

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HELD AT BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

THURSDAY 16th MAY 2024 AT 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor Anthea Ambrose (Chair), and Councillors Andy Evans, Richard Forrest, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Christiane Startin-Lorent, Marion Waterton, Robert Waterton (substituting for Councillor Rebecca Lunn) and Mark Widdop.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Paul Kennedy, was also in attendance.

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

There was one member of the public present.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rebecca Lunn, Satindra Sangha and Tracey Shepherd.

2. Disclosures of Interest

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

3. 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.

There was one member of the public present at the meeting. The gentleman lived in Cressida Court, Braunstone Lane, and was concerned about speeding and safety along Braunstone Lane. He stated that the speed of traffic had got worse over the years and now it was unpleasant and unsafe to be out in the front gardens. A vehicle had recently overturned in the area, due to travelling at speed.

PCSO Duane Wright was in attendance at the meeting and advised that Police had been and continued to monitor vehicle speed on Braunstone Lane. He advised that physical changes to the road layout needed to be directed to Leicestershire County Council Highways.

RESOLVED

1. that the County Councillor for the Division be informed of the concerns raised by the resident; and
2. that the Committee consider, at the next scheduled meeting, options for placing the Council's Speed Sign in the location.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To enable the County Councillor for the Division to raise any relevant matters with County Highways.*
2. *To consider locating the Council's speed sign in locations where there were concerns about vehicles speeding and public safety.*

4. Minutes of the Meeting held 28th March 2024

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th March 2024 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5. 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).

The Town Mayor, Councillor Paul Kennedy, was in attendance and, in addition to the engagements listed in the report, he had accepted an invitation to attend Vaisakhi celebrations at Braunstone Civic Centre on 1st June 2024.

It was noted that Thorpe Astley on the Beach was being held on 8th June 2024 and help was needed to set up and pack up at the event. Councillors who could assist were asked to advise the Deputy Chief Executive & Community Services Manager.

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.

6. Community Safety and Neighbourhood Policing Update

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

PSCO Wright had been in correspondence with the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Anthea Ambrose, concerning recent incidents concerning motorcycles (correspondence was circulated and filed with the agenda and minutes).

PSCO Wright provided the following update:

- a) The Beat Priority relating to Road Safety was now focussing specifically on obstruction. The team were aiming to educate the public around what constituted obstruction of the highway.
- b) The Police were encouraging residents to sign up to Neighbourhood Link and fill out the surveys. The responses would assist the Beat Team with evaluating its priorities.
- c) Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour remained a Beat Priority, primarily tackling illegal use of motorcycles and dealing with neighbour disputes.

The following issues were raised by members of the Committee:

- a) Learning from the recent stabbing incident in Thorpe Astley. The culprit had been convicted. Concern was raised that the behaviour of the individual had been previously reported and no action taken.
- b) People on motorcycles regularly riding along the footpath between Murby Way and Thorpe Astley Park and between Park Drive and Garden Close. Concerns about the time it takes to report incidents to the Police and dangerous riding.
- c) Dangerous parking, causing obstruction, around the Wardens Walk / St Mary's Road Junction particularly on Thursday and Friday evenings around 6pm and 7pm.

PCSO Wright was in conversation with his Sergeant, Jayme Cooper, concerning developing a Problem Management Plan for the issue of illegal use of motorcycles in partnership with local councils and landowners. The process could include an Environmental Visual Audit, which may result in physical changes being made to prevent use of motorcycles.

RESOLVED

1. that Neighbourhood Link be promoted, along with encouraging residents to complete the surveys in respect of beat priorities;
2. that Leicestershire Police be formally requested to update the Town Council on the recent stabbing incident in Thorpe Astley, including previous reporting and action, along with any learning, given the criminal process had completed; and
3. that the issues concerning the illegal use of motorcycles, as detailed above, along with the potential to develop a multi-agency Problem Management Plan, be noted.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To ensure that residents were engaged with the local Police Beat Team's work and priorities.*

2. *Given the trial was complete, it was appropriate to follow up on the previous letter to the Police on the subject and to ascertain whether previous reports had been acted upon accordingly and whether there was any learning for the incident.*
3. *In principle, the Town Council was open to working in partnership with the Police, other councils and other bodies, to address concerns around the illegal use of motorcycles. Details of what was being asked in practice would need to be considered in full if this was an approach Leicestershire Police wanted to pursue.*

7. Local Area Co-ordination

The Committee received a progress report from Kristi Trown, Local Area Coordinator, concerning the priorities and achievements of the Local Area Co-ordination Project in Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley.

Kristi Trown had around 40 introductions to residents across Braunstone Town, Thorpe Astley and Leicester Forest East, along with informal introductions.

Main focus of work included:

- Social Inclusion: befriending services, coffee mornings and Chatty Cafes;
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Information; and
- Finance: information for those struggling financially, including information about benefits and signposting to the JobShop.

Kristi Trown was speaking with residents at the Buzzing Roots Community Allotment; the Sisterhood project, which assisted parents raising children and at the Community Fridge. The Community Fridge was currently closed and were looking for new volunteers to assist them.

Finally, residents were being directed to community transport, particularly where they needed support to get out and about.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

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

8. Franklin Park Community Orchard – Events and Community Activities

The Committee received a progress report on community use of the Franklin Park Community Orchard, including events and community activities (item 8 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the report be noted; and
2. that the proposed activities for Apple Day, detailed in the *Update* section of the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision

1. *To note activities and work undertaken on the Community Orchard.*
2. *To ensure that suitable activities would be arranged and in place for Apple Day 2024.*

9. Fete – progress update

The Committee received a progress update on preparations for the annual Summer Town Fete at Mossdale Meadows (item 9 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the activities arranged to date be endorsed.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that suitable activities would be arranged and in place for the event.

10. Outside Body Report: Braunstone West Social Centre

Councillor Rebecca Lunn had submitted her apologies and there was no further update on the activities at Braunstone West Social Centre.

11. Town Mayor's Charity 2023/2024 – Use of funds raised

The Committee considered how the funds raised for the Town Mayor's Charity 2023/2024 should be used; including whether to set up a Grants Scheme (Item 11 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the Grants Scheme for Projects to Reduce Loneliness and Isolation, as set out at Appendix 1, be adopted;
2. that £1,500 of the Town Mayor's Charity 2023/2024 funds be earmarked for the Grants Scheme, approved in 1 above;
3. that £500 of the Town Mayor's Charity 2023/2024 funds be earmarked to promote and publicise Chatty Cafés;
4. that the balance of the Town Mayor's Charity 2023/2024 funds be earmarked for the annual registration of the Chatty Cafes at the Civic Community Lounge and Gilly's Sandwich Shop and to cover any expenses for drinks and food; and
5. that Community Development Committee review the balance of the earmarked funds (if any) for the existing chatty café schemes, set out in 3 and 4 above, once the £1,500 earmarked for the Grants Scheme had

been awarded, or in the event that the existing Chatty Café Schemes end.

Reasons for Decision

1. To ensure that charity funds raised were used to reduce loneliness and isolation of residents in Braunstone Town or Thorpe Astley, as set out in the Town Mayor's Charity Scheme for 2023/2024.
2. To make available sufficient funding, which could make the difference as to whether a scheme/project would be a success.
3. To raise awareness of Chatty Cafés among residents to reduce isolation and loneliness in the community.
4. To continue to support the two existing Chatty Cafés, as set out in the original fundraising objectives of the Town Mayor's Charity Scheme for 2023/2024.
5. To ensure that any residual funds could be directed to where there was both demand and need.

12. Summary of Grant Applications

The Committee received a list of grants paid and applied for from external sources between April 2023 and March 2024 and from April 2024 to date (Item 12 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.

13. Community Grant Applications

The Committee considered Community Grant Applications which had been received (Item 13 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the following grant applications be approved:

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|--|------|
| a) Punjabi Cultural Society | £500 |
| b) Braunstone Athletic FC | £500 |
| c) 3 rd Braunstone Brownies | £500 |
| d) 3 rd Braunstone Rainbows | £150 |
| e) Shakespeare Park Sports Pavilion Management Association | £500 |

Reason for Decision

The grant applications met the scheme criteria.

14. Financial Comparisons

The Committee received Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 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.

15. Approval of Accounts

The Committee considered payments from 20th March 2024 until 31st March 2024; and from 1st April 2024 until 7th May 2024 (item 15 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the list of Approved Expenditure Transactions, for the period 20th March until 31st March 2024; and from 1st April 2024 until 7th May 2024, be approved.

Reason for Decision

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

16. Tennis Coaching Sessions (June and July 2024)

The Committee considered supporting community tennis coaching sessions during June and July 2024 at Shakespeare Park and Thorpe Astley Park Tennis Courts (item 16 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the proposed six-week *Tennis Coaching Sessions*, detailed in the respective section of the report and as set out at Appendix 1, be approved;
2. that the costs of the coach be met from and income from fees be received into the Community Development - Social Inclusion Initiatives budget; and
3. that delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive & Community Services Manager to:
 - a) work with the tennis coach to agree, once numbers were known, whether the sessions would be viable and, if so, the total number of sessions and the age ranges for those sessions;
 - b) to vary the charges in the event of insufficient take up, if on balance it would lead to sessions being viable;
 - c) to determine the terms and conditions of the sessions, including cancellation arrangements; and

- d) to implement administrative arrangements associated with taking bookings and payments.

Reason for Decision

- 1. To deliver tennis initiatives to enhance participation, as identified in the Council's Business Plan for 2024/2025.*
- 2. To secure the services of a professional coach to deliver the initiative on behalf of Braunstone Town Council.*
- 3. To ensure that sessions could be provided for all those interested, while ensuring that costs to the Council would be minimised; and to allow for flexibility in how the sessions could be delivered to ensure that sessions would be viable.*

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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 4th July 2024.