

BRANDON PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Full Council** held on Monday 2nd July 2001
at the Community Centre, Bury Road, Brandon at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Saxby (in the Chair), Cllr Mrs Ahern, Cllr Ashley, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Mrs Hufton, Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman, Cllr Mrs Jureko, Cllr Mrs Milner, Cllr Thorne and Cllr Vant

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ms Bourton and Cllr Silvester

2. Declaration of Interest.

None

3. Order of Business

Cllr Vant proposed seconded by Cllr Mrs Jureko and agreed that item 31 be dealt with after item 14

4. To receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 4th June 2001.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jureko seconded by Cllr Milner and agreed that the minutes of the Full council meeting held on the 4th June 2001 were received and subject to amendments to item 20 and 25 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

5. To receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 4th June 200

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jureko and seconded by Cllr Mrs Ahern and agreed that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 4th June 2001 be received, confirmed as a true record and signed. There was one abstention.

6. To receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Economic Development Committee held on Tuesday 5th June 2001.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Ahern seconded by Cllr Thorne and agreed that the minutes of the Economic Development Committee held on Tuesday 5th June 2001 be received, confirmed as a true record and signed.

7. To receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Health and Safety Committee held on Tuesday 5th June 2001.

It was proposed by Cllr Thorne, seconded by Cllr Mrs Milner and agreed that the minutes of the Health and Safety Committee held on Tuesday 5th June 2001 be received, confirmed as a true record and signed.

8. To receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday 5th June 2001.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Ahern, seconded by Cllr Vant and agreed that the minutes of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday 5th June 2001 be received, confirmed as a true record and signed

9.To receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Staffing and Personnel Committee held on Monday 9th June 2001.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman, seconded by Cllr Mrs Ahern and agreed that the minutes of the Staffing and Personnel Committee held on Monday 9th June 2001 be received, confirmed as a true record and signed.

10.To receive a report from RAF Lakenheath

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Squadron Leader Seymour. It was proposed by Cllr Saxby and seconded by Cllr Mrs Ahern and agreed that the Council should send a letter to Squadron Leader Seymour thanking him for all his support, and include details in the clerks report in Brandon Life.

11.To receive a report from the Police

The Clerk reported that the Police were not present and that no apologies had been received.

It was proposed by Cllr Vant, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman and agreed that the meeting be adjourned to allow the public forum.

12.Adjournment for Public Forum

Mr Ridgewell reported that whilst carrying out deliveries of papers he had come across many nice gardens and wondered whether the Council had considered holding a garden competition. It was agreed to refer the request to the Environment and Open Space Committee for consideration.

Mr Ridgewell requested the Parish Council to look into the provision of cycleway following several accidents. It was agreed to raise his concerns with the Police. Mr Ridgewell also requested whether it was possible to segregate Victoria Avenue to allow for bicycles. It was agreed that the matter be investigated with the Public Rights of Way section of Suffolk County Council.

Mr Ridgewell reported that the entrance to Dillions was difficult for disabled customers to negotiate. It was agreed to write to Dillions. Mr Ridgewell also asked for details as to whether Forest Heath District Council were enforcing the Disability Act in the High Street, as many shops still had very high steps into their premises.

Mr Ridgewell asked if the Parish Council could publish Public Transport times the Chairman Cllr Saxby reported that if the Parish Council did publish the information and if it was found to be incorrect the Council would be liable. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council was therefore unable to do this. Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman reported that timetables were available from the Tourist Centre. Cllr Saxby reported that Neal's also published them.

Cllr Ashley enquired about the Town Bus going to Santon Downham. Cllr Vant reported that the Council is still awaiting a reply from Suffolk County Council.

Mr Ridgewell enquired whether Forest Heath District Council could provide chemical toilets at the Co –op site in the High Street. It was reported that the Forest Heath was unable to provide this facility.

Mr Weetman reported that the path to the library was overgrown. It was agreed to report the matter to Suffolk County Council.

13.Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Mrs Milner asked if replies had been received from Mr Baker. The Clerk read out the replies from Mr Baker. It was agreed that a further breakdown of his invoices was required to help clarify what work was authorised by the Full Council.

Cllr Vant reported that if a member's has acted *Ultra Vires* then the Council has the facility to collect any monies from the member. It was agreed to adjourn the item to the next meeting of the Council.

Cllr Mrs Milner reported that she now has a list of the Tree Preservation Orders for Brandon.

Cllr Mrs Milner raised the question of the reply from Mr Baker on the Land Agent. Cllr Vant proposed that clarification should be sought from Cllr Ms Bourton as to whether the statements from Mr Baker are true, and if she did act on whose authority, and why has nothing been said by her to clarify the matter. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman and agreed.

Cllr Mrs Milner asked if the Council response to the Audit objection had been sent. The Clerk reported that the response had been sent.

Cllr Vant asked if a reply had been received on the Churchyard Wall. The Clerk reported that replies were still awaited.

Cllr Vant asked if a reply had been received from the Lingheath Trust. The Clerk reported that no reply had been received but that Mr Hetherington had booked the Committee Room.

Cllr Baldwin reported that the Nine Stiles Walk would commence from Coulson Lane assuming that no restrictions are imposed because of Foot and Mouth.

13.Urgent Business. – Any item that the Chairman considers as a matter of urgentbusiness to section 100(B) (4)(16) of the Local Government Act 1972

The Chairman reported that a complaint had been received from a number of residents about the derelict state of a property in St Benedicts Road. The Clerk stated that the nature of the complaint falls within the jurisdiction of Forest Heath District Council. It was agreed to note the letter and pass to the District Council.

The Clerk reported that there was vacancy for some one to attend the Action for Market Town's Conference at Newmarket on Wednesday 6th July 2001. Cllr Jones-Weetman offered to attend.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Forest Heath District Council concerning the River Ouse feasibility study. The contents of which were noted. Cllr Mrs Milner reported that the feasibility study had been included in the Health Check for Brandon.

Cllr Saxby raised Mr Briston leave entitlement. Cllr Ashley proposed, seconded by Cllr Saxby and agreed that the matter would be discussed in committee.

Cllr Saxby reported that there was currently a vacancy on the Burials Committee. Cllr Mrs Hufton agreed to serve on that Committee. The post of Public Transport Liaison Officer was left vacant.

Cllr Thorne raised concerns over access to Old School House after office hours. After some discussion it was agreed to ask for a list of key holders from the Council's two tenants. Cllrs Thorne and Saxby reported that the Council's leases needed review.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Cllr Ahern on behalf of the Audit objectors. Cllr Saxby asked for nominations to take the Chair while this item was discussed. Cllr Mrs Jureko proposed, seconded by Cllr Thorne and agreed that Cllr Mrs Milner take the Chair whilst this item was discussed.

Cllrs Mrs Ahern, Saxby and Vant declared an interest and left the room.

Cllr Mrs Milner asked if anyone wished to comment on the letter. The Clerk also pointed out that item 19 on the Agenda was linked with this item. It was agreed to deal with the two items together.

Cllr Baldwin stated that Cllr Ahern's letter was a copy of her letter to the auditors, and accordingly did not require the Council to comment. It was therefore agreed to await the response of the auditors. Cllr Baldwin hoped that the matter would be soon finalised.

15. Letter from Mrs Vincent

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Mrs Vincent requesting access to the Council's papers on the Audit Objection. It was proposed by Cllr Thorne seconded by Cllr Jureko and agreed by six votes to one abstention that subject to the Council taking legal advice that this was in order. The Council's file should be open to all parties. It was agreed that the Clerk is to be present whilst the file is inspected.

Cllr Mrs Ahern, Saxby and Vant returned to the meeting. Cllr Saxby resuming the Chair.

16. To receive and adopt the list of accounts paid list of accounts to be paid (including confidential payments)

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jureko, seconded by Cllr Milner and agreed with one abstention that the List of accounts and list of accounts to be paid be adopted and paid.

It was reported that the Health and Safety Committee were reviewing the contract of item 67.

7. Resolution No 73 from Cllr Vant

“The Council resolves to dissociate itself from the letters by Cllrs Silvester and Bourton published in the Bury Free Press 15th June 2001.

Cllr Vant stated that he regretted that that the Councillors concerned were not hear to discuss the issue. Cllr Vant then outlined his grounds for the resolution following the two Councillors personnel attack on the Clerk. The Resolution was seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman and carried by nine votes to one abstention.

Cllr Mrs Milner stated that she thought the two Councillors had written as individuals Cllr Saxby reported that they had written as Parish Councillors.

18.To co-opt one Councillor to fill the East Ward vacancy.

Cllr Saxby reported that two nominations had been received for the one East Ward vacancy. The candidates where Mr Usher and Mr Weetman. The Clerk read out the candidate’s nomination letters. The Chairman called for a secret ballot. Mr Usher received 2 votes, Mr Weetman 7 votes with one spoilt paper. Cllr Saxby welcomed Mr Weetman to the Parish Council.

Mr Weetman then signed his declaration of office and joined the meeting.

19(a) To undertake the stock taking of the Councils Street Lighting Stock.

The Clerk reported that the report of the East Ward Committee had been previously circulated to members. Cllr Mrs Ahern reported that they had completed their review.

Cllr Baldwin reported that the West Ward Committee had met and undertaken a check of all lights against the Contractors list. An additional light was needed on the corner of Chalk Road and Manor Road and could be fitted as a bracket light to the existing pole.

It was agreed that the reports be accepted and be referred to the Environment and Open Space Committee for further consideration.

Cllr Mrs Ahern asked if any correspondence had been received from Suffolk County Council in connection with the adoption of part of this Council’s Lighting Stock. The Clerk reported that no reply had been received. It was agreed that Suffolk County Council should be chased for a reply.

(b) To consider a request for additional lighting at Bracken Rise and the Chase.

It was agreed to refer the request to the Environment and Open Space Committee for consideration. It was agreed to write to the applicant pointing out that Suffolk County Council had made no financial provision for providing additional street lighting.

Cllr Mrs Hufton left the meeting

20.To consider the provision of an Internet provider for the Parish Council.

Cllr Saxby reported had looked into the different providers that could provide a cost effective means of communication. After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Baldwin, seconded by Cllr Ahern and agreed that this item be adjourned to the next meeting of the Council. It was proposed By Cllr Vant, seconded by Cllr Weetman and agreed that a free Internet provider be sought in the interim.

21.To receive Suffolk's Environment ... towards sustainable development - the Third Monitoring Report, May 2001.

The report was adjourned to the Environment and Open Space Committee for consideration.

22.To receive Forest Heath Local Plan Review: Issues Report May 2001.

Cllr Saxby reported that by co-incidence Forest Heath District Council had marked the area of the proposed New Cemetery as development land. Cllr Saxby reflected on the Council's earlier discussions in respect of the instructions given to the Land Agent.

It was proposed by Cllr Saxby, seconded by Cllr Vant and agreed that the Council should object to the inclusion of the proposed New Cemetery as development land in the strongest possible terms. It was also agreed to ask for the Brandon Bypass to be given a higher priority.

Cllr Thorne asked if details could be sought on when the plan was changed, and if at Committee who was present when the item was discussed.

23.To consider an offer from Barclays Bank to take out a High Interest Bond.

It was proposed by Cllr Vant, seconded by Cllr Baldwin and agreed that this item be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration.

24.To receive a letter from a Local Resident.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the proposals by the Local Resident be rejected.

25.To receive a letter from the West Suffolk Millennium Volunteers Project.

It was felt that this group might be of help with the Orchard project. It was agreed to refer the correspondence to Mr Carter.

26.For the Council's information:

To receive details of the Stop means- School Crossing Petrol Campaign.

Noted

27. Resolution No. 68 (Full Council)

"Delete from Standing order 3 save for the month of August"

Cllr Mrs Ahern spoke against the proposal, stating the holding a meeting in August would create additional work and that the Council needed a break from meetings. Cllr Mrs Milner spoke in agreement with Cllr Mrs Ahern. Cllr Saxby and Cllr Thorne called for flexibility. It was proposed by Cllr Weetman, seconded by Cllr Jureko that the resolution be put to the vote. The resolution was lost by 1 vote for to 8 against.

28. Resolution No. 69 (Full Council)

“Amend from Standing order 16 to - at least 10days clear notice including weekend and bank holidays”

The Resolution was agreed unanimously

29. Resolution No. 70 (Full Council)

“Delete Standing order 71(b)”

The Resolution was agreed unanimously

30. Resolution No. 71 (Finance Committee)

“ The Committees precept items are prepared as soon as possible and no later than 1st November 2001. No addition is allowed save for emergency items.”

Cllr Saxby explained the reasons for the resolution. Cllr Ahern proposed that the year be deleted which was agreed unanimously.

The Resolution to read “ The Committees precept items be prepared as soon as possible and no later than the 1st November. No addition is allowed save for emergency items”.

31. Resolution No. 72 (Finance Committee)

“ The Council appoint Thain Wildbur Rolfe to undertake a pre-audit check”

The Resolution was agreed unanimously.

It was proposed by Cllr Saxby, seconded by Cllr Baldwin and agreed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and that they be instructed to withdraw.

In Committee

32. Annual Leave

[Confidential item removed]