeries. Blaby District Council was encouraging economic growth in the Fosse Park/Meridian/Junction 21 area, which was likely to lead to further congestion and increases in poor air quality. Councillor Maxwell added she was pressing for additional revenue from business growth in the area to be directed into improving the infrastructure and services in Braunstone Town and the surrounding areas.

Councillor Amanda Hack offered to raise these concerns at the Blaby area Parish Councillors meeting organised by the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils.

Page 6200, Minute 140 – Potential Air Quality Monitoring Locations

Councillor Roger Berrington stated that monitoring stations needed to be located next to residential properties. Councillor Amanda Hack suggested that Goodheart Way would be a suitable location due to proximity to the motorway and service area. Councillor Robert Waterton clarified that the reason the Committee had chosen Meridian Way and Withers Way was that

houses backed onto these roads and at certain times of the day there was stationary traffic due to heavy traffic on Lubbethorpe Way.

Page 6200, Minute 142 – Feedback on Planning Application Decisions

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that he had spoken to the case officer for planning application 16/1601/HH – 23 Darien Way. It had been an informative meeting and the case officer had similar concerns concerning parking on the highway to the Town Council. However, the Highways Authority had raised no objection. Councillor Waterton raised concerns over the District Council's planning application call-in procedure, stating that it was concerning that an Officer could reject a call-in from a local councillor because in their judgement the reasons weren't sufficient.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5524 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5525 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

5526 Outside Body Reports

a) Leicestershire County Council

No report was given.

b) Blaby District Council

Councillor Sam Maxwell informed Council of Blaby District Council's budget setting meeting on 23rd February 2017. The decision had been taken to end passing on the parish share of Council Tax Support Grant and New Homes Bonus from April 2018; the justification given was that the District Council faced future budget pressures and the revenue support grant no longer identified the share which constituted Council Tax Support Grant. An amendment to phase the reduction had been rejected. There was pressure on all levels of local government not only because of the reduction in revenue support grant while it remained to be clarified the percentage of non-domestic rates which would be retained locally in the future, but also because of further reductions in spending on services by Leicestershire County Council.

Councillor Phil Moitt informed Council of plans by Blaby District Council to move to a bi-weekly refuse collection. Blaby District was one of the last areas to have a weekly collection and residents would be provided with larger bins. Scrutiny would be looking at the correlation between waste collection arrangements, waste and recycling centre opening times and fly tipping.

c) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt reported on the recent Committee Meeting, the Committee currently has 4 members. Councillor Moitt urged members to encourage people to get involved with the centre, support its work and become members of the Committee.

d) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Councillor Paul Kennedy stated that the Quiz Night on 14th February at Thorpe Astley Community Centre had been well supported. He reported on recent minor repairs to mini-bus two, the tweaking of trip times and the nomination of the group for a Braunstone Life Award. Nadine Blight was due to retire from her role coordinating bookings and trips, three people had applied for the job. Councillor Kennedy concluded that the group had submitted a grant application for a new laptop and the next meeting of the Committee was on 11th April 2017.

e) Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group

Councillor Bill Wright advised that he had been unable to attend the recent meeting since it was held on a Tuesday, when he was attending meetings as a District Councillor. However, the Group were coordinating a code of conduct of responsibilities between the Police and neighbourhood watch.

f) Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils

Councillor Amanda Hack reported on the meeting held on 1st March 2017, which she had been unable to attend. Issues discussed, as identified from the draft minutes, were: fly-tipping, dog fouling, and a general update on changes at Blaby District housing and planning. The next meeting was scheduled for 7th June 2017.

g) Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board

Councillor Robert Waterton referred members to the statement he had made earlier under agenda item 7a (see minute 5520).

h) School Governors

Councillor Nick Brown advised that there were no significant issues to report.

5527 Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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 _____ (CHAIR)

DATE _____