

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Town Council

Monday 07 January 2002 at 7:00 pm at Community Centre, Bury Road, Brandon

Present: Cllr A P Saxby (Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Ahern (Vice-Chairman), Cllr E V

Ashley (at 7:05 p.m.), Cllr P S Baldwin, Cllr Ms J S Bourton, Cllr S J Edwards, Cllr Mrs S P Hufton, Cllr Mrs S Jureko, Cllr Mrs B Milner, Cllr R Silvester, Cllr A Thorne and Cllr N AVant.

Also Present: Mrs L S Sherer (Town Clerk); PC Keith Grant; members of the Public.

Cllr Silvester raised a Point of Order, appertaining to the legality of the entitlement of the Town Council, in relation to the change from Parish Council and enquired if the Minutes detailing the Resolution had been published and ratified. The Chairman confirmed that the appropriate Resolution had been carried, at the Full Council Meeting, on Monday 24 September 2001. It was possible that these Minutes may not have been circulated, owing to the ill health of the previous Clerk and the fact that the Meeting in question had taken place before the appointment of the current Town Clerk. The Chairman requested the Town Clerk to investigate and report back to the next Full Town Council Meeting. Cllr Silvester also requested that copies of ratified Minutes be provided to the Brandon Library.

1. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 1

To allow the Meeting to commence at 7:00 p.m. Proposed : Cllr Mrs Ahern; seconded: Cllr Mrs Jureko; **CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No: **BTC1/07/Jan/02** : THAT STANDING ORDER NO. 1 BE SUSPENDED.

Resolution No 81 from Cllr Mrs Ahern. Proposed : Cllr Mrs Ahern; seconded: Cllr Baldwin; vote deferred, under Standing Order No.75, to the next Meeting of the Full Town Council. "That the Town Council changes Standing Order No. 1 in order that Full Council Meetings can commence at 7:00 p.m."

2.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs S M Jones-Weetman and B D Weetman. Also from Squadron Leader M Turner, RAF Lakenheath Commander and advice that PC Grant would be present later, following completion of Police business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Mrs Ahern, Saxby and Vant declared: reference Items 13 and 31 hereunder.

4. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM RAF LAKENHEATH

None given - see Item 2 above.

5. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

This was delivered later in the Meeting - see Item 2 above.

6. TO RECEIVE ANY REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

None given. Cllr Ms Bourton reported that County Councillor Bill Bishop was away on holiday.

7. TO RECEIVE ANY REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Silvester gave a verbal report and indicated that the starting date was imminent for the Knappers Way/Warren Close/Heath Road Scheme (under part of the SRB's £180,000 total grant for the area). Cllr Edwards reported that a moveable CCTV camera would be operating in Warren Road, next month; the car parking areas should be finished by the end of March; and Council Tax will be decided soon. Cllr Silvester reported that he will try to dispose of Lighting ownership as previously discussed.

8. TO DISCUSS PUBLIC FORUM

Resolution tabled as No 82 from Cllr Mrs Ahern. Proposed: Cllr Mrs Ahern; seconded Cllr Mrs Milner; "That, apart from the Annual Town Meeting, the Public Forum be restricted to an invitation to members of the Public to put one question of not more than three (3) minutes' duration concerning any Item appearing within the Public part of this Agenda". Amendment then Proposed : Cllr Vant; seconded : Cllr Saxby (from the Chair);" or with seven days' written notice given". Cllr Vant wished to ensure that the Public are given the chance to speak to the Council on matters of concern. Amendment failed: 6 for, 6 against, Chairman's casting vote 1 against. Original Resolution No 82 : 4 for, 7 against, 1 abstention; Resolution failed.

PC Grant arrived and was invited to speak to the Meeting. Proposed : Cllr Saxby (from the Chair); seconded : Cllr Silvester; **CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC2/07/Jan/02** THAT STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED IN ORDER TO ALLOW PC GRANT TO DELIVER THE POLICE REPORT.

Of 67 crimes reported in Brandon in November 2001, 39% are shown as detected.
Of 61 crimes reported in Brandon in December 2001, 20% are shown as detected.
Of 11 crimes reported in Brandon to date in 2002, 20% are shown as detected.
There was a variety of types of crime reported. Cllr Mrs Milner mentioned an incident which had occurred in the Bury Road Car Park on 17 December 2001, involving a child and a car. PC Grant confirmed that this had been reported to the Police and was currently being investigated. Cllr Mrs Ahern, speaking as a resident, so not required to declare an interest, commented upon the continuous parking on pavements in St Benedicts Road, Brandon. The Chairman thanked PC Grant for his time.

The Meeting reconvened. Cllr Ashley wished to have the ownership clarified of the Bury Road Car Park, behind the Forest School. The Town Clerk to investigate and report back to Council.

9. URGENT BUSINESS - 100(B)(4)(16) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Oscar Faber Group, on behalf of Suffolk County Council, currently undertaking a study of the bus services in Brandon, wished to receive recommendations from the Town Council on various aspects of "Brandon Bus Facilities". The Chairman sought a volunteer for the vacant post of Council's Transport Liaison Representative. Cllr Mrs Hutton felt she might be able to assist, but would need further information before reaching her decision.

The Campaign for Community Banking Services sought Council's comments on the benefits of allowing residents to use the facilities of other banks, if their own did not have a branch in a particular town or village. It was noted that Barclays, High Street, Brandon, were participating in the scheme. Cllr Mrs Milner had already enjoyed the benefit of the Barclays facility in Brandon. The Town Clerk was

requested to send a letter of appreciation to Derek French, co-ordinator of the Campaign.

10. TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN MINUTES

All item 10 resolutions listed here under Resolution Record No. **BTC3/07/Jan/02**
Proposed: Cllr Mrs Milner; seconded: Cllr Mrs Jureko; **CARRIED:** 10 for, 2
abstentions. THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OF 19 NOVEMBER 2001 BE SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD. N.B. Meeting held
prior to the appointment of the present Town Clerk.

Proposed : Cllr Vant; seconded: Cllr Mrs Jureko; **CARRIED:** 3 for, 1 against, 3
abstentions. THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OF 03 DECEMBER 2001 BE SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD. N.B. Meeting held
prior to the appointment of the present Town Clerk.

Re. Item 15 - Letter of Complaint - Cllr Ms Bourton made a statement that
she was not happy with the responses of Cllrs Weetman and Mrs Jones-
Weetman.

Re. Item 13 - line 6 - incorrect numbering; 13 (xi) should read 13 (x).

Re. Items 15 + 16 - Cllr Silvester queried omissions and supported Cllr Ms.
Bourton's addition re letter of complaint.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Ahern; seconded : Cllr Thorne: **CARRIED** 9 for, 0 against, 1
abstention; 2 not voted. THAT THE MINUTES OF THE CONTINUATION
MEETING OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL ON 17 DECEMBER 2001 BE
SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD.
N.B. Minutes by the present Town Clerk.

Cllr Vant enquired when the temporary page-numbering for the Minutes would be
reinstated in chronological order and was advised that the Town Clerk was checking
back through records, in order to verify that all Minutes had been completed and
ratified for the past year, before this could be achieved.

11. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Minutes of 03 December 2001 and see Item 10 above:

Re. Item 15 - Letter of Complaint - Cllr Ms Bourton made a statement that
she was not happy with the responses of Cllrs Weetman and Mrs
Jones-Weetman.

Re. Item 13 - line 6 - incorrect numbering; 13 (xi) should read 13 (x).

Re. Items 15 + 16 - Cllr Silvester queried the recording of same.

12. PLANNING MATTERS

All item 12 resolutions listed here under Resolution Record No. **BTC4I07IJan/02**
Full Brandon Town Council decisions of 07 January02 on Planning Applications:
F/2001/700 22 Cedar Way, Brandon. Single-storey side extension for Mr P
Wadden. Resolved: NO

OBJECTION

F/2001/705 : 26 St Margaret's Drive, Brandon. Erection of single-storey rear
extension for Miss Sarah Eason. Resolved : NO

OBJECTION

F2001/709: Land adjacent to 193 Thetford Road, Brandon. Erection of single storey dwelling and detached double garage. Resolved: NO

OBJECTION

F/2001/717: 5 Firs Way, Brandon. Extension to existing garage and erection of single-storey rear extension Resolved: NO

OBJECTION

F/2001/134 : Building Plot, New House, Gas House Drove, Brandon. Sub-division of garden to form residential building plot (development affecting a Public Right of

Way) for Mr G Lingham.

Resolved: **

OBJECTION**

Objection on the following grounds:

(A) THE ROAD SURFACE IS ALREADY UNSUITABLE AND REQUIRES RESURFACING UP TO TO THE FARTHEST POINT OF THE DEVELOPMENT

(B) ACCESS IS VERY BAD AND IT IS NOT IN FACT A "PROPER" ROAD;

(C) COUNCILLORS UNDERSTOOD THAT A REQUIREMENT OF THE ORIGINAL PLANNING PERMISSION WAS THE ROAD TO BE MADE

F/2001/746: (former Suffolk House), Coulson Lane, Brandon. OUTLINE

F/2000/231 (Reserved Matters) under Outline No. F/2000/231; Coulson

Lane, Brandon for Bennett Plc, Lakenheath.

Resolved:

NO OBJECTION

F/2002/001 :17 Teal Walk, Brandon (retro).

Resolved: NO

OBJECTION**13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Resolution Record No. **BTC5/07/Jan/02**

Cllr Mrs Ahern declared an interest in this item and left the room. Cllr Ms Bourton queried two items on the payment list and the Town Clerk explained these to the Council. Proposed : Cllr Thorne; seconded: Cllr Mrs Jureko; CARRIED: 11 for, 1 against, name recorded Cllr S Bourton, 0 abstentions. Resolution Record No.

BTC5/07/Jan/02 : THAT THE PAYMENTS LIST SUBMITTED FOR DECEMBER 2001 BE APPROVED AS LISTED HEREUNDER.

DECEMBER 2001 PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - PUBLIC ITEMS

CHQ.NO.	AMOUNT	PAYEE	DATE/ INV.NO.
102427	£800.00	L SHERER	N/A
102428	£223.44	L SHERER	N/A
102429	£27.69	CASH	21/12/2001
102430	£25.00	R BRITISH L.	PV-DEC01
102431	£231.00	S.C.C.	
102432	£25.00	JUSTINE FISH	29
102433	£2,000.00	FINANCE CREDIT	6017

D/D	£929.34	TXU Energi	to 31/12/01
102434	£70.00	C WHARF	PV-DECO2
102435	£2,467.50	RAY LAKE Electric.	7834
102436	£479.18	EASTERN CONTR.	R0019989
102437	£73.80	S.C.C.	7007620
102438	£116.33	ARCO	J16309
102439	£71.35	PEARSONS	43087
102440	£9.87	COMPUTER SCENE	1900
102441	£64.46	POWERGEN	Dec.01
102442	£121.34	FINEVALE SERV.	Nov/Dec
102443	CANX	CANX	CANX
102444	£27.14	CANON copiers	5781979
102445	£73.80	S.C.C.	7007620
102446	£20.45	BORDER Bldg.	3305/65
102447	£143.90	ANGLO Financial	D56213108
102448	£11.00	“BRANDON LIFE”	Dec.01
	<u>£8,011.59</u>		

14. ACCOUNTS FROM THAIN WILDBUR ROLPH TO 31 MARCH 2001

Cllr Ms Bourton queried why Thain Wildbur Rolph had been appointed when figures had been prepared by the Temporary Administrator at that time. The Chairman explained that some items appeared not to show the correct figures - e.g. Cemetery gates - so Thain Wildbur Rolph had produced an internal audit as requested.

Cllr Silvester queried the amount of £10,000 in the figures listed. At this point Cllrs Mrs Ahern, Saxby (Chairman) and Vant each declared an interest and left the room. A temporary Chairman was thus required. Proposed: Cllr Mrs Jureko; seconded Cllr Thorne; **CARRIED** : 8 for, 0 against, 1 abstention (Cllr Baldwin), 3 out of room.

Resolution Record No. **BTC6/07/Jan/02** : THAT CLLR BALDWIN BE ELECTED TO THE POST OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING. Cllr Baldwin

duly signed the temporary Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman.

Cllr Silvester stated that the amount of £10,000 had not yet been paid to PriceWaterhouseCooper (Agenda Item 31). It was agreed to discuss Agenda Item 31 at this point, because this directly impacted upon the current Item. The Town Clerk was instructed to investigate the position, in respect of Price WaterhouseCooper and report back to the Full Town Council Meeting, scheduled for Monday 04 February 2002. The Town Clerk reported that legal advice had been sought, but (in response to a query from Cllr Ms Bourton) could not be disclosed in the public part of the Agenda, as the correspondence involved quotations and submissions from various Legal Firms and these must be discussed in the confidential section of the Agenda. Cllrs Mrs Ahern, Saxby and Vant were invited to rejoin the Meeting and Cllr Saxby returned to the Chair.

Cllr Silvester referred to the apparent overspend of £2,354 on streetlighting (p.1) and wished the Precept item to be checked and asked the reason why £2,500 had apparently been spent on Gravel Hill (p.3) both last year and the year before. Cllr Mrs Ahern explained that this was a valuation asset and not an expenditure item.

The Town Clerk was instructed to prepare a full and proper account for year end 2000/2001 which would, in any case, be required for the District Audit in February 2002.

15. LINGHEATH TRUST / CHARITY COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

This matter was being reviewed by Solicitors and a report would follow. Cllr Mrs Ahern observed that the heading from Solicitors should read "Lingheath" and not as shown. To be referred to the next Meeting of the Full Town Council on Monday 04 February 2002.

16. LETTER OF COMPLAINT FROM CLLR MS BOURTON

Cllr Ms Bourton's letter had been circulated to all Councillors, prior to the meeting. This refuted the contents of a letter sent by Cllr Weetman, to the Chairman of the Town Council and incorrectly read out at a Council Meeting in contravention of Standing Orders and the Local Government Circular 2/86 on conduct in this regard. Cllr Mrs Bourton enquired why both Cllrs Weetman and Mrs Jones-Weetman were absent and was advised that they were unwell with influenza. Cllrs were reminded that it was not permitted to discuss matters in relation to the previous Clerk. Cllr Ms Bourton insisted that Cllr Weetman must attend the next meeting of the Full Town Council to explain his conduct in writing such a letter.

Cllr Silvester queried the process under which Cllr Weetman had applied for co-option to the Town Council and Cllr Vant agreed that Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman should have declared an interest when the question of co-option of her husband arose. Cllr Thorne stated that the vote was a private vote, not influenced by anyone and did not depend upon one vote by a particular Councillor. This matter had already been dealt with at some length, in a previous meeting and Cllr Silvester concluded by reminding Councillors that the Adoption of the Local Government Code of Conduct was imminent and would be strictly adhered to thereafter.

17. DATE OF PRECEPT MEETING

This was agreed unanimously and set for Monday 21 January 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Brandon Community Centre, Bury Road, Brandon.

18. BASE LEISURE AND FACTORING COMPANY

Proposed: Cllr Saxby (from the Chair); Cllr Saxby reported on the situation, in relation to the development at the Thetford Road Play Area and advised that he had negotiated a price of £2,000 with the Factoring Company, Finance Credit Ltd, in full and final settlement of the original bill which was in excess of £26,000. This would allow the Town Council to finish the project at a considerable saving. Cllr Silvester commended Cllr Saxby on his success, on behalf of the Town Council and also thanked Cllr Ashley for all his efforts in this area. seconded: Cllr Silvester;

CARRIED: unanimous. Resolution Record No : **BTC7/07/Jan/02** THAT THE RENEGOTIATED FIGURE OF £2,000 IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE BASE LEISURE INVOICE BE ACCEPTED AND THAT PAYMENT BE MADE TO FINANCE CREDIT LTD.

19. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR FULL TOWN COUNCIL IN 2002

Proposed: Cllr Thorne; seconded: Cllr Vant; **CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No : **BTC8/07/Jan/02** THAT THE DRAFT MEETINGS LIST FOR FULL TOWN COUNCIL AS PROVIDED BY THE TOWN CLERK BE APPROVED. Copy attached hereto as Appendix 1.

20. SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 2002

Proposed : Cllr Thorne; seconded : Cllr Mrs Jureko; **CARRIED** : unanimous.
Resolution Record No. **BTC9/07/Jan/02** THAT THE DRAFT COMMITTEE MEETINGS LIST AS PROVIDED BY THE TOWN CLERK BE APPROVED.
Copy attached hereto as Appendix 2. Cllr Ms Bourton reminded Councillors that there must be a designated Cemetery Committee Meeting as required by Law.

21. RECORDING PROCEDURE FOR TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The Town Clerk recommended that the Town Council adopts a procedure for recording resolutions, under individual numbers and listing same in a separate book, to facilitate location of Council's decisions. Proposed: Cllr Saxby (from the Chair); seconded : Cllr Silvester; **CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC10/07/Jan/02** THAT A RESOLUTION RECORDING AND NUMBERING PROCEDURE BE ADOPTED FOR FULL TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES.

22. BRANDON REGENERATION PROJECT

Cllr Saxby reported on the Suffolk County Council Property Review Steering Group Meeting, which had been held at the Keystone offices in Thetford and chaired by Cllr Bill Bishop. Cllr Saxby emphasised that the PR Steering Group is very keen to include the whole area of Old School House/Bury Road Car Park/Public Lavatories etc and the incorporation of a Health Centre within that development. Projects will encompass the whole of the Town Centre and S.C.C. are very keen to move this forward. Cllr Saxby sought Councillors' feelings concerning the inclusion of Old School House within the project. Cllr Vant felt the PR Steering Group should have consulted the Town Council earlier and stated that he would be happy to consider multi-use of the site, but would not condone demolition of the property. Cllr Ms Bourton agreed and explained that the intention is to retain the frontage of the Old School House, but develop from there backwards over the garden area. Cllr Mrs Miner enquired if she should declare an interest, as Head Teacher of the Forest Primary School and was informed, by the Chairman, that SALC had advised this would not be necessary once the school had been relocated. Cllr Ashley felt that the Town Council had had to pay twice for the same building. Cllr Silvester observed that discussions were still at a very early stage and that now is the time to point out what the Town Council may be losing. This matter to be placed on the Agenda for the next Town Council Meeting on Monday 04 February 2002.

23. GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2002 AND TOWN CLOCK

Cllr Mrs Milner reported that the Medallions had been ordered and would arrive in March, but payment would not be required before May 2002. A secure place would need to be provided for storing of these until June. An inspection had been arranged for the Town Clock refurbishment and would take place on Monday 14 January 2002. Cllr Silvester enquired if any contact had been made with the Committee of the Brandon Community Playing Fields to establish availability of the Fields on Monday 03 June 2002. Cllr Mrs Milner replied that a verbal approach had been made and an indication given that the request would be granted.

24. KEYSTONE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

A request for Brandon Town Council to provide £2,000 p.a., for the next three years, to fund a Brandon Project Manager and Officer, had been received from the Keystone Partnership. Cllr Saxby had been the Town Council's nominated representative on the Interviewing Panel. Cllr Ms Bourton clarified that the Community Development Officer had been appointed for joint use by Brandon Community Partnership and Keystone. Cllr Mrs Ahern enquired where and how the post was advertised. Cllr Saxby advised this had been done in a couple of

Regeneration Magazines. There had been only one applicant for the post. Mr Cyril Brown had been appointed to the role. Cllr Saxby felt that it would have been preferable to have more applicants. Cllr Silvester observed that the relatively low pay grade of LG Scale 17.5 - 19 might have influenced this factor. He reported that FHDC had advertised the post through an Agency. Cllr Saxby reported that he had suggested re-advertising the post but was out-voted.

Proposed: Cllr Edwards; seconded Cllr Ms Bourton Motion failed : 3 for, 6 against, 3 abstentions including named Cllr Mrs Jureko, who declared an interest and did not vote. "That Brandon Town Council agrees to support the funding of the Community Development Officer/Brandon Project Manager/Brandon Project Officer in the sum of £2,000 p.a. for the next three years."

25. BRANDON ORCHARD AND BRANDON CHALK PIT

Proposed Cllr Mrs Ahern; A site meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 23 January 2002 with officers from FHDC to discuss both The Orchard project and FHDC proposals for Brandon Chalk Pit. All Councillors were invited to attend and participate in the working group. seconded : Cllr Mrs Jureko; **CARRIED** 7 for, 0 against, 5 abstentions. Resolution Record No. **BTC11/07/Jan/02 THAT PLANS FOR THE ORCHARD PROJECT BE PROGRESSED VIA A MEETING WITH OFFICERS FROM FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2002.**

26. SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT ON BRANDON FP5

Cllr Vant reported that Mrs Alex Melia's conclusions, for SCC, were incorrectly drawn as the Inclosures Map, from Bury St Edmunds Records Office, had been misinterpreted. Cllr Vant referred to Harvey v. Truro Case Law: "once a Highway always a Highway" and offered to meet with Mrs Melia, or her representative, at the Records Office, in Bury St Edmunds, to demonstrate the misinterpretations in her report. Proposed: Cllr Saxby (from the Chair); seconded : Cllr Thorne; **CARRIED:** 9 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions. Resolution Record No. **BTC12/07/Jan/02 THAT A LETTER BE SENT TO SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL OFFERING TO MEET WITH MRS ALEX MELIA, OR HER REPRESENTATIVE, AT THE BURY ST EDMUNDS RECORDS' OFFICE TO EXPLAIN THE ERRORS IN HER REPORT ON BRANDON FOOTPATH 5.**

27. NOTICE OF TRANSFER OF APPLICATION OF LICENCE

CRS Ltd Off-Licence, 62 High Street, Brandon (Alvin George Scott/Christopher Keith Greenwoods) - NO OBJECTION.

28. SCC ADDITIONAL BUS SHELTER

The Town Council had previously recommended an additional shelter at a site in Saffron Close. SCC enquired if the Town Council would take responsibility for additional on-going maintenance of such a shelter. The response was in the negative.

29. DISTRICT AUDIT FOR 2000/2001

The Town Clerk reported that preparations were ongoing for the District Audit scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday 05 and 06 February. 2002.

30. BRANDON REMEMBRANCE PLAYING FIELDS

The Clerk had been asked by FHDC to calculate the amount of grant paid in 2001/02.

31. PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPER ACCOUNTS

Already discussed under Item 14 herewith.

32. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE (Agenda Item 33.)

Proposed: Cllr Baldwin; seconded: Cllr Mrs Ahern; **CARRIED** ; unanimous.

Resolution Record No. **BTC13/07/Jan/02** THAT IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED AND THEY ARE INSTRUCTED TO WITHDRAW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS [Section 100A(4) LGA 1972]: STAFFING ISSUES.

33. (i) After consideration of the quotations obtained it was agreed to appoint the Firm of Rudlings & Wakelam, of Brandon, as the Town Council's Solicitors, for the time being, at hourly £95 - £110 + VAT. Proposed: Cllr Mrs Ahern; seconded: Cllr Thorne; **CARRIED**: 9 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions. Resolution Record No. **BTC14/07/Jan/02** THAT THE LEGAL PRACTICE OF RUDLINGS & WAKELAM, BRANDON, BE APPOINTED TO GIVE THE TOWN COUNCIL LEGAL ADVICE, AS AND) WHEN REQUIRED, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

(ii) Proposed: Cllr Saxby (from the Chair); seconded: Cllr Baldwin; **CARRIED**:

unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC15/07/Jan/02** THAT THE TOWN KEEPER BE GIVEN PERMISSION TO HIRE A LONG-HANDLED CHAIN SAW AT A COST OF APPROX. £75 P.W. FOR THREE WEEKS.

Proposed: Cllr Saxby (from the Chair); seconded: Cllr Baldwin; **CARRIED**: unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC16/07/Jan/02** THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE CEMENT BASES, AT A COST OF APPROX. £70 EACH, FOR THE TWO MEMORIAL BENCHES ALREADY APPROVED FOR (A) MRS DODDS AND (B) MRS CLAWSON.

Mr Mike Hill, whose late mother passed away in December, wished to bring his father's ashes and memorial tablet to Brandon, if given Home Office permission. The Stone tablet is larger than the usual permitted size in Brandon Cemetery. He would like to purchase two ashes plots, side-by-side, with that original stone tablet between the two. The request was granted, on a "one off" basis and Cllr Ms Bourton wished it noted that no precedent had been set.

(iii) It is a requirement of the Audit Commission that an Internal Auditor MUST be appointed by the Council to monitor the activities/procedures/accounts of the Council on AT LEAST A QUARTERLY BASIS. It is not usual to appoint a chairman or a cheque signatory but, as all Brandon Councillors are cheque signatories, that point will have to be waived. Two proposals were received for the post; voting took place; Cllr Mrs Ahern was duly elected.

Resolution Record No. **BTC17/07/Jan/02**

THAT COUNCILLOR MRS J A AHERN BE APPOINTED THE TOWN COUNCIL'S OWN INTERNAL AUDITOR UNTIL THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2002.

(iv) Complaints have been received from residents of Brandon about the use of Market Hill as a "rat run". The Traffic Warden and Police Constable have

recommended (a) Lockable bollards at the entrance to Market Hill; (b) Steel barrier across the road outside the Old School House; (c) A combination of both the above remedies. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to SCC and FHDC to seek their assistance in solving this problem. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to Highways to advise that Yellow Lines painted in London Road were so faint that they could not be used by the Traffic Warden to fine illegal parking. These needed to be repainted.

(v) It had been agreed that a new Mobile should be purchased for the Town Keeper. Proposed : Cllr Mrs Ahern; seconded: Cllr Thorne; **CARRIED** : unanimously.

Resolution Record No. **BTC18/07/Jan/02** THAT A CASH CHEQUE BE AUTHORIZED TO THE VALUE OF £89.99 TO PURCHASE A BT CELLNET SIEMANS C45 MOBILE TELEPHONE FOR USE BY THE TOWN KEEPER.

Meeting closed at 21:45 hours. Next Meeting as per approved Schedule Monday 21 January 2002 (Precept) and Monday 04 February 2002 (Full Town Council).

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