

## BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting  
held at Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon on Monday 12th June 2023 at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr P Wittam (Chair), Cllr B Brabbs, Cllr G Brocklehurst, Cllr P Etherington, Cllr J Hughes, Cllr H Kostecki, Cllr V Lukaniuk, Cllr T Nolan, Cllr D Palmer, Cllr P Ridgwell, Cllr J Savage, Cllr N Siebert

**Also Present:** 25+ members of the public.

**1 APOLOGIES** for absence and approval of reasons tendered.

Cllr C Watts – unable to attend due to attendance on a Councillor training course.

**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 flying programmes had been disrupted in May. He stated that 450 personnel had been deployed on operations in Europe. The Sqn Ldr attended a mens shed breakfast and fully supported the movement. He further added that the USAF had been extremely well represented at the Suffolk Show. Brandon should be aware that new vehicles are being delivered to base. These are to replace the current Humvee which are now being retired from service. The Sqn Ldr announced to the assembled meeting that the Anglo-American committee would like to donate £453 to the people of Brandon to use in the community. A cheque was given to the Town Clerk. The Chairman thanked the Sqn Ldr for this most generous donation to the people of Brandon.

**4 TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN MINUTES**

- Of the Brandon Town Council Full Council Meeting of Monday 15th May 2023.

**Proposer:** Cllr V Lukaniuk

**Seconder:** Cllr G Brocklehurst

Resolution Record No: **BTC/21/12/Jun/23**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 15TH MAY 2023 BE APPROVED.

**5 MATTERS ARISING** for information exchange only of the Full Council Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Cllr Ridgwell raised the issue of the change of use for the Barclays Bank and remarked that he believed there to be some flint object which should be removed. Cllr Lukaniuk answered this query by stating that there is a flint panel embedded in the wall of the bank but it was unlikely that this could be removed without destroying it.

Signed.....

Cllr Lukaniuk had noted that the Clerk had left off Monkey Stile footpath (No 8) from a list of areas that Brandon Town Council maintains. The Clerk stated that Monkey Stile Lane is a public footpath and is the responsibility of Suffolk County Council, Brandon Town Council strims the entrance and tidies on occasion out of courtesy and for the use of the residents. It does not imply that we are fully responsible for the maintenance of the footpath, nor are we responsible for footpath number 9. Cllr Ridgwell stated he had been on the Council for forty years and staff had always cut Monkey Stile footpath. Cllr Brabbs added that he was aware of a letter appertaining to the issue in Old School House. Cllr Brocklehurst asked the Clerk to write to West Suffolk Council to clarify the matter. Cllr Ridgwell asked that we appoint two members of Brandon Town Council as trustees to Brandon Heritage Centre. Cllr Wittam stated it would be referred to the next meeting.

- 6 URGENT BUSINESS** any items the Chairman considers a matter of urgent business – to be submitted no less than 48hrs prior to the meeting or by discussion with the Chairman.

Cllr Wittam made a statement that the many rumours circulating in Brandon regarding the employment of the town keepers and them being replaced by contractors is without foundation and false. Cllr Brocklehurst again referred to the rumours that were circulating in the town and stated the Cllr Siebert had been confronted in the High Street by a male resident. Cllr Siebert was left visibly shaken by this encounter. Cllr Siebert added that the town keepers do an amazing job.

Cllr Lukaniuk referred to the previous months minutes where Cllr Wittam thanked the towns keepers for their excellent work and he stated that the Town Clerk should have notified Councillors and posted on media that these rumours are without foundation. The Clerk stated that as policy we do not respond to Facebook just to emails to the office and we do not comment on rumours.

- 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 B Brabbs

**Seconder:** Cllr P Etherington

Resolution Record No: **BTC/22/12/June/23**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED FOR THE PUBLIC FORUM.

A member of the public spoke regarding the rumours circulating in Brandon and stated that the town keepers were doing an excellent job. Cllr Wittam stated he would resign rather than get rid of the staff. A member of the public stated that their 25 years' experience of outsourcing contracts usually resulted in a poor result. Cllr Wittam agreed with this resident. There followed a verbal exchange about the subject.

A resident queried the HGV website which Cllr Wittam had referred to in his election leaflet and a number of other issues. They also stated that the HGV restrictions need to be sorted now rather than them being left for yet a further election. They asked for monthly updates regarding progress on these matters. Cllr Wittam stated that the resident had raised a number of issues and that he would reply in writing following the meeting.

Signed.....

Another resident queried if they were the only person in Brandon that finds flying the LGBT flags offensive and asked when they would be removed. Cllr Lukaniuk commented he did not like how the Councillors were consulted about flying the flags and thinks it should have gone to Full Council. Cllr Etherington claimed to have heard that people were consulted and named two Councillors that she understood had opposed. The Chairman admitted to being one of them. Cllr Lukaniuk stated that he had had a discussion with a member of staff who had then relayed the information to Cllr Etherington. The member of staff refuted Cllr Lukaniuk's accusations.

Cllr Palmer stated he was working on three new projects which he declined to give full details about but confirmed that one of them is to establish a full NHS dental service in Brandon. He further stated that he did not require the assistance of any other Councillors.

Cllr Wittam stated that with the independent group at West Suffolk having a majority this presents an opportunity for Brandon. Cllr Lukaniuk stated they were working on the issue of parity with the St Edmundsbury District Council.

A member of the public reminded Council that his relative had worked hard for Brandon and had seen the establishment of the Leisure Centre which had been used for many social functions. A general conversation then ensued regarding the old bingo hall the community centre and other facilities that had been lost in Brandon.

Cllr Lukaniuk informed the meeting of the numbers of vehicles recorded travelling through Brandon High Street during the period when the ANPR cameras were in operation. He also mentioned the upgrade of the A1065 into Brandon. A member of public asked if consideration was being given to a 20MPH zone. Cllr Wittam stated that other routes had been used by traffic when roadworks were in operation.

A resident asked if the Council were aware of the pig/chicken farm which was due to be operational in the Weeting area which would bring about a large number of HGV movements to Brandon.

A member of staff vehemently denied that they would betray a confidence, and that they did not appreciate being accused by Cllr Lukaniuk in the manner in which he did.

THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING

## 9 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk informed Council he had received correspondence from a resident thanking the office for their actions in getting material which had been fly tipped removed by West Suffolk Council.

## 10 ACCOUNTS To approve the payments for May 2023.

**Proposer:** Cllr P Etherington

**Seconder:** Cllr G Brocklehurst

Resolution Record No: **BTC/23/12/Jun/23**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PAYMENTS FOR MAY 2023.

Signed.....

Invoice Date	Invoice No	Supplier	Expense Type	Nett	VAT	Gross	Payment
22/03/2023	1358307997	Trade Point	Watering Can/Drain Unblocker	£17.29	£3.46	£20.75	Direct Debit
16/04/2023	INV-2668	Hugofox Limited	Website Subscription	£29.99	£6.00	£35.99	Direct Debit
20/04/2023	820806759	British Gas	Gas OSH	£300.31	£15.01	£315.32	Direct Debit
21/04/2023	M065 OE	BT	Phone OSH	£116.53	£23.31	£139.84	Direct Debit
22/04/2023	M041 AH	BT	Phone OSH	£37.52	£7.50	£45.02	Direct Debit
08/05/2023	Q021 ZE	BT	Phone OSH	£182.33	£36.46	£218.79	Direct Debit
01/05/2023	10523	Cranberry Comms.	Microsoft 365	£121.90	£24.38	£146.28	Direct Debit
02/05/2023	755A-0014	E.ON	Electric Cemetery Yard	£20.17	£1.01	£21.18	Direct Debit
02/05/2023	A292-0021	E.ON	Electric Pillar 8 Market Hill	£53.05	£2.65	£55.70	Direct Debit
09/05/2023	5A54-0020	E.ON	Electric Pillar 9 Market Hill	£21.05	£1.05	£22.10	Direct Debit
09/05/2023	1C56-0019	E.ON	Electric Christmas Tree Pillar	£16.80	£0.84	£17.64	Direct Debit
09/05/2023	3E73-0021	E.ON	Electric BRPF Yard	£283.62	£14.18	£297.80	Direct Debit
09/05/2023	6C32-0021	E.ON	Electric OSH	£235.05	£11.75	£246.80	Direct Debit
07/05/2023		Siemens	Photocopier - Quarterly Rental	£472.00	£94.40	£566.40	Direct Debit
18/05/2023	2266864	Everflow Water	Water OSH	£24.94	£0.00	£24.94	Direct Debit
28/05/2023	1215028	West Suffolk Council	Trade Waste	£75.76	£0.00	£75.76	Direct Debit
05/10/2021		West Suffolk Council	Premises Licence 2021/22	£180.00	£0.00	£180.00	BACS
02/09/2022	1207425	West Suffolk Council	Premises Licence 2022/23	£180.00	£0.00	£180.00	BACS
01/05/2023	I-2128	Land & Sculpture Design	New Cem - Highways/Drainage	£1,552.50	£304.50	£1,827.00	BACS
02/05/2023	arc677-0011	TownsWebArchiving	Burial Records Search - 1 Year	£311.27	£62.25	£373.52	BACS
04/05/2023	33318	J & D Green	Cleaning Bus Shelters	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	BACS
04/05/2023	33319	J & D Green	Window Cleaning OSH	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
05/05/2023	SINV01898802	Ian Smith Group Ltd	Stationery	£59.02	£11.80	£70.82	BACS
23/05/2023	SINV01900484	Ian Smith Group Ltd	Stationery	£47.03	£9.41	£56.44	BACS
09/05/2023	19580784	James Hallam Ltd	Motor Vehicle Insurance	£1,010.60	£0.00	£1,010.60	BACS
10/05/2023	60052	Chase Timber Products	Wood for Brazier	£21.02	£1.05	£22.07	BACS
11/05/2023	3754 AIO954	Travis Perkins Ltd	Repairs to Cemetery Path	£34.00	£6.80	£40.80	BACS
15/05/2023	2310	B.R.P.F.	Use of Field - Coronation Evt	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	BACS
22/05/2023		B.R.P.F.	1st Half of Grant	£16,500.00	£0.00	£16,500.00	BACS
19/05/2023	SI-1841	Door Services Plus Ltd	Roller Shutters - BRPF Yard	£1,860.00	£372.00	£2,232.00	BACS
26/05/2023	AA09424	Ayentee Accountancy	Internal Audit	£750.00	£150.00	£900.00	BACS
30/05/2023		Mr G Cock	Reim. Postage, Cables, Cllr Tr.	£160.72	£16.20	£176.92	BACS
30/05/2023	536885	Richard Jackson Ltd	New Cem - Works & /Flood Rk	£3,093.00	£618.60	£3,711.60	BACS
31/05/2023	GB33	Amazon	Cases For Mobile Phones	£7.20	£1.44	£8.64	BACS
31/05/2023	1282	Amazon	Screen Prot. For Mobiles	£3.49	£0.70	£4.19	BACS
31/05/2023	259343	Fengate Fasteners Ltd	Strimmer Line, Toilet Paper	£77.60	£15.52	£93.12	BACS
31/05/2023	20230000516	Finevale Service Station	Fuel	£217.62	£43.52	£261.14	BACS
05/06/2023		HMRC	NICS	£2,413.94	£0.00	£2,413.94	BACS

## 11 TO RECEIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS AGAINST BUDGET FOR APRIL 2023

The Income and Expenditure Statement against Budget for April 2023 was received.

Signed.....

**12 GRANT APPLICATION** discussion to consider S137 grant from Brandon & District Rotary Club.

A member of the local rotary organisation stood and described how they require funds to upgrade their equipment. A debate ensued resulting in a vote being taken.

**Proposer:** Cllr P Etherington

**Seconder:** Cllr N Siebert

Resolution Record No: **BTC/24/12/Jun/23**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO APPROVE THE GRANT FROM BRANDON & DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB FOR £2000.00.

**13 TO NOTE MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING** of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The minutes from the above Planning Committee Meeting were noted and received.

Cllr Brocklehurst reported on the actions of the planning committee.

**14 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 V Lukaniuk

**Seconder:** Cllr N Siebert

Resolution Record No: **BTC/25/12/Jun/23**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

Signed.....

## **BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL**

Confidential Minutes  
of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting  
held at Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon on Monday 12th June 2023 at 7pm

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

### **15 TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

- Of the Brandon Town Council Meeting of Monday 15th May 2023.

**Proposer:** Cllr B Brabbs

**Seconder:** Cllr P Etherington

Resolution Record No: **BTC/26/12/Jun/23**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 15TH MAY 2023 BE APPROVED.

### **16 MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Nolan informed Council of the lack of action by BT in repairing the service to numerous buildings in the High Street following the incident with the trailer which became unattached from the tractor unit. A short debate took place with Cllr Nolan arranging to visit Old School House to use the facilities to contact BT.

### **17 ANNUAL RETURN AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 2022/23**

**17.1** To resolve to approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23.

**Proposer:** Cllr B Brabbs

**Seconder:** Cllr V Lukaniuk

Resolution Record No: **BTC/27/12/Jun/23**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

**17.2** To resolve to approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23.

**Proposer:** Cllr P Etherington

**Seconder:** Cllr B Brabbs

Resolution Record No: **BTC/28/12/Jun/23**

**CARRIED:** Unanimous

### **18 STAFF SALARIES**

A short, heated debate took place regarding this subject which is to be brought back to Council the following month.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed.....