

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 10th JANUARY 2019 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Councillor Nick Brown (Chair), Councillor Amanda Hack (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Parminder Basra, Sam Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Gary Sanders, Darshan Singh, Robert Waterton and Bill Wright.

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

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

57. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

58. Disclosures of Interest

A disclosure of Non-Pecuniary Interest was made by Councillor Amanda Hack in agenda item 9, Transfer of Thorpe Astley Open Spaces: David Wilson Homes, updated documents, since Councillor Hack's private property was adjacent to one of the areas of open space.

59. Public Participation

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 at the meeting.

60. Minutes of the Meeting held 1st November 2018

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2018 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

61. Shakespeare Park - Improvement & Development

The Committee considered progress with funding, the borrowing application, timescales for awarding the contract for the works and arrangements for the future management of the facility (item 5 on the agenda).

The results of a further consultation exercise on sports and recreation facilities in the Town, which included the Shakespeare Park proposals and how the Council could finance borrowing for the project and whether an increase in the precept would be supported, was submitted (filed with these minutes).

RESOLVED

1. that the approach set out in the report, in respect of progressing funding be endorsed;
2. that the position with potential borrowing and the consultation results be received and that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk to extend the consultation period and amend the consultation in order to gather additional information for the purposes of assisting funding applications;
3. that the proposed outline draft programme of use be endorsed and delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk to amend following comments from the sports clubs;
4. that the advice in relation to the Tennis Court improvements, including the comments of the Working Group and Citizens' Advisory Panel, be received and noted; and
5. that the revised timescales for the project, attached at Appendix 2, be adopted.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To enable funding options to be assessed and sought to ensure the long term financial stability and sustainability of the project.*
2. *To ensure that updated information was considered and consulted upon prior to Council making a borrowing application and to gather additional information to assist with funding applications.*
3. *To ensure that the Pavilion was used to increase participation in sporting activity, to ensure its operation would be sustainable and to maximise revenue opportunities.*
4. *To ensure that appropriate improvements were made to the Tennis Courts and to ensure its long term sustainability.*
5. *To provide a guide for the progression of the project, which could be amended accordingly as appropriate.*

62. Council Objectives

The Committee considered the Council's Priorities and Objectives and determined whether they were relevant to address current and emerging issues faced by the Council and the community (item 6 on the agenda).

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

1. that the nine Town Council Priorities for 2019/2020, based on the 2018/2019 Priorities and as updated, be approved as set out in the report; and
2. that the Council Objectives set out in Appendix 1, be approved.

Reasons for Decision

1. *The Council's priorities continued to be the focus for delivering a vision for local services and an environment which reached the highest possible standards, and the approach was supported by the Town's Citizens' Advisory Panel and the Council's Standing Committees.*
2. *To ensure that the Council's objectives were relevant and reflected*

changing issues within the community.

63. Capital Plan 2019/2020

The Committee considered priorities and projects for 2019/2020 Capital Plan (item 7 on the agenda).

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

1. that the Completed Projects (section a), having now been completed, be removed from the rolling programme of Capital Projects;
2. that the projects due for completion (section b) be removed, assuming their completion prior to the end of the plan period, otherwise to be included on the 2019/2020 Capital Plan;
3. that the Current Projects (section c) be rolled forward on to the 2019/2020 Capital Plan; and
4. that the Proposed New Project (section d) be added to the 2019/2020 Capital Plan; and
5. that the Projects proposed for Deletion (section e) be removed from the rolling programme of Capital Projects.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To confirm that the projects had been completed and there was no further work outstanding.*
2. *To ensure the plan was updated accordingly reflecting progress with its delivery.*
3. *To confirm that the projects were outstanding and were still required.*
4. *To recognise the need to undertake investment and improvement as identified.*
5. *To recognise that, following review, these Projects were no longer required.*

64. Estimates for Budget and Precept 2019/2010 and beyond (including Fees & Charges)

The Committee considered the budget and precept for 2019/2020, including fees and charges and proposed estimates for future years (item 8 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the significant increase in cost for emptying the Council's Dog Waste Bins be noted and that the Committee's concerns be conveyed to Blaby District Council along with informing them of the Town Council's decision to review arrangements in order to avoid additional costs in 2019/2020 and beyond;

THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

2. that the review of arrangements for emptying the Council's Dog Waste Bins be noted and that any additional costs in 2019/2020 be met using the Parks & Open Spaces budget;
3. that a new Cost Centre for "Library & Customer Services", under the responsibility of Policy & Resources Committee, be created as

- detailed in the report and set out at Appendix 1;
4. that administrative arrangements for Town Mayor's Allowance, as detailed in the report and set out at Appendix 1, be approved;
 5. that no percentage increase be applied to Community Centres, sports pitches and miscellaneous fees and charges;
 6. that the Estimates for 2019/2020, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved as the Council's Budget for 2019/2020; and
 7. that a Net Precept Requirement for £604,817 for the financial year 2019/2020 be submitted to Blaby District Council.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that Blaby District Council were aware of the impact of their decision on local services and tax payers and to provide them with notice that the Town Council was seeking to find alternative solutions to avoid the additional costs.*
2. *To allow for a service review of the alternative options for dog waste bin emptying to be undertaken and for any arrangements to be implemented.*
3. *To align budgets in accordance with the Town Council's proposals for managing, staffing and resourcing Customer and Information Services.*
4. *To enable the office to efficiently support the Town Mayor, while enabling the office holder to be compensated for out of pocket expenses in accordance with guidance issued by HMRC.*
5. *Given the economic pressures, to increase hire charges in line with the projected increase in precept over the next 3 to 5 years was likely to have a negative impact on the net income from room hire and more widely on the offer and appeal the centres have in the community.*
6. *To meet the Town Council's operating budgets for 2019/2020 along with funding for the Capital Plan and service pressures as identified in the report on Medium Term Priorities and Financial Planning.*
7. *The precept requirement for the year being the difference between expenditure and income, calculated in accordance with Section 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*

65. Transfer of Thorpe Astley Open Spaces: David Wilson Homes, updated documents

The Committee received and considered revised maps of the land due to be legally transferred from David Wilson Homes to the Council (item 9 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the legal transfer of Open Spaces from David Wilson Homes Limited, as shown in red on the Plan and detailed in the Land Registry Transfer of part of registered title(s), attached at Appendix 1, be completed and THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Common Seal be applied to the transfer documentation;
2. that the legal transfer of Open Spaces from Wilson Bowden Developments Limited, as shown in red on the Plan and detailed in the Land Registry Transfer of part of registered title(s), attached at Appendix 2, be completed and THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO

- COUNCIL that the Common Seal be applied to the transfer documentation;
3. that where parcels of land were initially offered by David Wilson Homes Limited and Wilson Bowden Developments Limited and subsequently maintained and managed by the Town Council, but not included in the final legal transfer map and documentation set out in 1 and 2 above, the Town Council cease to manage and maintain such land and inform David Wilson Homes Limited / Wilson Bowden Developments Limited accordingly;
 4. that should either David Wilson Homes Limited and/or Wilson Bowden Developments Limited seek to subsequently transfer additional open space and should Braunstone Town Council be interested in adopting, then this would be subject to:
 - a) the developer picking up the cost of the Town Council's legal fees in full and providing a mutually agreeable commuted sum;
 - b) the land being transferred in a condition agreeable to Braunstone Town Council; and
 - c) the transfer of responsibility for management and maintenance taking place once the legal transfer had been completed and confirmed by HM Land Registry.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To enable the transfer of the public open space owned by David Wilson Homes Limited to be completed and for the Town Council to become the legal owner.*
2. *To enable the transfer of the public open space owned by Wilson Bowden Developments Limited to be completed and for the Town Council to become the legal owner.*
3. *There was no evidence that either developer would be in a position to transfer this land, nor was there any indication that other land originally identified would be transferred to Braunstone Town Council in the future.*
4. *To ensure that the Town Council nor the Town Council's Solicitor picked up additional legal costs due to the failure of David Wilson Homes / Wilson Bowden Developments to properly identify the open space for transfer and produce the necessary legal documentation. To ensure the Town Council was able to meet the initial costs of maintaining additional open space, particularly given the restraints on the Council's finances.*

66. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st December 2018 (item 10 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

There were no issues of concern with income and expenditure against the budget for 2018/2019.

67. Approval of Accounts

The Committee considered payments from 24th October 2018 until 31st December 2018 (item 11 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions for the Period 24th October until 31st December be approved.

Reason for Decision

To authorise payments in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations and the Council's Financial Regulations.

68. Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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: _____