

## **BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 at 8.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Paul Kennedy (Town Mayor), and Councillors Shabbir Aslam, Nick Brown, Garry Dulon, Andrew Evans, Richard Forrest, Sam Fox-Kennedy, Leanne Lee, Rebecca Lunn, Sam Maxwell, Tracey Shepherd, Darshan Singh, Christiane Startin-Lorent, and Mark Widdop.

**Officers in Attendance:** Darren Tilley, Chief Executive & Town Clerk and Pauline Snow, Deputy Chief Executive & Community Services Manager.

There were 2 members of the public present at the meeting.

#### **COUNCILLOR PAUL KENNEDY, TOWN MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR**

The Town Mayor led the Council in a minute's silence to remember Mr Bhim Kohli, resident, who had tragically died following an incident at Franklin Park. Councillor Nick Brown expressed the Town Council's deepest condolences and best wishes to the family at this very difficult time.

#### **6252 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Alex Dewinter, Gary Sanders, Satindra Sangha, Marion and Robert Waterton.

#### **6253 Disclosures of Interest**

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

#### **6254 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were circulated (item 3 on the agenda).

It was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Leanne Lee and was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of Braunstone Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

#### **6255 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 two members of the public present, both relatives of Mr Bhim Kohli. The Council were thanked for the support offered to the family following the tragic incident on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 at Franklin Park.

#### **6256 Co-option to Vacancy on the Council**

A Notice of vacancy in the Office of Town Councillor was published on 26th June 2024 for the Millfield Ward, following the resignation of Sevim Aslan. A request for an election was not received within the required 14 days.

Public elections would not be held until May 2027; therefore, for the interim period the vacancy could be filled by co-option, voted for by the incumbent members of Braunstone Town Council.

Standing Order 4.9a sets out that “the Council will publicise that it intends to co-opt to the vacancy at the next meeting of the Council and will invite expressions of interest”. Therefore, a Notice of vacancy in the Office of Town Councillor was published on 14th August 2024.

Any person interested in being co-opted as a Braunstone Town Councillor had been requested to apply in writing to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk by 12noon on Monday 9th September 2024. No expressions of interest had been received by the deadline.

On 9th September, the deadline was extended by a further week until 12noon on Monday 16th September 2024. Again, no expressions of interest were received by the extended deadline.

As a result, on 16th September, the deadline was extended by another week until 12noon on Monday 23rd September 2024. Again, no expressions of interest were received by the deadline.

Therefore, it was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Tracey Shepherd and was

**RESOLVED** that expressions of interest in the Councillor vacancy for Millfield Ward be reopened, for consideration at the next Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.

*Reason for Decision*

*To provide further opportunity for interested residents to express an interest in being co-opted to the Councillor vacancy for Millfield Ward.*

#### **6257 Committee Appointments**

Council considered Committee Appointments following changes in the membership of the Council (item 6 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Tracey Shepherd and was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Garry Dulon be appointed as a member of the Planning & Environment Committee and the Citizen's Advisory Panel.

*Reason for Decision*

*To enable the efficient and effective transaction of the Council's business by filling the vacancy on the Planning & Environment Committee and on the Citizens' Advisory Panel.*

#### **6258 Climate Change and Environmental Strategy**

The Council considered, following consultation, a revised and updated Climate Change and Environmental Strategy to ensure that it was relevant, fit for purpose and that the Council had a framework for delivering its commitments (item 7 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Tracey Shepherd and was

**RESOLVED** that the proposed revisions to the Climate Change and Environmental Strategy (highlighted red at Appendix 1 of the report) be approved and adopted.

*Reason for Decision*

*The Climate Change & Environmental Strategy provided the framework for the Town Council's response to Climate Change; therefore, it was important to ensure that it was fit for purpose, met the needs and aspirations of residents', and would be deliverable.*

#### **6259 Mossdale Meadows Flood Alleviation and Drainage Improvements – Borrowing Application**

The Council considered whether to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a Public Works Loan of £128,226 for the cost of the Mossdale Meadows flood alleviation and drainage improvements (item 8 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Tracey Shepherd and was

**RESOLVED**

1. that the following resolutions be approved:
  - a) "to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £128,226 over the borrowing term of 40 years for the cost of the Mossdale Meadows flood alleviation and drainage improvements; the annual loan repayments will come to around £7,773.34"; and
  - b) "it is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments"; and
2. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk, to

put together and submit the borrowing application with supporting evidence.

#### *Reasons for Decision*

1. *To finance the high priority Mossdale Meadows Flood Alleviation and Drainage Improvements, as set out in the Capital Plan. The essential works consist of:*
  - i. *installation of a new brook culvert and bridge, which was at risk of collapse/subsidence, enabling increased water flows, reducing the likelihood of flooding, and*
  - ii. *drainage improvements at the entrance to the car park, to tackle surface water flooding, which occurs after significant intense rainfall, obstructing access to the car park, park, play area, and adjacent footpath / cycleway;*

*loan repayments would be covered by the amounts set aside in the current revenue budget to repay loans which mature in the last (2023/2024) and next (2025/2026) financial years.*
2. *To enable the detailed supporting evidence to be gathered and submitted with the Council's application without undue delay.*

#### **6260 Request for Approved Absence – Councillor Satindra Sangha**

The Council received and considered an absence request from Councillor Satindra Sangha in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 (item 9 on the agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Nick Brown and seconded by Councillor Tracey Shepherd and was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Satindra Sangha's request for her absence to be approved, in accordance with Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, be accepted and agreed.

#### *Reason for Decision*

*Councillor Satindra Sangha had requested on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 that the Council approve an extension to her absence since she was currently not fit enough to return.*

#### **6261 Announcements**

##### a) Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor Paul Kennedy, made the following announcements:

“Since we last met there had only really been 2 events I have attended as Mayor”.

“In the Summer we had the fete on Mossdale Meadows, which seemed to be well attended, maybe due to the weather which was definitely better than last year! I have to thank all the councillors who attended and helped,

including Marion, my Deputy. Without her support that day my stall couldn't be run. I hope everyone had a good day, including the public who attended and the stall holders”.

“In addition, I hosted a short ceremony at the Civic Memorial Garden on 25th August for Ukrainian Independence Day. Despite the wet weather, it is important that we continue to show our support and solidarity with all Ukrainian people”.

“The next events I have are:

- 5th October – Apple Day on Franklin Park between 11am and 2pm
- 18th October – Diwali 7.30 at the Civic Centre
- 27th October – Halloween Disco at Thorpe Astley Community Centre
- 10<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday at Saint Crispins Church at 10.45am
- 11<sup>th</sup> November – Armistice Day commemoration at the Civic Memorial Garden, starting at 10.45am
- 16th November – Christmas Craft Fair between 11am and 3pm”

b) Leader of the Council

Councillor Nick Brown commented on the following matters:

Summer Fete 2024

Councillor Brown commented on the very successful Summer Fete on Mossdale Meadows, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and thanked officers for their work and support in organising the event.

Apple Day would be held on Franklin Park on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October and hoped that the weather would be good for the event to take place. It was hoped that this event would be a positive community event at the park in light of the tragic events in the vicinity that had taken place in September.

c) Chief Executive and Town Clerk

The Chief Executive and Town Clerk provided an update concerning the incident on Franklin Park and a summary of action taken to support the community. Report filed with the agenda as Item 10c.

## **6262 County and District Councillor Reports**

a) Leicestershire County Council

Councillor Amanda Hack, as County Councillor for Braunstone Division, reported on the following matters:

- a) Councillor Hack expressed her condolences to the family and friends of Mr Bhim Kohli following the gentleman's tragic death in September.
- b) Flooding in the Town, and particularly Amy Street. Work was currently being undertaken with partners to support the residents with incidents of flooding in the area. Councillor Amanda Hack requested that

Braunstone Town Council ask Leicester City Council to take action quickly to alleviate flooding at Amy Street and to support the local residents. It was also suggested that residents receive the resources to act as Flood Wardens.

- c) SEND support was under pressure at the moment but local Members of Parliament would put pressure on central government to support local authorities.
- d) Local public transport services and routes to encourage more residents to use public transport. It was noted that public transport was more crowded with school children using this method of transport to get to and from school as school bus services were now very expensive for families to afford.

b) Blaby District Council

Councillor Nick Brown, as District Councillor for Millfield Ward, reported on the following matters:

- a) Planning applications for conversion of residential properties into Children's Homes. Had been a noticeable increase in numbers of applications received but majority of properties did not cause any issues.
- b) Planning Policy – Blaby District Council's Land Use 15 year Policy now coming to an end.
- c) Funding for Food waste policies and provision of transport had been reduced but diesel vehicles still being used. Any net gain of the policy lost through use of diesel vehicles for delivery of food.
- d) Hopes that new central government would consider multi-year settlements to local authorities in order to allow councils to plan better for future projects.

**6263 Questions from Councillors**

To answer questions from Councillors where notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.11.

No questions had been submitted.

**6264 Reports of Standing Committees: Community Development Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Council received the Report of the Community Development Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (p8007 – 8013).

It was moved by Councillor Rebecca Lunn and

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**6265 Reports of Standing Committees: Extraordinary Planning & Environment Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Extraordinary Planning & Environment Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (p8014 – p8019).

It was moved by Councillor Sam Maxwell and

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**6266 Reports of Standing Committees: Employing Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Employing Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 (p8020 – p8022).

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

**RESOLVED** that the Report be adopted.

**6267 Reports of Standing Committees: Planning & Environment Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Council received the Report of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 (p8023– p8035).

It was moved by Councillor Sam Maxwell and

**RESOLVED** that the report by adopted.

**6268 Reports of Standing Committees: Policy & Resources Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Council received the Report of the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (p8036 – p8045).

Page 8045, Minute 41 – Land adjacent to the New M1 Bridge, Thorpe Astley

Councillor Nick Brown advised that the new land at Thorpe Astley was now open to the public to use but had not yet been transferred into Braunstone Town Council as the legal process had not yet been completed. Councillor Brown thanked the developers for the work undertaken on the land and commented on the valuable asset this would be for the Town.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Brown and

**RESOLVED** that the report by adopted.

**6269 Reports of Standing Committees: Extraordinary Meeting of Planning & Environment Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Council received the Report of the Extraordinary meeting of Planning & Environment Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (p8046 – 8047).

It was moved by Councillor Sam Maxwell and

**RESOLVED** that the report be adopted.

**6270 Motions on Notice**

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

**6271 Sealing of Documents**

There were no documents for sealing.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

**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.

*These minutes are a draft and are subject to consideration for approval at the next meeting scheduled 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.*