

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

29TH JUNE 2017 at 8.00PM

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

Also in attendance were Blaby District Councillor Ben Taylor and Leicestershire County Councillor Louise Richardson.

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

There were 3 members of the public present at the meeting.

COUNCILLOR BILL WRIGHT, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5548 Reflection on recent incidents in Manchester and London

The Town Mayor, Councillor Bill Wright, opened the meeting reflecting on the recent horrific and tragic incidents resulting in appalling loss of life. 22 people had died in a suicide bomb attack on the Manchester Arena on 22nd May, on 3rd June a vehicle and knife attack on London Bridge and Borough Market killed 8 people. On 14th June a fire engulfed Grenfell Tower where 80 are now known to have died with 70 injured and many now homeless and on 19th June a vehicle attack in Finsbury Park had killed one with nine injured.

The Town Mayor invited those present to join in a minute's silence to remember the victims, those injured and those whose lives have been changed for ever, along with reflecting on the risks and the bravery of the blue light services, as well as the selfless dedication of many ordinary members of the public not only in risking their own lives to help others but also for their generosity and support to those affected in the aftermath.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, highlighted the courage and bravery of the blue light services referring to the police officer who had been featured in the news attempting to disarm one of the Borough Market attackers despite only having his baton. He added that the Council and the community echoed the Town Mayor's comments.

Councillor Shabbir Aslam referred to the determination shown by the community to remain strong and not be divided by the terrorist attacks, he had attended prayers at Eid celebrations, where all were united in their condemnation and in their determination to tackle terrorism.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Amanda Hack, reflected on the warmth and love of the community in the face of adversity, with charities running services in community centres. Their spirit far outweighed terrorism and the risks they took to help others.

5549 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anthea Ambrose Dinesh Joshi, Berneta Layne, Sam Maxwell and Tracey Shepherd.

5550 Disclosures of Interest

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

5551 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 11th May 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 Annual Meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 11th May 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5552 Annual Governance Statement 2016/2017

Council considered its systems of internal control, including the management of risk and the preparation of accounting statements during the financial year ended 31st March 2017 in order to determine whether to authorise the completion and submission of the Annual Governance Statement 2016/2017 (item 4 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED that the systems of internal control and management of risk be confirmed as sound and that Section 1, Annual Governance Statement 2016/17, of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2017 (attached as Appendix C to the report) be completed, signed and submitted accordingly.

Reason for Decision

Having reviewed the control measures for each of the areas listed on the Annual Governance Statement and the assessment of risks facing the Council and associated mitigating measures, Council were confident that to the best of their knowledge and belief, with respect of the accounting statements for the year ended 31st March 2017, there were sound systems of internal control and management of risk.

5553 Accounting Statements 2016/2017

Council received the End of Year Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2017 in order to adopt and submit the Accounting Statements 2016/2017 accordingly (item 5 on the agenda).

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

RESOLVED that Section 2, Accounting Statements 2016/17, of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2017 (attached as Appendix 10 to the report) be completed, signed and submitted accordingly.

Reason for Decision

The Council having carried out an assessment of the effectiveness of the Council's financial arrangements, concluded that there were sound systems of internal control. The Internal Auditor, having reviewed the annual accounts, found the Accounting Statements to have been prepared on the correct basis and were supported by adequate audit trails to underlying records.

5554 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Bill Wright, reported that he had been looked after and made very welcome at the Vaisakhi Event on 27th May at Braunstone Civic Centre. The Town Mayor, Consort and Deputy Leader had launched the Book Exchange at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on 16th June. On Saturday 24th June the Town Mayor and consort had attended Leicester Cathedral for Armed Forces Day having raised the Armed Forces Flag on Monday 19th June at Braunstone Civic Centre after attending a similar ceremony at Blaby District Council Offices earlier in the day.

b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, reflected on the recent General Election, thanking candidates and congratulating Alberto Costa on his victory. The Leader added that he hoped the new Parliament would avoid interfering in the ability of local government to deliver services and levy tax.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk reported on recent damage which had occurred to play equipment at Franklin Park over the weekend of 23rd to 25th June. A piece of children's play equipment had been damaged beyond repair by fire along with the safety surface. The Executive Officer & Town Clerk urged Councillors to share the word and encourage residents to report any issues or anti-social behaviour in the area.

5555 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 3 members of the public present at the meeting.

Kingsway Surgery

One member of the public, Mrs Singh, reported that she had organised and submitted a petition concerning doctors leaving Kingsway Surgery. She added that many residents were upset and unsure of the future of the surgery. Mrs Singh added that she had tried to contact the Town Mayor, Town Clerk, Councillor Aslam, Councillor Hack and the Editor of Braunstone Life for support; some had been supporting and helpful but not all. The petition had been submitted to the Practice Manager and a meeting had been held, which Councillor Aslam had attended. Mrs Singh added that the Surgery Practice Manager was overwhelmed and had problems recruiting doctors.

Councillor Amanda Hack stated that she had raised the issues highlighted concerning Kingsway Surgery at Leicestershire County Council and with the Head of East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group. There was a problem in the area recruiting and training enough people for General Practice. There was an acknowledgement from the Clinical Commissioning Group that several surgeries were having difficulties and they were starting to develop GP integrated health scheme, which would make Kingsway Surgery and Forest House part of the same super practice in order to utilise combined resources; although it was recognised that this would not have any impact in the short term. Councillor Hack added that Braunstone Town Council had been working with the NHS for over 2 years to resolve capacity issues and bring into use the unused NHS facility at Thorpe Astley Community Centre, but the practice initially interested in running services from the site chose to walk away. Councillor Hack concluded by thanking Mrs Singh for her hard work in preparing and submitting the petition and reassured her that the Town Council and Town Councillors were working hard representing residents' concerns to the appropriate authorities.

Councillor Shabbir Aslam thanked Mrs Singh for her work and stated that having met the new Practice Manager at Kingsway Surgery he was reassured of his commitment to improve services and arrangements at the surgery. Councillor Aslam advised that the Practice Manager was willing to present his plan to Councillors and answer questions.

Councillor Nick Brown welcomed the offer of the Kingsway Surgery Practice Manager speaking to Councillors and requested the Executive Officer & Town Clerk to invite him to the next scheduled (or convenient) meeting of Policy & Resources Committee.

Councillor Brown added that responsibility for the issues faced by Kingsway Surgery rested with the practice management and the Clinical Commissioning Group. The Town Council had been in touch with the Clinical Commissioning Group raising concerns and lobbying on behalf of residents. Councillor Brown stated that in October 2016 the Town Council first raised the issues of access to GP services in the Town and it had been further discussed by the Policy & Resources Committee in April and June, when the Clinical Commissioning Group had not sent any representatives. The Committee had made representations to both County and District Councils for the issues to be considered by their scrutiny bodies.

Parking in Thorpe Astley

Another member of the public, Mr Drobac, highlighted problems with dangerous and inconsiderate parking on the streets of Thorpe Astley by workers at Meridian Business Park. Mr Drobac had written to Leicestershire County Council concerned about safety issues on Withers Way particularly at school times, with parking on the embankment. There had been a number of accidents over 5 years, one included a girl being knocked over, and fortunately she was o.k. Parking obscured views at bus stops and there was a genuine concern among local residents that a serious accident could happen. Mr Drobac concluded that he and his neighbour had a shared drive and the County Council would not allow him to have a separate entrance off Withers Way for safety reasons; therefore, action needed to be taken against parking which was obscuring the visibility of road users including pedestrians.

Councillor Robert Waterton thanked Mr Drobac for his contribution and reflected on the meeting of Planning & Environment Committee which had been held at Thorpe Astley Community Centre on 22nd June, at which many residents had raised similar concerns. Councillor Waterton added that the safety concerns resulting from the parking was exacerbated by speeding and there being no warning signs or traffic calming measures on Thorpe Astley's main roads. Many of the highway issues raised cut across County, District and Police responsibilities and the Town Council was working towards a coordinated approach. There was concern that once the bridge over the M1 to Lubbethorpe opened these issues would get worse; however, he was cautious stating that the County Council's measure of 5 killed or seriously injured before they considered mitigating measures was not encouraging.

Councillor Waterton concluded by encouraging photographic evidence to be collected and submitted to the Town Council. He added that the Town Council hoped to collect evidence of speeding and comparative figures over time with use of the Town Council's speed sign.

Councillor Amanda Hack suggested that a conversation could be had with Kingsway Primary School to see if they would assist with a safety message around safe parking and whether increase patrols could be undertaken on Withers Way similar to that on Kingsway North. Councillor Hack concluded that the Town Council was endeavouring to do what it could to assist, however, its powers were limited.

Councillor Louise Richardson, County Councillor for Enderby and Lubbesthorpe Division, stated that residents had raised highway safety concerns with her particularly visibility at roundabouts due to overgrown bushes and trees and that she was due to meet with highway officials. Councillor Richardson offered to assist with any matters the Town Council and Town Councillors wished to address.

5556 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5557 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 25th May 2017

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 25th May 2017 (p6228 – p6236).

Page 6234, Minute 6.5 – Planning Applications and Licensing Applications – Application 17/0576, Reserved matters application for the erection of primary school one, Tay Road (Lubbesthorpe)

Councillor Amanda Hack stated that there was significant pressure on primary school places in Braunstone Town and welcomed the application for progressing with the building of a primary school at Lubbesthorpe.

Page 6236, Minute 10 – Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board

Councillor Robert Waterton stated that the meeting of the Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board had not been well attended and the Group had a new Chair who had been unable to attend. He added that the principal officer was also due to leave shortly.

Councillor Waterton asked whether the documentation relating to the Affordable Housing item had been received. The Executive Officer & Town Clerk confirmed he had not received the documentation referred to.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5558 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 25th May 2017

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 25th May 2017 (p6237 – p6242).

It was moved by Councillor David Di Palma and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5559 Reports of Standing Committees: Corporate Governance Sub-Committee – 15th June 2017

Council received the Report of the Corporate Governance Sub-Committee meeting held on 15th June 2017 (p6243 – p6245).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5560 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 15th June 2017

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 15th June 2017 (p6246 – p6253).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5561 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 22nd June 2017

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 22nd June 2017 (p6254 – p6259).

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5562 Motions on Notice

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

5563 Sealing of Documents

There were no documents for sealing.

5564 Outside Body Reports

a) Leicestershire County Council

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

“I feel that I’m finding my feet a little at County Hall. I’m pleased to report that the Labour Group is still large enough to hold a Spoke’s person for each committee, even though we lost some of our key team”.

“Despite the leading group and the govt being in the same party the issues around funding for Leicestershire is still a major concern. The cuts that are needed are still huge and County Hall currently has around £80m

of savings needed with around £23m still left to find. Interestingly Leicester City Council has a similar gap in its requirement for savings. So we have a combined current shortfall requirement of £46m across the whole of Leicester and Leicestershire”.

“As previously reported I have been allocated to manage the Health brief, which I have been putting to good use”.

“The Scrutiny for health received reports on:

- the new Integrated Health Teams, of which Braunstone Town Surgeries of Kingsway and Forest medical have been partnered with two other practices.
- EMAS services
- Patient discharge
- GP & general recruitment
- Transformational Plan”

“I was able to raise our concerns about GP capacity and how the integrated teams will manage where there is an overall issue about availability of local medical professionals. In the best examples, surgeries have combined together provided more services but over a much larger area...still not something that is useful for Braunstone. The area around GP capacity at Kingsway and lack of local service provision was also raised with Toby Sanders and he has personally agreed to review the situation locally. I have almost completed a review of all of the paperwork that has been issued by Braunstone Town Council and will release a letter to Toby in the next couple of days. Thank you to Darren Tilley for providing me with all of the data”.

“The Consultation on Glenfield is reaching its conclusion with just a couple of events remaining, the joint commission met on Tuesday this week. Representations were made by DMU, Lincs CCG, Mercury Patient panel and 3 parents of poorly children. Questions were raised by Health Scrutiny members from the City, County and Rutland. NHS England did not really make a fair account of themselves”.

“I prepared a response to Cabinet for the Library – copy is provided” (filed with these minutes).

“Finally full Council met yesterday and the main areas were the report back from Scrutiny and an analysis of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny commission in 2016/17”.

Councillor Louise Richardson, County Councillor for Enderby & Lubbethorpe Division, reported on the work of scrutiny in responding to the proposals by the NHS on the future of services at Glenfield Hospital. Letters had been sent from the County and City Councils to the Secretary of State raising concerns about travel times and accessibility for patients if the plans were implemented. The lengthy travel times to access services elsewhere would have an adverse impact on the health of

children and families and it was important to recognise that some children continued their treatment into adulthood.

Councillor Richardson thanked Mrs Singh for her petition concerning the issues with accessing GPs at Kingsway Surgery and she reassured her that everyone locally was working to ensure there was a solution and that both she and Councillor Hack served on Health Scrutiny at Leicestershire County Council where access issues and provision was being raised. Councillor Richardson concluded by encouraging issues affecting Thorpe Astley to be raised with her and she offered to assist in seeking resolution.

b) Blaby District Council

Councillor Phil Moitt, as District Councillor for Ravenhurst & Fosse Ward, reported that Planning Committee was busy considering large development applications in the District.

Councillor Ben Taylor, District Councillor for Winstanley Ward, reported on the work and achievements of the Youth Council. The last 12 months had been a success and over the next 12 months scrutiny was looking to be more involved. An example was the issues around the effectiveness of the Public Space Protection Order in Countesthorpe.

Councillor Bill Wright, District Councillor for Millfield Ward, was pleased to announce that air quality had been added to the scrutiny work programme.

c) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt noted that he had been unable to attend the recent Committee meeting due to a clash with a District Council meeting.

d) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

Councillor Paul Kennedy reported a short AGM had been held on Tuesday 27th and a new Treasurer had been appointed. The Community Mini-bus was able to fund itself and a new second bus had been purchased, however, there had been few offers on the old one due to its age.

e) Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group

Councillor Bill Wright reported that there was a new spate of spams and awareness should be raised of the dangers of responding to cold callers.

Councillor Amanda Hack reported similar issues that had been highlighted on the Thorpe Astley portal.

f) Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils

Councillor Robert Waterton reported that he had raised the issue of the removal by Blaby District Council of the Council Tax Support Grant and had been told that the District Council was unable to disentangle the amounts from their Revenue Support Grant. A discussion had also been held around the District Council's proposals to pass car parks to parishes, although there was no impact on Braunstone Town since there were no District Council car parks in the Town. The next meeting was scheduled for 6th September at Thorpe Astley Community Centre.

g) Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Board

Councillor Robert Waterton referred the Council to his earlier report (see Minute 5557).

h) School Governors

Councillor Nick Brown confirmed nothing to report from Millfield Academy.

Councillor Amanda Hack advised there was a Governor vacancy at Ravenhurst School.

5565 Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

These minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the next meeting, scheduled for 28th September 2017.

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.