

## BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting  
held at Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr P Wittam (Chair), Cllr B Brabbs, Cllr G Brocklehurst, Cllr P Etherington, Cllr P Gorringe, Cllr J Hughes, Cllr H Kostecki, Cllr V Lukaniuk, Cllr M Pinnell, Cllr J Savage, Cllr N Siebert

**Also Present:** 5+ members of the public.

- 1 **APOLOGIES** for absence and approval of reasons tendered.  
Cllr D Palmer, Cllr P Ridgwell, Cllr C Watts – apologies accepted.
- 2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** and additions to Members Register of Interest.  
None.

### 3 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SQN LDR GEARY - RAF LAKENHEATH**

Sqn Ldr Geary reported in addition to the continuing deployed operational commitment and routine training sorties, which included night flying last month, 48FW aircraft participated in Exercise Joint Warrior in the UK and other 48FW aircraft deployed to the USA during February. Additionally, the Wing conducted an Active Shooter Table-Top Exercise and held their Annual Awards Event, recognising the best airmen and officers on the Wing.

Whilst it was a relatively quiet period for visitors at the start of the month, the latter part of the month saw a plethora of senior visitors, including the Director of Logistics from EUCOM, the USAFE Chief of Security Forces and the Commander 3rd Air Force.

Planning is well underway for the 2024 Suffolk and Norfolk Shows and Project Officers have been appointed and tasked with identifying capability demonstration ideas so that we can confirm the site laydown later this week. The British American Committee met on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Key discussion themes included:

- Housing – challenges with landlords setting rents in accordance with rank-related allowances.
- Roads – Tim Passmore (Suffolk PCC) has engaged with Suffolk County Council to raise concerns about local roads.
- Lasers – Concerns about laser incidents in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. Intent is to educate communities about the dangers of pointing lasers at FJ aircraft.

48FW have been invited to engage in the WSDC Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy consultation process that is running until 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

On 29<sup>th</sup> February, he helped deliver STEM activities for over two hundred school children who attended the Skills Escalator Day event at the Jubilee Centre in Mildenhall.

Night flying activities are scheduled to continue this week.

Interviews for the Sqn Ldrs replacement were conducted last week. Once he has the details of his successor, he will let us all know. In the meantime and as this was his last meeting, Sqn Ldr Geary wanted to take the opportunity to thank us all for what we do as Councillors and particularly for our continued support of RAF Lakenheath. He commented it has been an absolute pleasure being the RAF Commander and working with us all for the past 2 ½ years. He lastly commented he will miss the job and the people immensely and wishes us all the very best of luck for the future. When Sqn Ldr had finished his report there was a spontaneous round of applause.

Cllr Wittam thanked Sqn Ldr on behalf of Brandon Town Council and commented he would be missed.

Signed.....

**4 TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN MINUTES**

- Of the Brandon Town Council Full Council Meeting of Monday 12th February 2024.

**Proposer:** Cllr P Etherington

**Seconder:** Cllr V Lukaniuk

Resolution Record No: **BTC/179/11/Mar/24**

**CARRIED:** By majority vote: 10 for, 1 abstention.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024 BE APPROVED.

**5 MATTERS ARISING** for information exchange only of the Full Council Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

None.

**6 URGENT BUSINESS** any items the Chairman considers a matter of urgent business.

None.

**7 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORT** from the Town Clerk.

Report was received.

**8 PUBLIC FORUM** monthly event limited to 3 minutes duration maximum per resident, this will include reports from County, District and Town Councillors also Community Group Representatives.

Cllr Lukaniuk reported that devolution could be on the way for Suffolk which means we could receive sixteen million pounds per annum for the next thirty years. It is currently in consultation and details can be found online. Cllr Lukaniuk commented the keep clear signs will be repainted in front of the Craft Cabin. He further commented that he is looking to have two bollards replaced in Victoria Avenue which will be funded from his Highways Budget. Cllr Lukaniuk then informed the meeting he had arranged for West Suffolk Council to clear the rubbish at the back of Collins Fish Bar, which took three days. He further commented that he is going to pressure West Suffolk Council to attempt to bring the property back to use.

Cllr Etherington asked the District Councillors for some information on the innovative recycling initiative as she was interested to know more. She also asked if people were aware of the grants and funding available for loft insulation. Cllr Wittam commented that he would send Cllr Etherington information regarding the recycling initiative.

Cllr Kostecki stated that he was pleased that Collins had been cleared. He wondered if we could put fencing up as he feared it was unlikely to stay clear for long. Cllr Lukaniuk commented that as it was private land West Suffolk would not be able to. He further commented that Essex Council have taken back control of highways and wondered if West Suffolk might do the same. Cllr Lukaniuk commented that Suffolk County Council have changed their contractor but did not believe they had the capabilities to take on the work themselves.

Signed.....

A member of the public, referencing the February meeting when co-options took place, asked: "Cllr Brocklehurst, how many times have you been on this Town Council and resigned?" "Is it two or three times?" "I want to show things were against me last month, which was out of order." Cllr Brocklehurst commented that he had only resigned once and that his current position on the Council was through an election not co-option. They then shared their concerns regarding Cllr Ridgwells health and medication. They further queried why their council tax had risen by 19%. They then commented that they would like to see more progress with the new cemetery. They lastly commented they would like to see Cllr Lukaniuk in the west ward more often. The Councillors then answered their relevant questions. Cllr Siebert commented that whilst she was sorry the member of the public was upset as they were not co-opted she could guarantee the Councillors voted for the most competent person at the time.

Cllr Wittam addressed the member of the public's question about the council tax. He explained that last year BTC had contributed forty thousand pounds of their own money to try to keep costings down but this year Brandon Town Council have had to be more realistic. However, the 19% for BTC equates to an increase of £19.06 for the year for a band B household and that the actual increase in the total charge for council tax is 5.7%. Cllr Etherington commented that it would mean there was more money being kept for Brandon. Cllr Wittam commented that it would contribute to maintaining services.

A resident commented they were disappointed that more of the Councillors hadn't attended the meeting with the prospective Conservative candidate that had taken place at the Church Institute. Cllr Lukaniuk stated there had been no invite.

Another member of the public thanked the planning committee for supporting their opposition to a planning application. He also thanked Cllr Savage for giving up so much of her personal time to support them.

Cllr Brocklehurst read the email from a resident regarding a planned Pride event and commented that he thought it was a brilliant initiative and he whole heartedly supported it. He also commented between March 25<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> Brandon in Bloom would be having a litter pick. Lastly Cllr Brocklehurst stated that on 23<sup>rd</sup> March there was an Easter Fair at the Heritage Centre, from 10am to 3pm.

Cllr Wittam then moved item 14 to the public form to enable the person presenting it to be able to comment.

**14 TO DISCUSS** email from Sue Meader re the Pride Event.

Mrs Meader spoke about the Rainbow Run and Pride event that is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 at the Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields and explained in detail about the Rainbow Colour Run. She commented it was a family friendly event and they will be inviting LGBT organisations and charities to come along and they are hoping to allay peoples misconceptions about what pride events are about. The Rainbow Run will be at 12.30pm and the event will finish at 6pm. Mrs Meader also invited Councillors and anyone else wishing to take part and people are able to have a stall. The charity they are supporting is a Suffolk charity "Outreach Youth."

Cllr Wittam stated that Brandon Town Council had promised to help last year and that we are happy to loan our four gazebos and any tables we have. There was a discussion on who would erect the gazebos. He suggested that the Church Institute have plenty of tables that they may be able to borrow. He also reminded them to contact Sharon Fairweather regarding having a stall on the market on the run up to the event.

Cllr Brocklehurst commented that he has lots of hi viz and walkie talkies and enquired whether they needed a P.A. system for any live entertainment. He further suggested that they stay in touch with Mrs Prior so that she can share any advertising information. Mrs Meader commented there are fundraising events taking place and all the details are on the brandonpride.co.uk website.

Signed.....

Another resident asked if someone could report on the progress of the new cemetery. Cllr Etherington reported that there was a query on a piece of land we did not own and a pedestrian exit that has been sorted. There is another issue which will be brought up under the Local Plan but it is almost ready to go to planning.

**9 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Norfolk County Council – Meeting re Land at Brandon Rail Sidings. Cllr Wittam read out the letter from Norfolk County Council and suggested that anybody that was available should go along to the meeting, if they can, and object to the applicant. Cllr Lukaniuk gave an overview of how the applicant had already carried out this work without planning and that he would personally challenge the application. He further stated that three hundred tonnes of aggregate are brought into Brandon every day.
  
- Email re BOB’s award for Brandon Town Keepers. Mrs Prior read out the email regarding the BOB’s award for the Brandon Town Keepers and commented they are concerned that, as they are not a business and that their work is paid for by local government, it may cause issues. There was a general discussion regarding this and it was decided that it would be inappropriate for the Town Keepers to, potentially, take an award against a commercial organisation. Cllr Wittam said he would talk to the Town Keepers and take it from there. After further discussion regarding the categories, Cllr Brocklehurst commented that the Best of Brandon Awards will be reviewing their categories for next years awards.

**10 ACCOUNTS** To approve the payments for February 2024.

Cllr Pinnell commented on the cost of the tree pollarding and suggested that the Town Keepers could possibly pollard the trees in future and after looking at what the town keepers do, possibly put their services out to the public. Cllr Wittam suggested it is looked at under the Revenue Review Committee. Cllr Brocklehurst queried the cycle of the pollarding of the trees.

**Proposer:** Cllr V Lukaniuk

**Seconder:** Cllr P Etherington

Resolution Record No: **BTC/180/11/Mar/24**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

**BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024.**

Invoice Date	Invoice No	Supplier	Expense Type	Nett	VAT	Gross	Payment
30/01/2024	SI-21020	D M Tree & Landscape	Poll. Trees/One Removed - Ave	£6,985.00	£1,397.00	£8,382.00	BACS
08/02/2024		Mrs T Ridgway	Relinquish Burial Plot	£58.00	£0.00	£58.00	BACS
12/02/2024		Royal British Legion	S137 Grant	£2,500.00	£0.00	£2,500.00	BACS
14/02/2024	2889	FX Live Ltd	Hose Extension for Snow Mac	£195.00	£39.00	£234.00	BACS
16/01/2024	INV-4090	Hugofox Limited	Website Subscription	£29.99	£6.00	£35.99	Direct Debit
18/01/2024	M009 ON	BT	Phone OSH	£94.08	£18.82	£112.90	Direct Debit
21/01/2024	M074 PL	BT	Phone OSH	£94.28	£18.86	£113.14	Direct Debit
22/01/2024	M050 BK	BT	Phone OSH	£37.52	£7.50	£45.02	Direct Debit
01/02/2024	11231	Cranberry Comms.	Microsoft 365	£119.95	£23.99	£143.94	Direct Debit

Signed.....

02/02/2024	1507706	YU Energy	Electric OSH	£149.58	£7.48	£157.06	Direct Debit
02/02/2024	1507708	YU Energy	Electric BRPF Yard	£210.81	£10.54	£221.35	Direct Debit
02/02/2024	1507703	YU Energy	Electric Pillar 8 Market Hill	£25.41	£1.27	£26.68	Direct Debit
02/02/2024	1507709	YU Energy	Electric Pillar 9 Market Hill	£20.40	£1.02	£21.42	Direct Debit
02/02/2024	1507707	YU Energy	Electric Cemetery Yard	£15.31	£0.77	£16.08	Direct Debit
02/02/2024	1507710	YU Energy	Electric Christmas Tree Pillar	£19.24	£0.96	£20.20	Direct Debit
03/02/2024	1530658	YU Energy	Gas OSH	£154.94	£7.75	£162.69	Direct Debit
07/02/2024		Siemens	Photocopier - Quarterly Rental	£472.00	£94.40	£566.40	Direct Debit
18/02/2024	2895115	Everflow Water	Water OSH	£25.71	£0.00	£25.71	Direct Debit
26/02/2024		Creative Pension Trust	Pensions - February	£614.52	£0.00	£614.52	Direct Debit
05/02/2024	44615	Amazon	Blue Rolls	£11.58	£2.32	£13.90	BACS
15/02/2024	753	Amazon	Starters for Lights - BRPF Yard	£10.20	£2.04	£12.24	BACS
18/02/2024	5AEUI	Amazon	Paint Brushes - Craft Events	£9.74	£1.95	£11.69	BACS
18/02/2024	3002	Amazon	Paint Pallettes - Craft Events	£9.57	£1.92	£11.49	BACS
18/02/2024	175	Amazon	Sculpting Tools - Craft Events	£5.73	£1.15	£6.88	BACS
22/02/2024	47AEUI	Amazon	Kettle - BRPF Yard	£23.33	£4.67	£28.00	BACS
06/02/2024		Mrs A Barnes	Reim. Compost/Bulbs OSH	£26.92	£0.00	£26.92	BACS
15/02/2024		Mrs A Barnes	Apple Trees/Bird Feed. OSH	£23.97	£0.00	£23.97	BACS
08/02/2024	62785	Chase Timber Products	Deck. Boards - Herb Plant. OSH	£16.56	£3.31	£19.87	BACS
12/02/2024	62822	Chase Timber Products	Bird Feeder Bracket OSH	£10.72	£2.14	£12.86	BACS
27/02/2024	62999	Chase Timber Products	Tree/sign Stakes	£35.70	£7.14	£42.84	BACS
12/02/2024	3754 AJL728	Travis Perkins Ltd	Rocksalt - Grit Bins	£150.00	£30.00	£180.00	BACS
13/02/2024		Mrs J Prior	Reim. Postage/Parcel Tape	£4.74	£0.00	£4.74	BACS
19/02/2024	76	J & D Green	Window Cleaning OSH	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
21/02/2024	INV23028	Hampshire Flag Co. Ltd	Flags - D-Day	£165.33	£33.12	£198.45	BACS
22/02/2024	824539	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Swing Chains - Thet. Rd. Park	£254.69	£50.94	£305.63	BACS
22/02/2024	824540	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Swing Chains - Thet. Rd. Park	£254.69	£50.94	£305.63	BACS
28/02/2024	9256	L & M Signs	Names on Board in C. Chamber	£48.00	£9.60	£57.60	BACS
28/02/2024	1085643433	Stannah Lift Services Ltd	Supply/Fit GSM Unit - Lift	£2,620.50	£524.10	£3,144.60	BACS
29/02/2024	SINV01935276	Ian Smith Group Ltd	Stationery	£80.47	£16.09	£96.56	BACS
29/02/2024	274555	Fengate Fasteners Ltd	Varnish, Glue, Wire - Com. Gar.	£75.17	£15.03	£90.20	BACS
29/02/2024	20240000201	Finevale Service Station	Fuel	£79.17	£15.84	£95.01	BACS
05/03/2024		HMRC	NICS	£2,360.52	£0.00	£2,360.52	BACS

**11 TO RECEIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AGAINST BUDGET FOR JANUARY 2024**

The Income and Expenditure Statement against Budget for January 2024 was received.

**12 TO NOTE MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

The minutes from the above Planning Committee meeting were noted and received.

Signed.....

**13 RESOLUTION from Cllr V Lukaniuk No. 465**

Brandon Town Council resolves to place a concrete table measuring 2000mm x 800mm within The Orchard at Coulson Lane. At no cost to Brandon Town Council as funded through District Councillors locality funds.

Cllr Lukaniuk commented we now have no picnic table at the Orchard due to vandalism of a wooden and a metal bench. He then described the concrete table he wished to erect. He then thanked the Town Keepers for tree work on the trees. Cllr Etherington asked the height of the table and commented there was no seats. Cllr Lukaniuk commented it was a standard height table and no seats unless other money could be raised. A vote then ensued.

**Proposer:** Cllr V Lukaniuk

**Seconder:** Cllr G Brocklehurst

Resolution Record No: **BTC/181/11/Mar/24**

**CARRIED:** By majority vote: 10 for, 1 abstention.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO PLACE A CONCRETE TABLE MEASURING 2000MM X 800MM WITHIN THE ORCHARD AT COULSON LANE. AT NO COST TO BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL AS FUNDED THROUGH DISTRICT COUNCILLORS LOCALITY FUNDS.

**15 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

*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: CONTRACT.*

**Proposer:** Cllr N Siebert

**Seconder:** Cllr P Gorringer

Resolution Record No: **BTC/182/11/Mar/24**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

Signed.....

## BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Confidential Minutes  
of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting  
held at Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7pm

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

### 16 TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

- Of the Brandon Town Council Meeting of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Proposer:** Cllr H Kostecki

**Seconder:** Cllr P Etherington

Resolution Record No: **BTC/183/11/Mar/24**

**CARRIED:** By majority vote: 10 for, 1 abstention.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024 BE APPROVED.

### 17 MATTERS ARISING

There was further discussion following on from last months full Council meeting about how best to fill the vacant role of Town Clerk.

**Proposer:** Cllr P Wittam

**Seconder:** Cllr V Lukaniuk

Resolution Record No: **BTC/184/11/Mar/24**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS ON HOW TO BEST FILL THE VACANT ROLE OF THE TOWN CLERK AND REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL.

### 18 RESOLUTION from Cllr P Gorringer No. 466

Brandon Town Council resolves to have more defibrillators available 24/7 in the town.

Cllr Gorringer made a presentation regarding defibrillators and commented that he felt a town the size of Brandon warranted three that would be accessible 24/7. He had discovered that you can rent them also. There was a general discussion about costs, funding, maintenance costs and the security of them. Cllr Lukaniuk commented that he admired the work that Cllr Gorringer had done but suggested that we concentrate on the installation of just one defibrillator at the moment. There followed further discussion about how useful it would be to have defibrillators and it was commented that they would benefit all ages not just the elderly. All Councillors were in agreement that we should concentrate on installing one to begin with and are waiting for further information from Cllr Gorringer.

**Proposer:** Cllr P Gorringer

**Seconder:** Cllr G Brocklehurst

Resolution Record No: **BTC/185/11/Mar/24**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER ABOUT INSTALLATION OF ONE DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE TOWN.

Signed.....

**19 RESOLUTION from Cllr P Wittam No. 467**

Brandon Town Council resolves to review the bank accounts.

There was a general discussion about the resolution. It was agreed to defer this item until we have more information.

**Proposer:** Cllr P Wittam

**Seconder:** Cllr P Etherington

Resolution Record No: **BTC/186/11/Mar/24**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO DEFER THIS ITEM UNTIL FURTHER INFORMATION IS OBTAINED.

**20 RESOLUTION from Cllr P Wittam No. 468**

Brandon Town Council resolves to discuss the implications of the West Suffolk District Council's new Local Plan for Brandon.

There was a general discussion and concerns were raised about the lack of houses being built and that the outline of the new cemetery is incorrect. It was decided to withdraw it as a resolution and think about what we want to do as a Council and challenge it at a later stage as we need to have a proposal in place to challenge.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....