

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting

Held on Monday 7 November 2011

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. P MacLoughlin.

Also present: Mrs C Mason (Town Clerk), Simon Batey, FHDC, Cllr. B Bishop, Squadron Leader J Neilds, fifteen members of the public and one member of the press.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

PRESENTATION ON NEW SIGNAGE FOR BRANDON, SIMON BATEY, FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Proposed locations for new mapping signage for Brandon were presented to the council by the Strategic Tourism Development Officer, Simon Batey. Suggested sites are Brandon Station (D/S), River/Hotel over bridge (single or double sided), Aldi front at car park (D/S), car park at George Street (D/S), car park by School Lane (Single), Market Place (D/S). Header boards and posts to be in black/gold. Existing litter bins may be painted to match new signage. To enable members of the public to comment or make further suggestions on the proposals, an enlarged map of Brandon to be available in the council offices for two weeks.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. R Silvester, Cllr. R Crowther.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and additions to Members Register of Interests.

None.

3. TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN MINUTES

Of the Brandon Town Council Extraordinary Meeting of Friday 28 October 2011 (Public items).

Resolution Record No. **BTC/55/07/Nov/11**

Proposed by Cllr. K Butcher and seconded by Cllr. T Simmons.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 2011 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE RECORD.

4. MATTERS ARISING for information exchange only

Of the Brandon Town Council Meeting of Friday 28 October 2011 (Public Items).

With reference to Brandon Country Park, the Chairman referred to a letter received from FHDC stating the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy currently provides for the following levels of support funds for the Country Park: 2012/13 £22,085; 2013/14 £22,085; 2014/15 £22,085.

5. CO-OPTION

Two applications for co-option to Brandon Town Council were received. By written ballot

the following votes were recorded: Mr Stephen Edwards 6 votes and Mrs Sue Jureko 5 votes. Taking the majority vote, Mr Stephen Edwards was duly elected as a cop-opted member of Brandon Town Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was accordingly signed.

6. PUBLIC FORUM – Monthly event limited to 3 minutes duration maximum per resident. Resolution Record No. **BTC/56/07/Nov/11**

Proposed by Cllr. T Simmons and seconded by Cllr. K Butcher.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED FOR THE PUBLIC FORUM.

Points raised by members of the public included the lime trees in The Avenue; the potential of the council tax being raised if the town council's proposal to run Brandon Country park is successful; speeding traffic and overgrown foliage near to the entrance to the Country Park; power and water pressure difficulties faced by residents living within the Park; a request for the covenant between Aldi and FHDC relating to parking to be investigated (BB to action); the listing of Brandon Station and signal box. The question of the Community Bus was also raised. In response, Cllr. Billingham said the obstacles he has encountered has made it impossible for him to pursue this project further and as a consequence plans for a community bus will now not materialise.

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE/ RAF LAKENHEATH

A copy of the police report was circulated at the meeting. Recorded crime figures for the period

6 October to 7 November 2011 stands at 50. The same time period last year saw 43 recorded crimes. This is an increase of 16%.

RAF Lakenheath report: The A1065 road works outside the new gate is still on-going and is ahead of schedule for completion.

Other than operational, there will be no flying on Remembrance Sunday. Questions to the Squadron Leader included the continuing closure of Lord's Walk; possibility of a roundabout rather than traffic lights at the new gate.

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

Key points raised in Cllr. Bishop's report: as a matter of urgency, plans for a community bus should not be shelved but supported by both retailers and the town council. It was pointed out by Cllr. Vant and Cllr. Billingham that the town council were not lawfully able to get involved and asked

Cllr. Bishop to substantiate his claim that other town/parish councils have run similar transport schemes; ACL has put in their own bid to manage Brandon Country Park; all libraries have been saved and will be run by SCC Trusts; a donation of £750 has been given from the locality budget towards the refurbishment of Market Hill; tenders have been sent out to four selected education providers for the proposed Breckland Free School; a well-supported charity concert was recently held in Breckland Middle School by Breckland Brass Band.

In his report, Cllr. T Simmons said Forest Heath District Council and St. Edmundsbury Borough Council have agreed to appoint one new chief executive. This will mean an on-going saving of over one million pounds per annum. A chief executive for both councils is expected to be appointed from January next year.

Members were encouraged to fill in the FHDC Strategic Plan Consultation questionnaire. Closing date 9 December 2011.

The meeting was reconvened.

9. URGENT BUSINESS – any items the Chairman considers a matter of urgent business. Proposed plans for the refurbishment of Market Hill were circulated. A request from SCC for a contribution towards costs was discussed.

Resolution Record No. **BTC/57/07/Nov/11**

Proposed by Cllr. A Billingham and seconded by Cllr. Mrs L Challiss.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL DEFERS A DECISION TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE REFURBISHMENT COSTS OF MARKET HILL UNTIL PRECISE FIGURES ARE OBTAINED FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.

10. ACCOUNTS

10.1 Approval of payments (Public Items) –November 2011.

10.2 Approval of confidential items –November 2011 (Staff salaries).

With a significant increase in cost for the town council skip to be emptied, quotations for a new provider to be sought.

Resolution Record No. **BTC/58/07/Nov/11**

Proposed by Cllr. T Simmons and seconded by Cllr. N Vant.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

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

Date	Amount	Supplier	Net Total	VAT
Oct-11	28.00	J & D Green (Window cleaner)	28.00	
Oct-11	146.78	Finevale Service Station	122.32	24.46
Oct-11	5.08	Travis Perkins	4.24	0.84
Oct-11	1,080.00	BDO LLP (External audit)	900.00	180.00
Oct-11	182.10	Thetford Garden Centre	157.76	25.34
Oct-11	166.57	Lyreco UK Limited (Stationary)	138.81	27.75
Oct-11	298.07	Viridor Waste Management Limited	248.39	49.68
Oct-11	237.60	RBS Software Solutions (Licence fee x 2)	198.00	39.60
Oct-11	1,175.16	Anglian Health & Safety - grit bins	979.30	195.86
Oct-11	200.00	Brandon Car Centre (Truck MOT)	166.67	33.33
Oct-11	120.00	Society of Local Council Clerks (Training)	101.00	19.00
Oct-11	115.78	Ian Smith Office Supplies (Stationary)	96.48	19.30
Oct-11	247.13	Arco Limited (Protective clothing)	205.95	41.18
TOTAL:	4,002.27		3,346.92	656.34

10.3 To approve the external auditor's reports for the financial year ending 31 March 2011.

Resolution Record No. **BTC/59/07/Nov/11**

Proposed by Cllr. N Vant and seconded by Cllr. T Simmons.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011.

11. PRECEPT DATE

Precept date agreed as Monday 21 November 2011.

12. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING UP CEREMONY

With questions raised relating to the provision of the safety barriers, a probable reduction in costs from Ray Lake and a date yet to be decided, it was agreed the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to arrange final details for the Christmas Lighting Up Ceremony. A report to be given at the Precept meeting.

13. THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACONS

Resolution Record No. **BTC/60/07/Nov/11**

Proposed by Cllr. S Edwards and seconded by K Butcher.

CARRIED: Unanimous.

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL AGREES TO REGISTER AN INTEREST IN TAKING PART IN THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACONS EVENT ON MONDAY 4 JUNE 2012.

14. CLERK'S MONTHLY LOG OF INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Resolution Record No. **BTC/61/07/Nov/11**

Proposed by Cllr. P Ridgwell and seconded by Cllr. M Skinner.

CARRIED: 9 for 1 against.

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL AGREES TO REPLACE THE TWO VANDALISED LIME TREES IN THE AVENUE, BRANDON.

With regard to a letter received from a local retailer, members considered the complaint should be addressed by the FHDC Town Manager, Joanne Rogers. Cllr. M Skinner suggested the Town Manager be invited to a future town council meeting.

15. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolution Record No. **BTC/62/07/Nov/11**

Proposed by Cllr. T Simmons and seconded by Cllr. N Vant.

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

There were no confidential matters to consider.

With no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 9.14pm.