

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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

23RD NOVEMBER 2017 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Wright (Town Mayor), Councillor Parminder Basra (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Shabbir Aslam, Roger Berrington, Sharon Betts, Nick Brown, Alex Dewinter, Amanda Hack, Phil Moitt, Gary Sanders and Robert Waterton.

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

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

COUNCILLOR BILL WRIGHT, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5585 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Ajmer Basra, David Di Palma, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Berneta Layne, Sam Maxwell, Tracey Shepherd and Darshan Singh.

5586 Disclosures of Interest

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

5587 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 28th September 2017 were circulated (item 3 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Bill Wright and seconded by Councillor Parminder Basra and was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 28th September 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5588 Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Planning

The Council received a report setting out the context for the Council's medium to long term priorities and financial planning (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the current projections based on known financial pressures identified in the report be noted;

2. that the Council's Mission Statement and the Objectives for each Service Area be used as the basis for calculating the annual budget and any external funding sought;
3. that the Council's Reserves be used to invest in infrastructure and assets and in the development and remodelling of services, including the Town Council's operations;
4. that the Working Group set up by Policy & Resources Committee produce proposals aimed at mitigating the pressures on resources and the precept identified in the current projections for 2018/19; and
5. that, following the recommendations of the Working Group, in 4 above, the Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Planning be revised and resubmitted to Policy & Resources Committee and Council.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To provide a foundation for preparing budget estimates for 2018/2019 and beyond.*
2. *To ensure the Council focusses its activity and spending given the future financial uncertainties.*
3. *To ensure the highest possible standards within the resources available in the future.*
4. *To enable detailed work to be undertaken on the options available to the Council, following the withdrawal of Council Tax Support Grant, in terms of service provision, savings, precept increases and use of reserves, along with an assessment of any associated risks, in order to meet the identified savings, projected increases in expenditure and to enable continuous improvement.*
5. *To ensure that the strategy could be revised and projected income and expenditure for future years could be revised in line with the findings and recommendations of the Working Group.*

5589 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Bill Wright, reported on his mayoral activities as follows:

- i. Diwali Celebration, Friday 27th October – a good and enjoyable community event and the Town Mayor thanked Councillor Aslam for his support;
- ii. Festival of Remembrance, Sunday 29th October – held at De Montfort Hall, this was a poignant event which brought home the importance of remembrance;
- iii. Remembrance Service, Saturday 11th November at Braunstone Civic Centre and Sunday 12th November at St Crispin's Church,

which was attended by the Deputy Lieutenant, Mr. Resham Singh Sandhu and was Reverend Arthur Deegan's last Remembrance Service before his retirement.

The Town Mayor thanked those who had sponsored him for his Charity Abseil on 30th September in aid of his charity Rainbows and reminded those who had sponsored him that he was now collecting sponsorship.

The Town Mayor reminded Councillors of the Christmas Craft Fair to be held at Braunstone Civic Centre on Saturday 25th November from 11am to 3pm. Net proceeds being donated to his charity, Rainbows.

b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, advised that he had attended Christ Church, Dumbleton Avenue to lay a wreath and had been made very welcome.

The Leader advised Council of an expression of interest received in making use of the medical rooms at Thorpe Astley Community Centre for primary care services. The proposal was being supported by the Clinical Commissioning Group, however, it was early stages and the Leader hoped that by January there would be specific proposals and timescales for consideration.

Finally the Leader was pleased to announce that the planning application to rebuild the Pavilion and improve facilities at Shakespeare Park had been approved and the Town Council was now in the process of putting together the specifications ready to invite tenders for the contract for the work. Meanwhile, some site clearance had taken place in order that soil tests could be undertaken to ascertain the foundations and drainage required.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5590 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 no members of the public present at the meeting.

5591 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5592 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 12th October 2017

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 12th October 2017 (p6322 – p6329).

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5593 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 13th July 2017

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 12th October 2017 (p6328 – p6334).

Page 6333, Minute 52 – Purchase of Speed Signs

In response to a question from Councillor Waterton, the Executive Officer & Town Clerk confirmed that the new speed signs had been delivered and arrangements were being made to ensure they would be securely fixed to lamp posts once in operation.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5594 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 26th October 2017

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 26th October 2017 (p6335 – p6342).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted

5595 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 9th November 2017

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th November 2017 (p6343 – p6352).

Page 6349, Minute 83 – Houses in Multiple Occupation

Councillor Bill Wright commented that Houses in Multiple Occupation had yet to be considered by scrutiny due to workload, however, he would be pressing for its consideration at the earliest opportunity.

Page 6349, Minute 84 – Update on Highways Issues – Thorpe Astley

Councillor Robert Waterton reported that over 200 validated signatures had been collected in support of a Community Speedwatch scheme in Thorpe Astley. An expression of interest had been submitted to Leicestershire County Council and it was anticipated that a decision would be made on whether to accept a scheme at Thorpe Astley in the new year.

Page 6350, Minute 87 – Community Governance Review – Lubbesthorpe

In response to a question from Councillor Brown, the Executive Officer & Town Clerk confirmed that due to timing and scheduling, this item had been considered by Planning & Environment Committee as part of its responsibilities for overseeing issues relating to New Lubbesthorpe. The Community Governance Review was a two stage process and this was the initial consultation, following which specific proposals would be published and consulted upon. Given these were likely to have wider policy impact, the consultation on the formal proposals would be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee.

Page 6351, Minute 88 – Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board

In response to a question from Councillor Amanda Hack, Councillor Robert Waterton advised that section 106 money from Lubbesthorpe would be allocated for transport improvements in Leicester City and there was no particular reason given why, other than they had been included in the list of approved transport schemes.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5596 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5597 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

5598 Outside Body Reports

a) County Councillors

Councillor Amanda Hack, as County Councillor for Braunstone Division, gave the following report:

“I'm pleased to report that a letter from Braunstone Town Council was put onto the Health Scrutiny agenda in September. As the spokesperson for the Labour Group I was able to put the case forward to include this as an agenda item – but it was agreed that the concerns about GP capacity issues needed to be widened to North Blaby. This proposal was supported by the scrutiny chair and the cabinet member for Health. The

report itself was functional and not the result we wanted, but was debated and questioned fully by councillors from across Scrutiny. The report indicated that a plan for the area would be produced and it's been agreed by the chair (after I put in a separate request) to have this included for information to the November meeting".

"Cllr L Richardson set up a meeting with Tim Sacks and invited 3 District Councillors, myself and Cllr T Richardson to discuss the issue of GP capacity further. This was well received by the cross section of councillors".

Councillor Hack added that the health rooms at Thorpe Astley Community Centre would assist with delivering extra capacity and if these rooms weren't used, it wasn't obvious where additional capacity could be found in the short term.

"Health Scrutiny also reported the improvements for EMAS in the CQC, which is great news. However, it's difficult not to note that the struggles felt by EMAS could be sorted in part if A&E services across the region were able to take patients more quickly. EMAS lost 200 hours in Leicestershire on the day that the new A&E opened".

"I've met with Nigel Thomas from the Library Service at County Hall to understand what was going on with our Library. Nigel assures me that we will have progress on the next stage of our Library in November". Councillor Hack added that she had impressed upon Nigel Thomas that Braunstone Town was the 8th largest settlement and must have Library provision.

"We had Full Council yesterday and this covered:

- The growth plan for Leicester & Leicestershire, most of which is in the public domain and reported in the Mercury. I think it would be useful for Braunstone Town Council to have a briefing on the impact on our local community as the process goes through consultation.
- Councillors' allowances, which was recognised that it was an independent process by most. It was disappointing to note that the Highway Forums have been scrapped through this document; it is yet to be agreed on the best way forward to ensure that the views of local people are included.
- A motion from the Labour Party, following on from allowances about public sector pay which was broadly supported across the council.
- A motion to keep pressure on the Government about the Electrification of the Midland Mainline".

Councillor Hack had also had discussions with County transport officers concerning bus connections between Thorpe Astley and Braunstone Town given Thorpe Astley residents used Braunstone Town GP surgeries; Councillor Hack had requested an impact assessment on the recent changes which had been applied to bus routes.

b) District Councillors

Councillor Phil Moitt reported that the District Council was investing in Member training, which recently included scrutiny training. He also added that there had been a large response to the consultation on changes to the waste and recycling collection service and that these responses were currently being analysed. Councillor Moitt also added that scrutiny had been briefed by an expert on the operations of the fortnightly collection service.

Councillor Gary Sanders referred to scrutiny of the waste and recycling collection service and that the consultation on the proposals had now closed. He added that the service would be organised to take account of the amount of refuse which could be accommodated by the processing plant.

Councillor Alex Dewinter referred to a discussion on the Local Delivery Plan which referred to the Thorpe Astley Neighbourhood Parade designation at the current ALDI site and potentially allocating land for a new parade and re-designation as a Neighbourhood Centre.

Councillor Shabbir Aslam added that he was pleased there had been a good response rate to the waste and recycling collection service consultation. Councillor Aslam highlighted the increase in anti-social behaviour in Braunstone Town and across Blaby District. Residents were raising concerns with Councillors on what to do and how to report it. Councillor Aslam advised that a request had been made to the Police and Crime Commissioner to report on how he intended to address the issue.

In response to a question by Councillor Hack about Oadby & Wigston Borough Council paying the County Council to switch street lights back on, Councillor Moitt advised that this option was available to Councils and individuals who the County Council had shifted the onus.

c) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt reported that the next Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 28th November. He added that the Town Council should be receiving an invitation to appoint more members.

d) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

There was no further update given.

e) Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group

Councillors Bill Wright and Shabbir Aslam raised concerns about recent scams and that scams were on the increase, particularly ones which compromised personal data. It was suggested that information could be circulated to the community on how to avoid scams, including a piece in Braunstone Life.

f) Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (Blaby Branch)

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 6th December in Glenfield.

g) Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board

Councillor Robert Waterton reported on the meeting held on 15th November 2017. He spoke of the phasing and number of completions to date and added that the first primary school would commence at 300 completions. Concerning healthcare provision, residents were able to register with the Forest House Medical Practice and the first Healthcare Contribution (pursuant to the S106 Agreement) of £50,000 was due at 150 occupations. The second Healthcare Contribution of £360,000 was due at 250 occupations and the on-site Health Centre would be provided at 900 occupations. Councillor Waterton stated at the current rate, which was his basic calculation, he estimated this to be 2025.

Councillor Waterton added that the temporary Community Hub had been given planning consent. The removal of the speed bumps on Main Street would be in accordance with the plot developments. Improvements to the highway network, including in Thorpe Astley, was in accordance with the Highways Delivery Strategy and Councillor Waterton concluded that the M1 Bridge was estimated to have cost £14½ to £15 million and therefore, the entire £8 million allocated from section 106 for funding the bridge had been used.

Councillor Nick Brown noted the national shortage of housing supply and urged members of the Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board to push for the rate at which New Lubbesthorpe was developed to be increased, given the site had been allocated for development, as a quickest way to mitigate current housing shortages.

Councillor Alex Dewinter added that he had visited the show rooms at New Lubbesthorpe and the smallest size of house was currently 3 bedrooms and around £300,000, he asked about more affordable housing and the answer was these would be available in a year or two.

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that the phasing programme was behind schedule and there was confusion between terms social housing and affordable housing. Councillor Roger Berrington added that in the first phase the percentage of affordable homes was 10%, equating to 600 properties.

h) School Governors

Councillor Nick Brown advised that following the resignation of the Chair of Governors, he had been appointed Chair of the Board of Governors of Millfield Academy for 2 years.

5599 Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

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.