

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

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

22ND NOVEMBER 2018 at 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Sharon Betts (Town Mayor), Councillor Roger Berrington (Deputy Town Mayor) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Parminder Basra, Nick Brown, David Di Palma, Amanda Hack, Berneta Layne, Phil Moitt, Gary Sanders, Satindra Sangha, Tracey Shepherd, Darshan Singh, Robert Waterton and Bill Wright.

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

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

COUNCILLOR SHARON BETTS, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR

5692 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ajmer Basra, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Paul Kennedy and Sam Maxwell.

5693 Disclosures of Interest

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

5694 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.

5695 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 27th September 2018 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Sharon Betts and seconded by Councillor Nick Brown and was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 27th September 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5696 Medium Term Priorities and Financial Planning

Council received a report setting out the context for the Council's medium term priorities and financial planning (item 5 on the agenda).

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

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 General Reserves be used to invest in infrastructure and assets and in the development and remodelling of services, including the Town Council's operations; and
4. that it be confirmed that £18,000 be used from the Council's Commuted Sums Reserve in 2019/20 to offset the loss of Council Tax Support Grant and avoid significant increases in the precept in two consecutive years.

Reason for Decision

1. *To provide a foundation for preparing budget estimates for 2019/2020 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. *Following the withdrawal of Council Tax Support Grant, to use reserves to protect services, while continuing to phase the equivalent in precept increases over a period of 3 years to avoid any adverse impact consecutive large precept increases would have on residents.*

5697 Announcements

a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Sharon Betts, reported on her recent engagements over the previous two months, which included:

- a) Diwali, 26th October,
- b) RAF 100th Anniversary Concert, 27th October,
- c) Shakespeare Park Bowls Club Dinner & Presentation, 2nd November,
- d) The Window, 3rd November,
- e) Service of Dedication for new war memorial, 7th November,
- f) Remembrance Day Parade and Service, 11th November, and
- g) Flower Demonstration by Kingsway Flower Club, 16th November.

The Town Mayor also reported on her forthcoming engagements as follows:

- a) Christmas Craft Fair, 24th November,
- b) Traditional Carol Service by Harvest Church, 9th December, and
- c) Blaby District Christmas Carol Service, 13th December.

b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Brown, reflected on the Remembrance and Armistice Day event, adding that it had been a spectacular turn out. Councillor Brown thanked all the members of the community involved in creating the poppy cascade display and organising the events and asked the Town Mayor if she would host a reception for all those involved to thank them for their hard work and to recognise their achievements. The Town Mayor, Councillor Sharon Betts, confirmed that she would host such an event.

c) Executive Officer and Town Clerk

No announcements were made.

5698 Questions from Councillors

No questions had been submitted.

5699 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 11th October 2018

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 11th October 2018 (p6576 – p6583).

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5700 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 11th October 2018

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 11th October 2018 (p6584 – p6589).

Page 6585, Minute 41 – Community Speed Watch (Thorpe Astley)

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that a Group was being formed to operate Community Speed Watch and that they would apply to the scheme in 2019. Councillor Waterton confirmed that further applications did not require the collection of signatures.

Page 6586, Minute 42 – Speed Sign Data

Councillor Roger Berrington stated that on approaching the Speed Sign on Braunstone Lane it stated a higher speed than he was travelling and raised concerns about the accuracy of the data and asked that it be looked at.

Councillor Amanda Hack advised that in her role as County Councillor for the area she was working closely with the Highways Department concerning safer crossing points on Braunstone Lane.

It was moved by Councillor Anthea Ambrose and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5701 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 1st November 2018

Council received the Report of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 1st November 2018 (p6590 – p6601).

Page 6591, Minute 39 – Expansion of GP Service at Thorpe Astley

Councillor Amanda Hack reflected on the GP Service at Thorpe Astley stating it had been what the community wanted prior to the Centre opening in 2010. Not only had it been welcome that the service opened in 2018 but its opening had increased from two days to five days a week and now Kingsway Surgery were expanding services. Councillor Hack thanked Kingsway Surgery for their ongoing commitment.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5702 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 8th November 2018

Council received the Report of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 8th November 2018 (p6602 – p6615).

Page 6608 - 6611, Minutes 77 & 78 – Planning and Licensing Applications

Councillor Bill Wright raised concerns about the number of properties which were converting garages into living accommodation and stated he would be making representations at Blaby District Council on the matter.

Councillor Robert Waterton stated that under the new Local Plan, Planning Policy T7 on parking would no longer exist and that Leicestershire County Council's Highway Design Guide would be used to determine parking requirements; however, at this stage it was unclear how this would be applied given this was a Design Guide for new developments.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Waterton and

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

5703 Motions on Notice

The Council received and considered motions moved on notice in accordance with Standing Order 4.13, as set out below:

a) Amendments to Standing Committee and Outside Body Appointments

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Phil Moitt and was:

RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to Standing Committee Appointments (Minute 5646) and Outside Body Appointments (Minute 5647) adopted by the Annual meeting of the Council on 10th May 2018, with effect from 23rd November 2018:

1. Councillor Tracey Shepherd be appointed as Vice-Chair of Community Development Committee, to replace Councillor David Di Palma (note: *Councillor David Di Palma to remain a member of Community Development Committee*); and
2. Councillor Anthea Ambrose be appointed to the Lubbethorpe Strategic Consultative Forum as the Planning & Environment Committee Member Representative, to replace Councillor David Di Palma (note: *Councillor David Di Palma to remain a member of Planning & Environment Committee*).

Reason for Decision

Annual Council's intention was to appoint Councillors to these roles who were members of the majority group on the Council. Councillor David Di Palma was no longer a member of the majority group and other members were willing to serve in these roles.

5704 Sealing of Documents

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

The Executive Officer & Town Clerk advised that he had withdrawn this item since the final documentation submitted by David Wilson Homes for the Council to seal did not correlate with the map that David Wilson Homes had previously submitted and had been approved by Policy & Resources Committee on 1st November 2018. Either the revised version would need to be considered by Policy & Resources Committee or David Wilson Homes needed to resubmit the previous map. Either way sealing could not now take place until Council in January 2019.

5705 Outside Body Reports

a) County Councillors

Councillor Amanda Hack, as County Councillor for Braunstone Division, reported on proposals for a Unitary Authority Structure, a report had been received by Cabinet which set out proposals and potential savings.

Councillor Hack added that Health Scrutiny had reviewed the Unitary Authority proposals and had looked at areas where responsibilities were shared between the Councils and therefore efficiencies could be found. For example, Disabled Facilities Grants were a district responsibility while Social Care was a County Council function. Air Quality Management was a district function, while Highways was a County responsibility.

Council Hack also provided an update on Health Scrutiny's wider work concerning the annual update of the Director of Public Health and statistics which showed that while the retirement age was increasing, the living well age had stalled.

b) District Councillors

Councillor Bill Wright reported that in order to mitigate poor air quality, free trees were available for Local Authorities to plant; however, Leicestershire County Council would not allow tree planting adjacent to highways.

c) Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Phil Moitt had no further update.

d) Braunstone Town Community Minibus

No update was given.

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

Councillor Robert Waterton advised that the next meeting of the Group would be held on 5th December 2018.

f) Lubbesthorpe Strategic Consultative Forum

Councillor Robert Waterton reported on the following matters:

- i. Improvements to the crossing points on Meridian Way – an outline plan had been submitted by the developer, who would carry out the works, to Leicestershire County Council;
- ii. £250 charge to residents for the Land Trust to operate the public open space – it was confirmed that the costs of the Land Trust would be underwritten by the developers;
- iii. Tay Road – the developer had recommended tree planting to prevent drivers using the footpath to avoid the speed bumps, however, this had been rejected by Leicestershire County Council;

- iv. Old Warren Farm was due to be demolished, subject to comments of English Heritage, and the materials would be reused at Abbey Farm.

Councillor Waterton advised that the next meeting would be held in February.

Councillor Bill Wright provided an update as follows:

- i. Affordable Housing Units on Phase 1A was as follows: 40 – 2 bed houses and 16 – 3 bed houses; or which 45 were affordable rent and 11 were shared ownership;
- ii. The Medical Centre was anticipated to be 10,000 square foot; and
- iii. Forest House Medical Centre had planning permission for expansion; however, a start date was awaited.

g) School Governors

Councillor Nick Brown had no further update.

5706 Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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: _____