

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

THURSDAY 10th OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor Rebecca Lunn (Vice-Chair in the Chair), and Councillors Richard Forrest, Tracey Shepherd, Christiane Startin-Lorent, Marion Waterton and Mark Widdop.

Officers in attendance: Darren Tilley, Chief Executive & Town Clerk.

There were no members of the public present.

35. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Alex Dewinter, Andrew Evans, Sam Fox-Kennedy and Satindra Sangha.

36. Disclosures of Interest

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

37. Public Participation

In accordance with Standing Order 3.6, members of the public may attend the meeting for the purpose of submitting a petition and/or making representations, giving evidence or answering questions in respect of any item of business included on the agenda.

38. Minutes of the Meeting held 11th July 2024

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2024 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

39. Town Mayor's Report

The Committee received a report on the activities of the Town Mayor and any proposals for initiatives during the Civic Year (Item 5 on the agenda).

It was noted that Apple Day on 5th October 2024 had been cancelled due to Franklin Park being waterlogged, following significant rainfall in the week running up to the event.

RESOLVED that the update on the Town Mayor's Engagements be noted.

Reason for Decision

To monitor and review the effectiveness of the Town Council's community engagement activities.

40. Crime Statistics

The Committee received the latest crime statistics, including comparative figures (item 6 on the agenda).

The meaning of the rate difference between Braunstone and Leicestershire was confirmed that "Safer" referred to less than the Leicestershire average and "more dangerous" referred to higher than Leicestershire average.

Vehicle Crime was the one area of particular concern. However, Police Sergeant Jay Cooper advised that the level of vehicle crime in Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley was similar to areas which had easy access to the main road and motorway network.

RESOLVED that the crime statistics be received and noted.

Reason for Decision

To note that overall, Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley had lower rates of crime per head of population compared to that of the Leicestershire Police Force Area as a whole.

41. Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

The Committee received an update from the Local Neighbourhood Police Beat team on local community safety and policing initiatives.

A copy of the October 2024 Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley Neighbourhood Police Team Newsletter was circulated (filed with these minutes).

Police Sergeant Jay Cooper and Police Constable Fraser Lennox attended the meeting to provide an update on the work of the local police beat team as follows:

- a) The investigation into the incident on Franklin Park on 1st September 2024, which resulted in the death of Mr Kohli, was ongoing and remains an active incident.
- b) Following the incident (see a) above), the local neighbourhood beat team had increased neighbourhood engagement, particularly in the vicinity of Franklin Park. The aim was to capture information to establish whether there were any further incidents or major links, which would need to be addressed. To date, nothing significant had been identified.

- c) Franklin Park was quieter following the incident and this remained the case. However, overall, residents seemed to be getting out and about.
- d) The Team were trying to catch up with day to day work. In respect of Beat Priority 2 “*Obstruction of the Highway, vehicles parking on pavements and across driveways*”, this continued to be of significant concern to residents, particularly in and around schools.

Concerns were raised about knife crime, children carrying knives, and anti-social behaviour being caused in Braunstone Park and Braunstone Town by the same individuals.

In response, Police Sergeant Jay Cooper and Police Constable Fraser Lennox urged that incidents of anti-social behaviour and witnessed knife carrying were reported to the Police. While it was understood that there was an effort involved in reporting incidents, this enabled the police to build up a picture of patterns and therefore target their patrols accordingly. The Police also had arrangements for monitoring habitual knife carriers. The Beat Team worked closely with the Beat Team for Braunstone Park and regularly shared information.

An update on the previous stabbing incident in Thorpe Astley, was requested. The Chief Executive & Town Clerk confirmed that a response had been received from Sergeant Jay Cooper and undertook to ensure that Councillors received a copy.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that current community safety and policing updates were received.

42. Local Area Co-ordination

The Committee received a progress report concerning the priorities and achievements of the Local Area Co-ordination Project in Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley (item 8 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reasons for Decision

To identify current issues and support needs of residents and ensure that the Town Council and Local Area Coordination social inclusion initiatives complimented each other.

43. Town Council Events 2025

The Committee considered initial arrangements, including proposed provisional dates, for Council organised events in 2025 (item 9 on the agenda).

Concerns were raised concerning the communication arrangements when an outdoor event was cancelled due to bad weather or the effects of bad weather on the ground; as had been the case with Apple Day on 5th October 2024. In response, the Chief Executive & Town Clerk undertook to review internal procedures for cancellation of events and the associated communications and publicity.

RESOLVED

1. that the update be noted; and
2. that events in 2025, and the provisional dates, be approved as follows:
 - a) Thorpe Astley on the Beach – Saturday 7th June 2025;
 - b) Summer Fete – Saturday 9th August 2025; and
 - c) Apple Day – Saturday 27th September 2025.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that suitable events and activities be arranged on the Town Council's Parks and Open Spaces.*
2. *To ensure that events would be arranged and promoted in a timely manner.*

44. Outside Body Report: Braunstone West Social Centre

The Committee received an update from Councillor Rebecca Lunn concerning Braunstone West Social Centre. Councillor Lunn had been invited to a meeting; however, it was at 4pm in the afternoon and she had been unable to attend at this time. She would keep in contact with the Social Centre and endeavour to attend meetings where she could.

45. Summary of Grant Applications

The Committee received a list of grants paid and applied for from external sources between April 2024 and September 2024 (Item 11 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

To monitor progress with supporting community groups with identifying sources of funding and with the award of grants under the Council's Community Grants scheme.

46. Community Grant Applications

The Committee considered Community Grant Applications which had been received (Item 12 on the agenda).

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk confirmed that the Friday Social had previously been awarded a grant as a group under the same name. The group was now part of Braunstone Community Life, who funded the initiative and the Friday Social bank account had been closed and funds transferred to Braunstone Community Life.

RESOLVED that the following grant applications be approved:

- | | |
|--|------|
| a) Braunstone Community Life – Friday Social | £500 |
| b) Winstanley Wizards | £500 |

Reason for Decision

The grant applications met the scheme criteria.

47. Projects to Reduce Loneliness and Isolation

The Committee considered a grant application for a project to reduce loneliness and isolation which has been received (Item 13 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the following Reduce Loneliness and Isolation grant application be approved:

- | | |
|--|------|
| a) Braunstone Community Life – Friday Social | £500 |
|--|------|

Reason for Decision

The grant application met the scheme criteria.

48. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024 (item 14 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

There were no issues identified with income and expenditure to date.

49. Approval of Accounts

The Committee considered payments from 3rd July 2024 until 1st October 2024 (item 15 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions, for the period 3rd July 2024 until 1st October 2024, be approved.

Reason for Decision

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

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

NOTE:

*CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 (SECTION 17) – The Council has an obligation to consider Crime and 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 minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the currently proposed meeting scheduled for 5th December 2024.

DRAFT