

## BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Brandon Town Council

Monday 03 February 2003 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, Cllr P S Baldwin, Cllr Ms J S Bourton (at 8:20 pm), Cllr S J Edwards, Cllr Mrs S Jones-Weetman (left at 9:23 pm), Cllr Mrs S Jureko, Cllr P R Ridgwell, Cllr R Silvester and Cllr N A Vant.

**Also Present:** Linda Sherer (Town Clerk); Sqn-Ldr M Turner (RAF Lakenheath Commander); members of the public.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Were accepted from Cllr Mrs E Milner (School Governors' Meeting) and Cllr A Thorne (illness).

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and ADDITIONS TO REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS [PCC of C 2001/LGA 2000]

N.B. Councillors must sign the Declarations Book before leaving the Meeting.

Cllr Baldwin declared an interest in Agenda Item 25. and duly signed the Declaration of Interests book. Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman declared an interest in Agenda Item 17. and duly signed the Declaration of Interests book.

### 3. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (PUBLIC ITEMS)

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting of Monday 06 January 2003 (Public Items). **CARRIED** : 7 for, 2 against (Cllrs Mrs Ahern and Saxby), 1 abstention. Resolution Record No. **BTC182/03/Feb/03** :

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 06 JANUARY 2003 (PUBLIC ITEMS) BE ACCEPTED AND SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Cllr Vant raised a question on p.99 reference Any Other Business. The Town Clerk confirmed that, whilst reports from Council representatives were for information exchange only, Councillors would be able to ask questions under Item 8. Town Clerk's Report. In response to questions directed to the Chief Constable of Suffolk and FHDC in relation to the vandalism of the Brandon Christmas Lights, the following responses had been received : (i) Suffolk Constabulary confirming that a response would be forwarded within 20 days; (ii) FHDC confirming 68 hours per week manned CCTV coverage exists in Brandon plus 24 from April 2003.

### 5. REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Insp N K Bennett (Brandon & Mildenhall Police Sector Commander) had sent his apologies, owing to pressures of work (RAF Lakenheath anti-war protesters).

Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act 1998 : Brandon Town Council continues to be aware of its duties and responsibilities under this Act.

**CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC183/03/Feb/03**:

THAT (i) THE MEETING BE TEMPORARILY ADJOURNED TO ALLOW INVITED GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL; AND (ii)

THAT THE MEETING BE RECONVENED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN FORUM SECTION (AGENDA ITEMS 6., 7., 9 and part of 12. HEREUNDER).

#### **6. REPORT FROM RAF LAKENHEATH**

Squadron-Leader Turner, RAF Commander, reported that various aircraft and crew had been deployed to Spain and Portugal. There had been anti-war protests on the A1065, at the USAFE Base, during the day; six arrests had been made. Personnel would be away on exercise during the next week. Complaints had been received by Councillors (Edwards, Mrs Jones-Weetman and Ridgwell) that the traffic lights at Gate 1 had allowed only 3 cars through on the A1065 at a time, during the preceding week. Sqn-Ldr Turner advised that he would investigate the sequencing of the lights. A member of the public was allowed to address questions directly to Sqn-Ldr Turner, on the subject of the proposed permanent Lords Walk closure. The Sqn-Ldr reported that the MoD is determined to close Lords Walk permanently. An FHDC Cllr, Roger Crane, is pursuing the matter in opposition. The Chairman stressed that all Brandon Town Councillors had also very clearly stated their views against the proposal.

#### **7. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr M Carter referred to Agenda Item 15. (Footpath 5 Extension) and reported that the matter had cost SCC in excess of £20,000 to pursue. Cllr Vant noted that the claim for said extension had been brought by Mr Hunns and not by Brandon Town (then Parish) Council. The Chairman confirmed this view. Mr V Lukaniuk reported a dangerous island kerb at the Co-op site. Cllr Silvester advised the Meeting that he would deal with this matter, in his capacity as an FHDC Councillor. Mr Lukaniuk continued, in relation to the Brandon bypass situation and HGV's in the High Street. The Chairman explained that the Town Council had become very concerned at the lack of progress, in relation to the bypass issue, resulting in the Public Meeting of 29 November 2002 and the proposed traffic inspection visit by Richard Spring MP and Michael More, SCC Chief Executive (cancelled; rescheduled for early April, because of extremely inclement weather on 31 January 2003). Mr Nolan spoke of his concerns at the lack of progress and queried to whom the Public Meeting Notes had been distributed. Cllr Mrs Ahern reported that these notes were available on the BTC Website (<http://www.brandon.suffolk.gov.uk/>), had been circulated to Messrs Spring and Don Ayres (of SCC) and to all Town Councillors. Cllr Vant expressed his concerns that SCC would "tinker" with Brandon's traffic problems, instead of addressing the entire situation. Mrs Omrod had received a leaflet from EEDA/Keystone, which the Chairman noted had been circulated to Brandon residents; he would provide a copy to the Town Clerk. Mrs Burke wondered if the Town Council could request the Police to prevent cars from parking on the pavement, outside her house, in London Road. The Town Clerk would write to Insp Bennett in this regard.

#### **8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk tabled a three-page report, updating Councillors on the month's main activities. The report which was adopted contained information which included : that Energy quotations were being sought; the draft dates for the 2003 Elections timetable; advance notice that Burial Fees would be on the March Agenda; theft of the bench in The Avenue; Lubbock Fine of London Intermediate External Audit; refund of VAT Claim; dates for part of Town Clerk's Annual Leave entitlement; The Orchard; the new Town Notice Board; Insurance quotations for the Vauxhall Brava Pick-up truck and information from the Boundary Commission for England. **CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC184/03/Feb/02** :

THAT THE TOWN CLERK'S REPORT OF 03 FEBRUARY 2003 BE ADOPTED.

## **9. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND/OR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Bill Bishop had sent his apologies for this and the next several Meetings, because of ill health. District Cllrs Silvester and Edwards reported the good news that funding of £400,000 would be available (between FHDC and SCC) for the redevelopment of Brandon Country Park and relocation of the Brandon Heritage Centre there. Cllr Edwards reported that a roadshow, regarding the proposed sale of FHDC Housing Stock, would be held in Brandon shortly (having been cancelled on 31 Jan 03 due to bad weather). Cllr Silvester reported that he would be sending a strongly-worded letter to Christina Laverock, Chair of the Suffolk Police Authority, asking what Brandon will be getting from the proposed 30% tax increase for the Police in the 2003/2004 budget.

## **10. URGENT BUSINESS**

### **(A) Change of Venue for Town Council Meetings**

It had come to the Town Clerk's attention that the Governors of Forest Primary School would be prepared to allow the Town Council to hold its meetings in the new school building, located on Bury Road, Brandon, which was in closer proximity to the Town Council Offices on Market Hill. It was agreed that this option should be adopted. **CARRIED :**

unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC185/03/Feb/03:**

**THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL AGREES TO HOLD ITS FUTURE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE (NEW) FOREST PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING, BURY ROAD, BRANDON, IP27 0FB, BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNORS.**

**(B) Late Notification of Brandon Property Review Steering Group (BPRSG) Meeting/s**  
Cllr Silvester advised the Meeting that he had been prevented from attending that day's Brandon Property Review Steering Group (BPRSG) Meeting, because of the extremely late arrival of the notification of meeting. This was a very important meeting, at which the Castons Feasibility Study for the new Healthy Living Centre would be discussed. The notification had been e-mailed to Cllr Silvester that same day and he had not received the communication until after 3:00 pm. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write a "vigorous" letter of complaint to the BPRSG in this regard.

### **(C) Business Improvement District Project for Brandon**

In his private capacity, the Chairman had attended a launch of the Business Improvement District Project (BIDS) at the House of Commons, in the company of Cyril Brown, of Brandon Community Partnership. The Chairman briefly explained the concept of this initiative, based on a USA model, which allowed certain communities to take their own decisions and self-fund projects by a levy on the Business Rate. This is not legal in the UK, at the moment, but Central Government hopes to add this procedure to the Statute Book within the next nine months. Brandon had been selected as one of only 23 pilot projects, in the whole country, for this idea.

## **11. REPORTS FROM BRANDON TOWN COUNCILLORS**

### **(i) Cllr Ashley (Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields (BRPF) representative)**

Had circulated copies of the accounts of BRPF to all Councillors. It was noted that the bank balance reserves had decreased due to Stock Market fluctuations. The vandalized Skate Park area had been repaired.

(ii) Cllr Ms Bourton (Keystone Community Partnership (KCP) representative)  
Deferred to next Meeting owing to late arrival.

(iii) Cllr Ridgwell

Had received a letter, as had many residents, advising of the imminent closure of Dr Palmer's Dental Surgery in Bury Road, Brandon. Councillors were very concerned that no replacement had been sought and so many Brandon residents had been left with no alternative but to travel to Thetford or Mildenhall for treatment. It was agreed to write a letter of protest to the NHS Suffolk Practitioners Services Unit, North Building, PO Box 170, St Clements, Roxhall Road, IPSWICH, Suffolk IP3 8LS.

**CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC186/03/Jan/03**:

THAT A LETTER OF COMPLAINT BE SENT TO THE NHS SUFFOLK PRACTITIONERS SERVICES UNIT IN IPSWICH DEPLORING THE IMMINENT CLOSURE OF A BRANDON DENTAL SURGERY WITH NO PROVISION FOR A REPLACEMENT FACILITY IN THE TOWN.

(iv) Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman

Enquired as to ownership of The Lode. Cllr Vant referred to earlier plans to open up The Lode which had been deemed impractical because the low bridge prevented boat access.

## **12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Meeting temporarily adjourned to allow FHDC Building Control Manager, Stuart Samuels, to explain why the Town Council's recommended name "Simon Gordon Close" could not be appended to the four new houses at Mile End, off London Road. He referred to the 1925 Public Health Act. The occupying residents had a legal right to object to the change of name from Mile End, their properties being an extension of that road. The FHDC Legal Department had recommended a compromise, for this name; Mr Samuels suggested the new units at the former Multi-York site.

Cllr Ms Bourton joined the Meeting at 8:20 pm.

Cllr Silvester advised that both he and Cllr Edwards had campaigned strongly for the name "Simon Gordon Close", at the relevant FHDC Meeting. Cllr Ashley proposed that the Town Council should continue to insist on this name for the four Mile End houses. The motion failed. Cllr Baldwin noted that the people actually living in the houses were those most affected by the proposed change and could not be forced to accept it on a private development. In response to Cllr Mrs Ahern's request for a guarantee in respect of the former Multi-York site, Mr Samuels replied that he could not guarantee the name "Simon Gordon Close", but the Town Council would be consulted when the time came. A selection of twelve names would be submitted for future use, to enable the Town Council to choose its preferred options in advance.

The Chairman thanked Mr Samuels for his time in kindly attending the meeting.  
The Meeting reconvened.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

F/2002/821 : off Coulson Lane, Brandon. (Development affecting a Public Right-of-Way). Erection of 4 dwellings for Bennett Plc (Hallmark Building).

Resolved : \*\*\* OBJECTION \*\*\*

**CARRIED** : 9 for, 0 against, 1 abstention, 1 did not vote. Resolution Record No.

**BTC187/03/Feb/03 :**

Objection on the following grounds :

(A) THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL OBJECTS TO THIS DEVELOPMENT ON THE GROUNDS OF ACCESS AND EXIT PROBLEMS ONTO THE VERY BUSY A1065 LONDON ROAD, BRANDON.

**CARRIED : unanimous. Resolution Record No. BTC188/03/Feb/03:**

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES NO OBJECTION TO (i) PLANNING APPLICATIONS F/2003/006, 025, 036, 048 and 053 LISTED HEREUNDER; AND (ii) THAT IT HAS NO EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT 16 CORONATION PLACE, BRANDON; AND (iii) THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED SCC SPEED-ACTIVATED WARNING SIGN ON THE B1106 BURY ROAD.

F/2003/006 : 50 St Margarets Drive, Brandon. Erection of front and rear extensions and replacement detached garage for Mr P Kent.

Resolved : NO OBJECTION

F/2003/025 : Mile End Works, London Road, Brandon. Erection of single-storey storage building for Chase Plastics Ltd.

Resolved : NO

OBJECTION

F/2003/036 : 2B Edmund Road, Brandon. Erection of rear conservatory for Mr & Mrs G Rainey.

Resolved : NO OBJECTION

F/2003/048 : 29 Mount Road, Brandon. Erection of rear conservatory for Mr & Mrs Howard.

Resolved : NO OBJECTION

F/2003/053 : Omar Homes Ltd, London Road, Brandon. Alterations to existing storage building for Omar Homes Ltd.

Resolved : NO

OBJECTION

Land at 16 Coronation Place, Brandon. A request has been received from the owner of this address to purchase District Council-owned land in the vicinity of this property. FHDC wishes to know if BTC has any apparatus in this vicinity and, if so, whether BTC would have any objections to the sale of the area indicated on the plan.

Resolved : NO OBJECTION

Proposed Speed Activated warning sign – B 1106 Bury Road, Brandon

The Council proposed no objection to the SCC proposal for an additional speed-activated warning sign on the B1106 Bury Road, Brandon; to be funded from the locality budget of County Cllr Bill Bishop.

**13. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2003 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Date	Amount	Supplier	Net Total	VAT
Jan-31	11.99	Local Council Rev.	11.99	
Jan-31	1,233.75	SCC Land Agent	1,050.00	183.75
Jan-31	39.47	P/cash Imprest	39.47	
Jan-31	152.99	Pearsons Ltd	130.20	22.79
Jan-31	48.15	Fengate Ltd	40.98	7.17
Jan-31	1,004.00	East Cont. repairs	1,004.00	
Jan-31	175.70	Eas Cont. VAT on		175.70

Jan-31	10.11	Border Building	8.60	1.51
Jan-31	145.34	Tindalls	123.70	21.64
Jan-27	64.00	British Gas month	64.00	
Awaited	quarterly	Anglian Water	quarterly	quarterly
Jan-05	537.33	Eastern Contract	457.30	80.03
Awaited	quarterly	TXU Energi-20/2	quarterly	quarterly
Jan-13	864.87	TXU Energi-no 20	736.06	£128.81
Awaited	quarterly	TXU Energi-no 49	quarterly	quarterly
Awaited	quarterly	TXU Energi-no 51	quarterly	quarterly
Awaited	quarterly	BT fax/internet	quarterly	quarterly
Awaited	quarterly	BT main tel line	quarterly	quarterly
Jan-01	81.00	Univ of Glos (1/18)	81.00	
Jan-03	20.96	FHDC Garage	17.85	3.11
Jan-16	20.00	FHDC Rates Cem	20.00	
Jan-16	257.00	FHDC Rates OSH	257.00	
<b>TOTAL cf</b>	<b>4,666.66</b>		<b>4,042.15</b>	<b>624.51</b>

**CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC189/03/Feb/03** :  
 THAT THE PAYMENTS ON THE LIST SUBMITTED FOR JANUARY 2003 (PUBLIC ITEMS) AND REPRODUCED ABOVE BE APPROVED.

**CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC190/03/Feb/03** :  
 THAT THE PAYMENTS ON THE LIST SUBMITTED FOR JANUARY 2003 (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS) AS CIRCULATED TO ALL COUNCILLORS BE APPROVED.

#### **14. PRECEPT DEMAND FOR 2003/2004 [LGA FINANCE ACT 1992 S.41 PRECEPT NOTICE]**

The Chairman announced that any increase was mainly due to agreed Staff salary payments (per NALC Rates) and the additional legal burden placed upon Local Councils by Central Government, particularly in its insistence on paid Independent Internal and separate External Auditors. Cllr Mrs Ahern observed that the proposed increase was too high and observed that it would be cheaper not to employ an additional, part-time townkeeper, but to approach an agency or seek a retired person to assist on an "ad hoc" basis. She proposed the removal of £7,000 from the Precept figure, thus leaving £775 towards the appointment of agency or other temporary staff as and when the necessity arose. Cllr Vant noted that it would be necessary to rescind the earlier resolution to appoint an additional, part-time townkeeper. Proposed : Cllr Saxby (from the Chair); seconded : Cllr Silvester: **CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC191/03/Feb/03** :

THAT THE BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT DEMAND ISSUED TO FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL AS BILLING AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2003/2004 UNDER S.41 OF THE LGA FINANCE ACT 1992 (PRECEPT NOTICE) BE SET AT £152,351 – 30 [ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE POUNDS AND 30 PENCE STERLING].

#### **15. FOOTPATH 5 EXTENSION APPEAL RESULT**

The Secretary of State had turned down the Appeal by Mr Hunns against the refusal of SCC to grant the requested extension.

#### **16. INSUFFICIENT GRITTING BY SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk reported that, during the recent spell of bad weather and consequent ice on the Market Hill, she had contacted Suffolk County Council Highways and requested that gritting be carried out as a matter of urgency. She had been informed that (a) SCC had no responsibility to grit; (b) that the cold spell had not yet lasted long enough for action to be

commenced; (c) that anyone who sued SCC in the event of an accident on the Market Hill would not succeed. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Central Government were in the process of changing legislation to ensure that Councils would in the future be forced to grit. A letter about this problem had been received from a resident, namely Mrs Omrod. Resolution Record No. **BTC192/03/Feb/03** :

**THAT A LETTER BE WRITTEN TO SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL DEPLORING THE LACK OF GRITTING IN BRANDON DURING DANGEROUS WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

For comfort the Meeting was temporarily adjourned by majority decision at 8:54 pm.

#### **17. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PROVISION OF ALLOTMENT GARDENS FOR BRANDON**

Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman declared an interest and left the room at 9:01pm. Various suggestions as to location were made by Councillors. The Town Clerk reported on areas investigated since the previous meeting – land adjacent to the Lode was unsuitable; land within Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields was unsuitable; land at Gravel Hill was unsuitable; the Kennels off Green Road was unsuitable. Cllr Baldwin pointed out that it had been a rubbish dump, after being a gravel pit and he certainly would not wish the town keepers to work in such an environment. It was suggested that an approach be made to the Ling Heath Trust regarding land and also to Mr Giles de Lotbiniere.

#### **18. REFINEMENT OF TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES' PROCEDURE**

The Town Clerk explained that because Resolutions passed by a majority vote are binding upon all Councillors, it was not strictly necessary to continue the practice of recording the proposer, seconder, votes for, against, abstentions for every Resolution passed. Simply voting against a resolution does not automatically absolve any Councillor from the decision taken by the majority. Any Councillor could still request a named vote, for the record, at any given time and this would include the aforementioned information. The Town Clerk recommended therefore that only the Resolution be recorded, under its specific Resolution Record Number, for general items of business. **CARRIED** : 6 for, 3 against, 2 abstentions. Resolution Record No. **BTC193/03/Feb/03** :

**THAT THE MINUTES' PROCEDURE FOR BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL BE REFINED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN CLERK, TO INCLUDE ONLY THE RESOLUTION AND ITS NUMBER, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR A NAMED VOTE.**

#### **19. THETFORD ROAD PLAY AREA**

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that this matter had been on the Agenda for some time. It was necessary to take action based on the RoSPA report (received and circulated in October 2002) to effect repairs. As the Council was contemplating the replacement of swings/additional child swing, it was imperative for the Working Party to meet and bring a recommendation to Council. It would be inefficient for money to be spent on repairs and then need the items to be replaced with new equipment at a further cost. Cllr Baldwin proposed that the Working Party (Cllrs Saxby, Mesdames Ahern and Jureko) must meet before the next full Brandon Town Council Meeting scheduled for Monday 03 March 2003. Those Councillors agreed that they would do so.

#### **20. BRANDON BY-PASS MEETING WITH RICHARD SPRING MP AND MICHAEL MORE, SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk advised the Meeting that the visit scheduled for Friday 31 January 2003 had

been postponed, owing to severely inclement weather conditions, which had resulted in Mr Spring being stationary on the M11 for 18 hours and therefore unable to travel to Brandon. The inspection visit would be rescheduled, as soon as possible.

## **21. JANUARY 2003 RISK ASSESSMENT REPORTS**

The Senior Townkeeper continues to monitor the Thetford Road Play Area and its equipment on a weekly basis. Reports are provided to the office. The Town Clerk and Townkeeper would shortly be touring and checking the numbers of Town Council-owned street lights, throughout Brandon. These would be compared to the current contract, with the intention of seeking alternative, cheaper quotations for energy supply from various sources.

## **22. RESOLUTION FROM COUNCILLOR MRS AHERN**

“That this Council resolves to reinstate Any Other Business for matters of report and for the inclusion of items for the next Agenda, as per NALC Standing orders 2002 adopted by BTC 6.01.2003”- [NALC Standing Orders 2002 & BTC Amendments]

Cllr Mrs Ahern offered to withdraw her proposed resolution, in relation to the addition of Any Other Business to future Agenda; but reserved the right to resubmit the item without reference to the six-month rule. The success of Town Clerk’s Report and Reports from Councillors would be monitored in this regard.

## **23. RESOLUTION FROM COUNCILLOR EDWARDS**

Cllr Saxby offered Cllr Edwards the opportunity of placing this resolution into the Confidential Section of the Town Council Meeting, as it appertained to staff. Cllr Edwards did not consider that to be necessary and stated that he was proposing a generalization. Cllr Silvester noted that it was not an item that needed to be concealed from the public and saw nothing to discuss. Cllr Edwards repeated that this was a very innocent and straightforward matter in order to reassure all staff that they were valued. Cllr Silvester stated that a vote would be required prior to moving any matter into the Confidential Section. The Chairman checked with Cllr Edwards who was happy with current location of his resolution. Cllr Edwards then requested that the resolution be put to the vote forthwith. Proposed : Cllr Edwards; seconded : Cllr Ms Bourton; **CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC194/03/Feb/03** :

THAT THIS COUNCIL FORMALLY RESOLVES FOR CLARIFICATION THAT ALL MEMBERS OF ITS STAFF WILL BE TREATED WITH RESPECT [PER PARISH COUNCILS MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT 2001/LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND 2000 AS AMENDED]. Cllr Mrs Jones-Weetman left during discussion of this item timed at 9:23 pm.

## **24. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**CARRIED** : unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC195/06/Jan/03** :

“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: STAFFING ISSUES; QUOTATIONS. [Section 100(A)(4) LGA 1972]

It was agreed by majority decision to take Item 25. at the end of the Meeting, to allow Cllr Baldwin to participate in the remaining Agenda Items before declaring an interest and leaving the building.

## **26. DEVELOPMENTS IN RESPECT OF NEW CEMETERY PURCHASE**



The compulsory purchase option, via Forest Heath District Council, was to be pursued. Cllr Vant emphasised the need for a water table report, as a matter of urgency. The Town Clerk would contact the Environment Agency in order to seek information, in this regard, prior to the next full Brandon Town Council Meeting on 03 March 2003.

**27. RATIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Confidential Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting of Monday 06 March 2003. **CARRIED:** unanimous. Resolution Record No. **BTC196/03/Feb/03** : THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 06 JANUARY 2003 (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS) BE ACCEPTED AND SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD.

**28. COST IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO ALLOTMENT GARDENS**

No further news to report at this time; investigations are ongoing.

**29. SCAFFOLDING TOWER QUOTATIONS**

One quotation had been received and it was agreed to seek others, for comparison purposes, as it was thought that a cheaper alternative could be found. The Chairman and Cllr Baldwin noted that it was important that any such equipment complied with Health & Safety Regulations.

**25. SCC PROPERTY REVIEW/ACQUISITION OLD SCHOOL HOUSE**

Cllr Baldwin declared an interest and duly left the premises. A letter had been received (previously circulated) in response to Brandon Town Council's reiteration of the ten most important points forming a condition of the proposed sale of Old School House and Garden to SCC Property Review/Keystone Community Partnership. Cllr Silvester had attended the SCC PR Steering Group Meeting and had understood that the exclusive use of the Council Chamber by Brandon Town Council had been agreed by the Group. Great concern was again expressed by all Councillors at the marked difference in the valuation of Old School House provided by (a) District & County Valuer and (b) Brandon Town Council's independent valuers. No response had yet been received to this query. Cllr Ridgwell suggested an alternative venue for the future location of Brandon Town Council, in the event that agreement could not be reached with SCC PR and Keystone. Cllr Mrs Ahern agreed with Cllr Ridgwell.

The Town Clerk was instructed to pursue the investigation of the alternative venue, through Forest Heath District Council and to arrange an inspection visit to the site as soon as possible.

Meeting closed at 9:35 pm. Next Meeting as per approved Schedule to be Brandon Full Town Council on Monday 03 March 2003 at 7:00 pm.