

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting Precept Meeting
held virtually using Microsoft Teams on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 7.00pm

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE and approval of reasons tendered.
Cllr S Corciulo, Cllr P Ridgwell

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

3 PRECEPT FOR BRANDON 2021/22

The Chair opened the discussion and asked the Clerk to outline the proposed budget. A number of Councillors stated that they were unable to hear the Clerk clearly. The Clerk described the methodology by which the figures were reached and informed Council of the effect of the reduced numbers of residents paying Council tax on the final band D figure. Cllr Vant put to Councillors that if the precept had remained static the increase would be slightly more than 4.3%. He further explained that the figure that will be published by the press will be the 4.38% although the actual cash increase is minute. Cllr Palmer stated he was unable to clearly hear what was being said by the Clerk. Cllr Lukaniuk stated that in his opinion the 4.3% figure is high and is the headline figure for the members of the public in Brandon. He felt that we should be able to do something with that. Cllr Lukaniuk asked the Clerk what the expected underspend for the year will be. The Clerk replied that the estimated underspend would be approximately £60K. Cllr Lukaniuk then queried the reduction in the street lighting budget. The Clerk explained that the previous year due to the invoicing dates an extra amount had been allowed for the street lighting. The Clerk stated that he had checked the figures for the coming year and is assured that these figures are now accurate. Cllr Skinner informed Council that the underspend has been allocated towards projects in the town and it would be dangerous to remove monies from the precept. The Clerk confirmed this to be correct. Cllr Lukaniuk requested that attention is given to a number of the larger items listed. Cllr Vant and Cllr Moore stated they were both having trouble hearing the Clerk. The Chair then proposed that the meeting be adjourned due to the poor sound quality. The Clerk stated that the meeting must go ahead imminently, as a return needed to be made to West Suffolk.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.25pm

Signed

Brandon Town Council
Precept Meeting
Thursday 21st January 2021

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting Precept Meeting
held virtually using Microsoft Teams on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 7.00pm

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

Continuation of the Precept meeting started on Thursday 21st January and continued on Friday 22nd January 2021.

The Chair wished to thank MAC Estates - Mark Cronin for sponsoring the flags in the High Street and Mark's Son, Ross, Nova and Gary Brocklehurst for his assistance in erecting the flags.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE and approval of reasons tendered.

Cllr S Corciulo, Cllr P Ridgwell

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

3 PRECEPT FOR BRANDON 2021/22

The Chair introduced the subject and the Clerk outlined the basis of the precept proposed. Cllr Vant stated that whilst the figure showed 4.38% the actual cash increase is small. He further stated the danger of the Council underfunding themselves and the Council not being able to function. Cllr Lukaniuk expressed his opinion that a number of items could be reduced. A general discussion ensued resulting in Cllr Skinner suggesting that the suggested changes to the admin section be voted on.

Proposer: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Seconder: Cllr P Wittam

Resolution Record No: **BTC/51/22/Jan/21**

FAILED: 2 for, 9 against, 1 abstention

Cllr Lukaniuk proposed that the amount budgeted for the S137 grants be reduced by 50% to £5,000.

Proposer: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Seconder: Cllr P Wittam

Resolution Record No: **BTC/52/22/Jan/21**

FAILED: 2 for, 9 against, 1 abstention

Cllr Etherington asked if Cllr Lukaniuk could state the bottom line he wished to achieve so Councillors could vote on that to save time. Cllr Lukaniuk stated he had only a small number of items left to discuss and wished to continue.

Signed

Cllr Lukaniuk stated that expenditure on the churchyard wall should be brought before the cemetery working party and should be fully costed before being voted on by Council.
Cllr Lukaniuk proposed that the £4,000 cemetery town costs be removed.

Proposer: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Seconder: Cllr P Wittam

Resolution Record No: **BTC/53/22/Jan/21**

FAILED: 2 for, 10 against

Cllr Lukaniuk proposed that £6,000 be removed from the budget as the Victoria Avenue trees do not require work this year. The Clerk explained the slightly revised programme of tree pollarding that the West Suffolk Tree Officer had advised. This allows the cemetery/churchyard perimeter trees to be cut this year, with the internal cemetery trees being cut in the 21/22 budget. He confirmed that the Victoria Avenue trees do not need major attention this year. They may need minor works in certain locations. Cllr Skinner confirmed the Clerk's statement and added there maybe some smaller works required to the trees which will absorb most of the budget.

Cllr Lukaniuk proposed that £6,000 be removed from the cemetery/avenue tree budget.

Proposer: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Seconder: Cllr P Wittam

Resolution Record No: **BTC/54/22/Jan/21**

FAILED: 2 for, 10 against

Cllr Wittam proposed that the £200 Chairman's allowance be removed from the budget. The Clerk stated that if the money is not budgeted for, it cannot be spent. Cllr Vant advised the Chair that whilst he cannot see anything that he would require to spend it on now, you never know what is in the future.

Proposer: Cllr P Wittam

Seconder: Cllr L Atkins

Resolution Record No: **BTC/55/22/Jan/21**

FAILED: 5 for, 7 against

A general discussion ensued regarding the total proposed precept and the inclusion or exclusion of the duplicated new equipment line in the admin section cost code 2131.

Cllr Skinner proposed that the £2,000 duplicated should be retained in the cemetery/town new equipment line as he felt this was not enough money to cover costs.

Proposer: Cllr S Skinner

Seconder: Cllr B Brabbs

Resolution Record No: **BTC/56/22/Jan/21**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 10 for, 2 against

**BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL PROPOSES TO RETAIN THE £2,000 FOR
CEMETERY/TOWN NEW EQUIPMENT.**

Brandon Town Council
Precept Meeting
Thursday 21st January 2021

This resulted in a precept figure of £286,136 an increase of 4.38%. Cllr Lukaniuk requested a named vote.

Proposer: Cllr N Vant

Seconder: Cllr P Wittam

Resolution Record No: **BTC/57/22/Jan/21**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 11 for, 1 against

For:- Cllr Wittam, Cllr Skinner, Cllr Annear, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Brabbs, Cllr Etherington, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Lloyd-Blackwell, Cllr Moore, Cllr Palmer, Cllr Vant.

Against:- Cllr Lukaniuk.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES A PRECEPT FOR 2021/22 OF £286,136.

4 URGENT BUSINESS – None.

5 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 P Etherington

Seconder: Cllr N Vant

Resolution Record No: **BTC/58/22/Jan/21**

CARRIED: Unanimous

Signed

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Confidential Minutes
of the Full Brandon Town Council Precept Meeting
held virtually using Microsoft Teams on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 7.00pm

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

6 QUOTES

- 6.1 To consider quotation to supply and install four feeder pillars in the High Street. Cllr Palmer requested details of the nature of the installation. The Clerk described the installation and the approximate positions of the outlets.

Proposer: Cllr S Skinner

Seconder: Cllr P Etherington

Resolution Record No: **BTC/59/22/Jan/21**

CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO ACCEPT THE QUOTATION TO
INSTALL FOUR FEEDER PILLARS IN THE HIGH STREET.

- 6.2 To consider quotation to pollard 77 trees in the churchyard and cemetery. A general discussion took place regarding the positions of the trees and the Clerk described the work being undertaken.

Proposer: Cllr P Etherington

Seconder: Cllr S Skinner

Resolution Record No: **BTC/60/22/Jan/21**

CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO ACCEPT THE QUOTATION TO
POLLARD 77 TREES IN THE CHUCHYARD AND CEMETERY.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm

Signed