

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 6 February 2012

In the Council Chamber, The Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr. G Hughes, Cllr. N Vant, Cllr. D Bimson, Cllr. P Ridgwell, Cllr. T Simmons, Cllr. K Butcher, Cllr. Mrs Linda Challiss, Cllr. M Skinner, Cllr. A Billingham, Cllr. L Jacobs, Cllr. S Edwards, Cllr. R Crowther.

Also present: Mrs C Mason (Town Clerk), Sgt. Chisnall and fourteen members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

PRESENTATION FROM CLAIR HARVEY AND ESTHER KEEN BRANDON COMMUNITY HUB (OLD SCHOOL HOUSE PROJECT)

Main points of the presentation: Flagship project for the town; opportunities for additional car parking; potentially a link to Market Hill through the town council building; improved public access to services; one stop shop for all needs; provision of public toilets; improved accommodation for Safer Neighbourhood Team, Children's Centre, Library and Pre-School; opportunity for closer working; flexible meeting space; efficiencies and property savings for all parties involved; potential redevelopment of land to generate on going revenue to support the centre; potential local ownership and delivery. Key questions raised included the provision of disabled public toilets; the availability of meeting rooms for community groups; cost of the project; potential revenue streams.

Further discussion at the next town council meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. A Billingham, Cllr. Mrs L Challiss.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and additions to Members Register of Interests.
None.

3. TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN MINUTES

Of the Brandon Town Council Precept Meeting of Monday 23 January 2012 (Public items).
Resolution Record No. **BTC/85/06/Feb/12**

Proposed by Cllr. T Simmons and seconded by Cllr. D Bimson.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT MEETING OF MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2012 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE RECORD.

4. MATTERS ARISING for information exchange only

Of the Brandon Town Council Precept Meeting of Monday 23 January 2012 (Public Items).
With reference to agenda item 5, Cllr. P Ridgwell asked the Chairman to explain why he had chosen not to utilise his vote under the heading Contingency Fund. An explanation was given.

5. PUBLIC FORUM – Monthly event limited to 3 minutes duration maximum per resident.
Resolution Record No. **BTC/86/06/Feb/12**

Proposed by Cllr. D Bimson and seconded by Cllr. K Butcher.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED FOR THE PUBLIC FORUM.

Members of the public raised issues relating to: the increase in the precept budget and the effect on local council tax payers; the proposed ownership/management by the town council of Brandon Country Park; the missing Stiles; the requisite new cemetery archaeological dig; parking issues at the new cemetery site; ownership of The Old Fire Station.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Recorded crime figures for the period 5 December to 5 January 2012 stands at 55. The same time period last year saw 71 recorded crimes. This is a decrease of 22.5%. Figures for Brandon 2011:

615 crimes recorded (2010 shows 702 offences) – a reduction of 12.4% on the previous year. Equates to 87 less victims of crime over the year.

The percentage of the total crime in the Brandon SNT area (Isleham Marina to Santon Downham) is also reduced. In 2010 Brandon Town itself was the location of 47.7% of all crime in the area. In 2011 it had fallen to 43.9% of total crime. Police priorities for Brandon are anti-social behaviour outside Tesco and parents parking outside schools. Run by FHDC Youth Workers, a Cage Football Event is planned to take place in Tesco car park shortly. Questions to Sgt. Chisnall included the drink driving figures; an illegally parked car in the Towlers Court area; burglaries in Pinewood Close targeting the elderly.

7. TO RECEIVE REPORTS (if any) from County and /or District Councillors.

Cllr. S Edwards said interviews for the post of Joint Chief Executive for St. Edmundsbury and Forest Heath District Council would be ratified on Wednesday 15 February. Neither of the current CEO's have applied. Twenty two applications were received.

Cllr. P Ridgwell asked if the Heritage Centre is to close. In response, Cllr. S Edwards said no concrete decision has been made for its closure and the Centre will reopen over the Easter weekend as usual. Forest Heath District Council is still awaiting information from the Heritage Committee.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. URGENT BUSINESS – any items the Chairman considers a matter of urgent business.

Cllr. P McLoughlin expressed his concern that remedial works to the north side of the Thetford Road crossing have not yet been carried out. Highways to be contacted for an update on the situation.

In order to gauge public opinion on the proposed transfer of Brandon Country Park to the town council, Cllr. R Silvester proposed that a referendum be held. Seconded by Cllr. N Vant but not voted upon. Cllr. M Skinner suggested a public meeting would be a more viable option, as accurate information regarding the proposed increase in the precept could then be explained in greater detail.

Resolution Record No. **BTC/87/06/Feb/12**

Proposed by Cllr. M Skinner and seconded by Cllr. T Simmons.

Votes 5 for 5 against 1 abstention.

The Chairman used his casting vote in favour of the Resolution.

CARRIED: 6 for 5 against 1 abstention.

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL AGREES TO HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF THE BRANDON COUNTRY PARK TO THE TOWN COUNCIL.

9. ACCOUNTS

9.1 Approval of payments (Public Items) –January 2012.

9.2 Approval of confidential items –January 2012 (Staff salaries).

Resolution Record No. **BTC/88/06/Feb/12**

Proposed by Cllr. D Bimson and seconded by Cllr. K Butcher.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES AGENDA ITEMS NINE ONE, NINE TWO EN-BLOC.

Date	Amount	Supplier	Net Total	VAT
Jan-12	83.60	The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities	75.00	8.60
Jan-12	42.27	Finevale Service Station	35.22	7.05
Jan-12	112.19	Neopost Limited (ink cartridge)	93.49	18.70
Jan-12	240.00	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	200.00	40.00
Jan-12	14.52	Thetford Garden Centre	12.10	2.42
Jan-12	3,594.00	Ray Lake Electrical Limited	2,995.00	599.00
Jan-12	25.80	Cooleraid Limited	21.50	4.30
Jan-12	79.28	Ian Smith Office Supplies	66.07	13.21
Jan-12	61.56	Arco Limited (black sacks)	51.30	10.26
Jan-12	11.71	Chase Timber Products Limited	9.76	1.95
Jan-12	129.60	St John Ambulance	108.00	21.60
Jan-12	14.00	J & D Green	14.00	
Jan-12	1093.29	Suffolk County Council - S/L - Willow Close	930.46	162.83
TOTAL:	5,501.82		4,611.90	889.92

9.3 Only one quotation received therefore discussion was deferred until a later date.

10. TO FORMALLY ADOPT THE BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT FIGURE FOR THE YEAR 2012/13

The relevant paperwork was agreed (precept set at £282,231.00) and signed by the Chairman, two councillors and the town clerk.

11. BRANDON COUNTRY PARK

The purpose of the last meeting with Suffolk County Council was primarily concerned with TUPE legislation and how this will affect the existing Country Park staff. Questions to be forwarded to Jerry Hindle included sight of completed year end accounts; the recharging process; cost plans and insurance issues. Cllr. M Skinner thanked Cllr. D Bimson for the work undertaken to progress the project.

One other matter regarding Brandon Country Park will be heard in the confidential section of the meeting.

Cllr. R Silvester left the meeting at 8.50pm.

12. THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

After having met with the organiser of the Brandon Carnival, Cllr. M Skinner felt it would be advantageous for the town council to support this event as an alternative to purchasing a Jubilee Beacon. A report to be prepared for a later town council meeting.

13. LIME TREES

A report relating to the replanting of lime trees in Victoria Avenue and from Coulson Lane to the traffic lights was fully discussed. It was further suggested a number of saplings could be planted as a community project and ultimately transferred to alternative locations within the town e.g. the new cemetery, the Avenue.

Resolution Record No. **BTC/89/06/Feb/12**

Proposed by Cllr. S Edwards and seconded by Cllr. R Crowther.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL WILL PURCHASE ADEQUATE LIME TREES AND SUITABLE CAGES WITHIN THE AGREED BUDGET OF FIFTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS.

14. CLERKS MONTHLY LOG

Contents noted.

15. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolution Record No. **BTC/90/06/Feb/12**

Proposed by Cllr. K Butcher and seconded by Cllr. D Bimson.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Public and Press be excluded from the Meeting temporarily due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed concerning QUOTES: LAND: STAFF: CONTRACTS

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Confidential Minutes

Of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting

Held at 7.00pm on Monday 6 February 2012

In the Council Chamber, Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon.

THIS PAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL
ONLY THE RESOLUTIONS MAY BE DISPLAYED
AS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD

16. TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Of the Brandon Town Council Precept Meeting of Monday 23 January 2012.

There were no confidential minutes to consider.

17. MATTERS ARISING from the confidential minutes of the Brandon Town Council Precept Meeting of Monday 23 January 2012.

No matters to consider.

18. STAFF MATTER

* Confidential *

19. CEMETERY MATTER

* Confidential *

With no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 9.40pm.