

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting
held at the Church Institute, London Road, Brandon on Monday 14th March 2022 at 7pm

Present: Cllr S Skinner (Chair), Cllr S Annear, Cllr L Atkins, Cllr B Brabbs, Cllr J Hughes,
Cllr V Lukaniuk, Cllr D Moore, Cllr D Palmer, Cllr P Ridgwell, Cllr N Vant, Cllr P Wittam

Also Present: 6 members of the public.

- 1 **APOLOGIES** for absence and approval of reasons tendered.
Cllr P Etherington, Cllr J Lloyd-Blackwell, Cllr C Whiteman – approved.
- 2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** and additions to Members Register of Interest – None.
- 3 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SQN LDR GEARY - RAF LAKENHEATH**
Sqn Ldr Geary reported that there are a number of squadrons based at Lakenheath and a number visiting from other USAF installations worldwide. The British American Committee are focusing on integrating US personnel into local communities. The Sqn Ldr had attended a meeting with West Suffolk Council to look at the issue of providing more housing for base personnel as there was not enough on base. He further commented on the issue of the A1065 parking. Plane spotters in large numbers are parking on the verges and as he had directly observed they are crossing the road in a dangerous manner. This matter was being addressed by base personnel and Suffolk Police.
Cllr Brabbs suggested that they rotavate the grass verges as this would not enable people to easily park. Sqn Ldr reported that the noise contours for the planes using RAF Lakenheath were being changed (reduced). In addition to the parking issues already highlighted and being monitored he was aware that coaches being used by military base personnel's children taking them to school were being advised to drive with consideration to the local residents. Cllr Palmer stated that an additional one thousand houses are being built for the base with thirteen hundred already being allocated. Cllr Lukaniuk asked the Sqn Ldr if the star wars bunker near gate one was active. Sqn Ldr replied that it was not currently being used. Cllr Lukaniuk further added that having seen the scenes in Ukraine on TV it seemed that the US had lots of fire power but were not using it. Cllr Ridgwell commented about the number of people around the end of the runway as he had passed there about 10:30am on 14th March and observed that it was very busy on the edge of the road and perhaps the base could purchase additional land adjacent to the road or expand the car park. The Sqn Ldr replied that the land generally belonged to Elveden Estates and they were not in favour of providing car parking on the opposite side of the road requiring plane spotters to cross the busy A1065. The Sqn Ldr further added that people would exit their cars take photographs and then due to cold weather would migrate back to their cars. Cllr Moore suggested installing double yellow lines. The Sqn Ldr suggested double red lines as in London and was working through solutions with a multi-agency approach.

Signed.....

4 TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN MINUTES

- Of the Brandon Town Council Meeting of Monday 14th February 2022.

Proposer: Cllr S Skinner

Seconded: Cllr B Brabbs

Resolution Record No: **BTC/174/14/Mar/22**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 9 for, 2 unable to vote.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2022 BE APPROVED.

- Of the Extraordinary General Meeting of Wednesday 23rd February 2022.

Proposer: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Seconded: Cllr N Vant

Resolution Record No: **BTC/175/14/Mar/22**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 7 for, 4 unable to vote.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2022 BE APPROVED.

5 MATTERS ARISING for information exchange only of the Full Council Meeting of 18th January 2022.

Cllr Ridgwell stated that his comments regarding additional car parking had not been noted in the previous minutes. The Clerk noted his comments and will add comments accordingly.

6 URGENT BUSINESS any items the Chairman considers a matter of urgent business – None.

7 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORT from the Town Clerk.

Report was received.

8 PUBLIC FORUM monthly event limited to 3 minutes duration maximum per resident, this will include reports from County, District and Town Councillors also Community Group Representatives.

Proposer: Cllr S Skinner

Seconded: Cllr B Brabbs

Resolution Record No: **BTC/176/14/Mar/22**

CARRIED: Unanimous

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED FOR THE PUBLIC FORUM.

Cllr Skinner opened the public forum to the floor of the meeting. A member of the public asked that the reports from the County, District and Town Councillors be given first as the public then had opportunity to question on these points.

Cllr Lukaniuk informed the meeting that the streetlights in the High Street and the drain covers were being replaced. He had been assured that by 7th April the lighting in Boundary Close would be attended to.

Signed.....

Cllr Wittam wished to inform the Council that at the budgetary meeting for West Suffolk they had voted against the building of a new hub in Bury St Edmunds, this was due to the estimated costs of the project. He further informed the meeting that parity with St Edmundsbury being reached in 2022 he was assured that the anomalies will be addressed.

Cllr Palmer stated that the West Suffolk Councillors were chasing parity in services before parity in rates. He added that an application was before West Suffolk Council for the building of a third generation all weather football pitch at Breckland School in Crown Street.

A resident wished to make three points to the Councillors present. The first one was that they were in communication with an old resident of Brandon who had visited over the festive period and had commented that the Christmas Lighting was the best he had ever seen in Brandon and was a credit to the town.

Point number two was that they wished to make clear the issue of declaration of interests and asked Cllr Wittam to confirm the requirements to be declared. Cllr Wittam then proceeded to outline those requirements. The resident then proceeded to inform Cllr Wittam that at the recent EGM of the Council himself and Cllr Lukaniuk had been insistent that the Chairman had a pecuniary interest in the subject matter and asked that he declare it as such and therefore remove himself from the meeting as required by the Code of Conduct. Subsequent evidence following the meeting proved that the Chairman did not have a pecuniary interest or in fact any interest which needed to be declared. He did not have a controlling interest in the company in which he worked, he is an employee and the company would not receive any preferential advantage from his involvement in the discussion. They stated that in fact, rather than the company receiving contracts or monies from the Council, they in fact paid the Council. Cllr Lukaniuk stated that if the resident felt that he had a complaint he should take that to the Monitoring Officer and it was just sour grapes on their behalf.

Point number three the resident stated if Cllr Lukaniuk was an honourable person he would resign. At which point another very heated exchange took place between the resident and Cllr Lukaniuk. The resident asked that items should be brought to the attention of the Clerk before the meeting so answers to queries could be made available.

Cllr Ridgwell informed the meeting that the Heritage Centre would soon be open again for visitors on a Thursday 10am – 1pm, Saturday 10am – 4pm and Sunday 11am – 3pm. He further added that the signal box at Spooner Row had been dismantled and various parts of it had been offered to the public.

Cllr Lukaniuk stated that in his opinion the pollarding of the trees in the churchyard had not been carried out well. The Clerk is to look into this matter. Cllr Ridgwell queried the cost of the contract for the tree work in the accounts and added that this had not been brought before Council. The Clerk explained that a contract was required for the work as it was for a four-year contract and needed the detail being agreed by both parties and submitting to a binding contract. Cllr Vant agreed that the contract was required and the cost of which cannot be estimated until the work has been completed. Cllr Wittam complained that this had not been mentioned and it had not been brought before Council.

THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk read out correspondence that had been received after the agenda had been produced.

- Suffolk Highways regarding the pine trees in London Road which have been damaged by recent storms and it has been observed that they require urgent inspection as to their safety.
- Email received from a local resident congratulating the Town Council on keeping the council tax rise to a minimum.

Signed.....

10 ACCOUNTS To approve the payments for February 2022.

Proposer: Cllr S Annear

Seconder: Cllr L Atkins

Resolution Record No: **BTC/177/14/Mar/22**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 9 for, 2 abstentions.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2022.

Invoice Date	Invoice No	Supplier	Expense Type	Nett	VAT	Gross	Payment
30/01/2022	9435	Brandon Life Ltd	Advert - Office Assistant	£56.00	£0.00	£56.00	BACS
31/01/2022	BC220131	Link Global Services Ltd	Christmas Lighting	£1,687.75	£337.55	£2,025.30	BACS
07/02/2022	2022/0067	Church Institute	Hire of Hall for Council Meet.	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	BACS
02/02/2022	SI-19700	D M Tree Contractors	Re-pollard Lime Trees in Cem.	£6,750.00	£1,350.00	£8,100.00	BACS
06/02/2022	5785	Brunning Elect. Sers.	Victoria Avenue lighting	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00	BACS
15/02/2022	REF2388/1	Hampshire Flag Co. Ltd	Flagpoles, Flags, Bunting - QJ	£2,895.00	£579.00	£3,474.00	BACS
18/02/2022	2022/0089	Church Institute	Hire of Hall for Council Meet.	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	BACS
20/01/2022	957820668	British Gas	Gas OSH	£186.85	£9.34	£196.19	Direct Debit
20/01/2022	1C56-0003	E.ON	Electric Christmas Tree Pillar	£146.11	£7.31	£153.42	Direct Debit
01/02/2022	A292-0005	E.ON	Electric Pillar 8 Market Hill	£94.68	£4.73	£99.41	Direct Debit
07/02/2022	5A54-0005	E.ON	Electric Pillar 9 Market Hill	£29.37	£1.47	£30.84	Direct Debit
07/02/2022	3E73-0006	E.ON	Electric New Yard	£159.77	£7.99	£167.76	Direct Debit
07/02/2022	1C56-0004	E.ON	Electric Christmas Tree Pillar	£8.70	£0.44	£9.14	Direct Debit
07/02/2022	6C32-0004	E.ON	Electric OSH	£176.89	£8.84	£185.73	Direct Debit
21/01/2022	M050 &8	BT	Phone OSH	£39.72	£7.94	£47.66	Direct Debit
21/01/2022	M026 KY	BT	Phone OSH	£30.24	£6.05	£36.29	Direct Debit
07/02/2022	Q016 D5	BT	Phone OSH	£159.53	£31.90	£191.43	Direct Debit
27/01/2022	340429	Corona Corporate Sols.	Toner for Photocopier	£13.50	£2.70	£16.20	Direct Debit
27/01/2022		Creative Pension Trust	Pensions - January	£389.98	£0.00	£389.98	Direct Debit
01/02/2022	116368	Cranberry Comms.	Microsoft 365 Subscription	£108.80	£21.76	£130.56	Direct Debit
07/02/2022		Siemens	Photocopier - Quarterly Rental	£472.00	£94.40	£566.40	Direct Debit
18/02/2022	1380257	Everflow Water	Water OSH	£19.47	£0.00	£19.47	Direct Debit
02/02/2022	K40811	Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd	Strimmer Head	£9.99	£2.00	£11.99	BACS
07/02/2022	231588	Fengate Fasteners Ltd	Town Costs	£148.50	£29.70	£178.20	BACS
28/02/2022	233180	Fengate Fasteners Ltd	Town Costs	£94.62	£18.92	£113.54	BACS
07/02/2022	91968	Rudlings Solicitors LLP	Tree Contract	£1,202.95	£240.59	£1,443.54	BACS
14/02/2022	1256280	J & D Green	Window Cleaning OSH	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
14/02/2022	SINV01837566	Ian Smith Group Ltd	Stationery & Toilet Tissue	£21.40	£4.28	£25.68	BACS
28/02/2022		Mr G Cock	Reim. Postage, Zoom	£93.98	£0.00	£93.98	BACS
28/02/2022	20220000209	Finevale Service Station	Fuel	£29.41	£5.88	£35.29	BACS
05/03/2021		HMRC	NICS	£1,765.07	£0.00	£1,765.07	BACS

11 TO RECEIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AGAINST BUDGET FOR JANUARY 2022

The Income and Expenditure Statement against Budget for January 2022 was received.

12 TO NOTE MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING of 7th March 2022.

The minutes from the last Planning Meeting were noted and received.

Signed.....

13 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

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: CONTRACT.

Proposer: Cllr S Skinner

Seconder: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Resolution Record No: **BTC/178/14/Mar/22**

CARRIED: Unanimous

Signed.....

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Confidential Minutes
of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting
held at the Church Institute, London Road, Brandon on Monday 14th March 2022 at 7pm

THIS PAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL
ONLY THE RESOLUTIONS MAYBE DISPLAYED
AS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD

14 TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

- Of the Brandon Town Council Meeting of Monday 14th February 2022.

Proposer: Cllr S Skinner

Seconder: Cllr D Moore

Resolution Record No: **BTC/179/14/Mar/22**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 9 for, 2 unable to vote.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2022 BE APPROVED.

- Of the Extraordinary General Meeting of Wednesday 23rd February 2022.

Proposer: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Seconder: Cllr B Brabbs

Resolution Record No: **BTC/180/14/Mar/22**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 7 for, 4 unable to vote.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2022 BE APPROVED.

15 RESOLUTION from Cllr S Annear No. 410

Brandon Town Council resolves to discuss and review the wage structure for BTC staff and amend where agreed.

Cllr Annear introduced the resolution to the Council and handed the subject matter to the Clerk to give further details of the current situation. A general discussion took place with Cllr Wittam proposing that the resolution be amended to read: "**review the wage structure for BTC ground staff.**"

Proposer: Cllr P Wittam

Seconder: Cllr B Brabbs

Resolution Record No: **BTC/181/14/Mar/22**

CARRIED: Unanimous

Resolution: Brandon Town Council resolves to discuss and review the wage structure for BTC ground staff and amend where agreed.

Signed.....

Proposer: Cllr S Annear
Seconder: Cllr P Wittam
Resolution Record No: **BTC/182/14/Mar/22**
CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO AMEND THE WAGE STRUCTURE FOR BTC GROUND STAFF AS AGREED.

Cllr Annear then asked if they could then consider the wage structure for the staff at OSH. Cllr Wittam stated that the resolution had been amended and only allowed for the ground staff and that she would have to raise another resolution at the next meeting to discuss this subject. Cllr Vant agreed with Cllr Wittam and stated that this was the end of the subject at this meeting.

16 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk requested a general discussion on the location of the next Full Council Meeting. A round table vote was requested by the Chair who stated that the meeting would only move back to Old School House if the vote were unanimous. Given the doubts, non-committals and those against, the meeting is to continue at the Church Institute at present.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

Signed.....