BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Brandon Town Council

Old School House Market Hill Brandon

MINUTES

of the Full Town Council

held at 7:00 PM on Monday, 19 October 2026

at Council Chamber - OSH

Issued: Tuesday, 27 October 2026

Attendance

Present: Cllr Gary Brocklehurst (Chair), Cllr Henry Kostecki, Cllr Claire Watts, Cllr Linda Challiss, Cllr Malcolm Pinnell, Cllr Nickie Siebert, Cllr Paul Gorringe, Cllr Wayne Bland

Apologies: Cllr David Palmer, Cllr Phil Wittam, Cllr Sam Skinner

Also present: Clerk Tina Cunnell, Officer Jackie Prior

Members of the public present: 5

Min. 26/125 — 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr David Palmer, Cllr Phil Wittam and Cllr Sam Skinner.

Min. 26/126 — 2. Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

No declarations of interest or requests for dispensation were received.

Min. 26/127 — 3. Public Participation Time

Five members of the public were present and addressed the Council during the public participation period.

The first member of the public raised concerns relating to a proposed development on peat land within the Fens. It was NOTED that the Fens are a low-lying area of significant historical and archaeological importance. The speaker questioned the environmental logic of constructing on productive peat sites, particularly given that peat-free growing media is now required for purchase, arguing that building on such land contradicts environmental principles. Concern was also raised that the financial case for the project did not appear sound, with reference to costs associated with payments to the turbine company.

A second member of the public expressed the view that all councils had been poorly informed about the project and asked what steps councils could take to become better informed and who they might approach for further guidance. The Clerk provided the member of the public with information regarding appropriate channels through which they could seek further details and direct their representations.

It was NOTED that no decisions were made by the Council in respect of any matter raised during this agenda item.

Min. 26/128 — 4. Redmere Wind Farm Development

Cllr Bland introduced the item, providing an outline of the Redmere Wind Farm Development project. He informed the Council that the Planning Inspectorate is seeking comments on the scoping document, in particular the Environmental Impact Statement, and is requesting that the Council sets out what it considers the Planning Inspectorate should include within the scoping document. Cllr Bland highlighted that if relevant issues are not raised at this stage there is a risk that the application may be approved without them being considered. It was NOTED that the Secretary of State retains the power to override and approve the application. Cllr Bland listed material considerations, social and environmental concerns, and proposed mitigation measures for the Council's consideration.

It was NOTED that in Hockwold there is a major onshore wind turbine project which would also impact on this area, but which is not referenced within the current application. It was further NOTED that Norfolk County is also proposing a solar park of approximately 5,000 acres, which would be the largest in the country, while the Redmere development would be the largest wind turbine project in Britain. It was NOTED that across Norfolk, approximately 10,000 acres are in line for such energy projects in total. Brandon Town Council is deemed a statutory consultee by virtue of its geographic proximity to these projects.

Cllr Pinnell noted that the Redmere Wind Farm project is situated only approximately eight miles from Brandon and represents a threat to the wildlife inhabiting the surrounding nature reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), as birds fly to the Fens to feed and nest. He further noted that the local road network is not suitable for the volume and weight of construction traffic, which would have a detrimental impact on the local environment. Cllr Pinnell stated that Brandon Town Council should request compensation from the community fund that the development would be required to provide.

Cllr Brocklehurst proposed and Cllr Siebert seconded that Standing Orders, section 3e, be suspended to allow members of the public to comment.

A member of the public informed the Council that they had contacted RSPB Lakenheath, who have lodged their concerns regarding the project. They also raised concerns about the detrimental effect on the local economy should the RAF bases be required to close due to restrictions on aircraft operations, and asked whether the Council had been in contact with the local RAF bases. Clerk Cunnell advised that the Council had not made contact with the bases and that, as the Ministry of Defence owns the sites, it would be for the Ministry of Defence to submit its own representations on the matter. A further member of the public asked where the local District Councillors were.

At 19:52, Cllr Brocklehurst resumed Standing Orders.

Clerk Cunnell and councillors read through a set of proposed comments, which members were invited to amend as appropriate. It was agreed that Cllr Bland would incorporate the amendments and circulate the revised comments to all councillors prior to submission.

It was RESOLVED, on the proposal of Cllr Gorringe, seconded by Cllr Challiss, and carried unanimously (For: 8, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0), that the comments, as amended by Cllr Bland, be accepted and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Min. 26/129 — 5. Budget 2027/28

The budget is being deferred to the November meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:51.

Signed: _____

Chair of the Full Town Council

Date: _____