

BRANDON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting
held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 virtually using Zoom at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr P Wittam (Chair), Cllr S Annear, Cllr L Atkins, Cllr B Brabbs, Cllr P Etherington, Cllr J Hughes, Cllr J Lloyd-Blackwell, Cllr V Lukaniuk, Cllr D Moore, Cllr D Palmer, Cllr P Ridgwell, Cllr S Skinner, Cllr N Vant

Local Government Electors of the Town of Brandon: 1+ member of the public all eligible to speak and vote on proposals.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** and approval of reasons tendered.
Cllr S Corciulo

2. **TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF MONDAY 13TH MAY 2019**

Cllr Etherington stated that she was Chair at the ATM of May 2019. The Clerk commented the amendment had already been noted.

Proposer: Cllr P Etherington

Seconder: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Resolution Record No: **BTC/114/05/May/21**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 6 for, 7 ineligible to vote.

THE MEETING RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13TH MAY 2019.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE YEAR 2020/21**

Cllr Wittam reminded those present of how Covid 19 has affected the whole world and asked everyone to maintain a minute's silence in memory of those that have died and may die.

He thanked the members of staff of Brandon Town Council for their work during the pandemic and maintaining services during this difficult time. He then asked for a round of applause to mark their efforts.

Cllr Wittam stated it had been a pleasure and an honour to serve as Chair for the past year and would continue to do so as a Councillor. He wished whoever takes the Chair the very best of luck whilst they are in office.

4. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CHARITIES – THE BRANDON POOR'S ESTATE; THE EDMUND ATMERE CHARITY; THE LINGHEATH TRUST CHARITY**

The Town Clerk read a report outlining the activities of the Brandon Poor's Estate, kindly submitted by the Secretary. This outlined the challenges that the Estate have faced during the last year and the ongoing issues for 2021.

The Clerk then continued to read a report submitted by the Chair of the Lingheath and Atmere Charities: The Atmere Trust started with a gift from a benefactor in 1579 and the proceeds from the investment are used to help those in need in Brandon.

The report also described the refurbishment of the Lingheath Cottage. This cottage has now been let, giving the Lingheath Trust a steady income. This, together with the farm rent is to be used for charitable purposes.

Signed.....

5. TO DISCUSS MATTERS AFFECTING THE TOWN OF BRANDON

The Clerk informed the meeting that drugs paraphernalia is regularly found in several locations and drug dealing is witnessed in Brandon. The Clerk stated that he has informed the police about the matter, so they are aware. Cllr Wittam concurred with these remarks adding that Coulson Lane is badly affected by these activities. He further added that Suffolk Police had offered to attend Council meetings previously.

Cllr Lukaniuk asked the Clerk and or Chair of the Cemetery Committee for news of the tree work which was planned. The Clerk replied that Network Power had been on site to remove all branches close to the powerlines in Church Road. The Clerk added that he had written to the West Suffolk Tree Officer as despite numerous attempts to contact the nominated tree surgeon, he had not arrived on site as agreed or planned.

Cllr Lukaniuk then asked for a progress report on the damaged wall in St Peter's Churchyard. The Clerk replied that he had contacted the nominated bricklayer who had informed him that he was unable to start until October due to his existing workload. The Clerk further stated he had that day spoken directly with another qualified bricklayer regarding the project and a similar answer had been received.

Cllr Lukaniuk asked the Clerk if we are liable to see someone on site in the following two weeks to work on the trees as the period in which the work can be done was rapidly ending. The Clerk replied that in his opinion they had already reached that deadline. The Clerk further added that the Council should be considering putting this work off now until the autumn.

Cllr Lukaniuk asked Cllr Moore regarding the invitation to view the Brandon and District Society of Model Engineers site in Weeting as they had been granted money by Brandon Town Council.

Cllr Moore replied that an invitation to the site is in hand.

Cllr Ridgwell posed the question of installing a further picnic bench in the Orchard adjacent to the new path running behind the old bingo hall. He then stated that he was aware of people having difficulty using pushchairs on the bound gravel pathways running throughout the Orchard area and could they be tarmaced. He further added that the gravel in and around the main entrance to the orchard were causing issues with pushchairs not being able to traverse the surface.

Cllr Wittam suggested to Cllr Ridgwell that the Clerk respond to the points already raised before dealing with his subsequent questions. The Clerk responded to the issue of the request for a picnic bench by suggesting that this is dealt with in Council. He stated that some form of seating could be provided there but he was conscious of the other picnic bench being used as a BBQ and being generally vandalised. The Clerk then stated that the ground staff had already noted the issue of the gravel at the entrance to the Orchard and were engineering a solution. He commented further that tarmacing the pathways throughout the Orchard would not be a simple task, nor would it be cheap. Edging stones would be required to contain the surface, although this surface would resolve the issue of weeds and remove the requirement to spray regularly.

Cllr Ridgwell then asked if more dog waste bins could be sited around the town. The Clerk replied that West Suffolk were actually phasing these out as it was now possible to use the normal waste bins for dog waste. Cllr Wittam added that this is something that the West Suffolk District Councillors maybe able to take up on behalf of Cllr Ridgwell. Cllr Vant confirmed that dog waste had now been declassified and could be put into standard waste bins. Cllr Wittam stated that he regularly uses a standard waste bin, or alternatively takes it home to dispose of there. He also commented that some dog owners will continue to be a problem as they always have been by refusing to clean up after their animals.

The meeting closed at 7:01pm

Signed.....