

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting
held at Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon on Tuesday 20th December 2022 at 7pm

Present: Cllr S Annear, Cllr B Brabbs, Cllr P Etherington, Cllr V Lukaniuk, Cllr D Palmer,
Cllr N Vant, Cllr P Wittam

Also Present: 4 members of the public

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Skinner, Cllr Annear chaired the meeting. Cllr Etherington read a statement on behalf of the Chairman Cllr Skinner thanking various residents and staff regarding their contributions to the Christmas Event/Lights.

- 1 **APOLOGIES** for absence and approval of reasons tendered.
Cllr L Atkins, Cllr J Hughes, Cllr J Lloyd-Blackwell, Cllr D Moore, Cllr P Ridgwell, Cllr S Skinner, Cllr C Whiteman – apologies accepted.
- 2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** and additions to Members Register of Interest.
Cllr D Palmer – Pecuniary interest – Item 11. Cllr Palmer stated he would be leaving the room and would not be taking part in discussions.
- 3 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SQN LDR GEARY - RAF LAKENHEATH**
Sqn Ldr Geary did not attend the meeting.
- 4 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COMMUNITY SGT PETER MAXFIELD**
Community Sgt Maxfield could not attend the meeting.
- 5 **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 – None.
- 6 **TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORT** from the Town Clerk.
Report was received.
- 7 **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 V Lukaniuk
Seconder: Cllr P Wittam
Resolution Record No: **BTC/110/20/Dec/22**
CARRIED: Unanimous

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED FOR THE PUBLIC FORUM.

Signed.....

Cllr Lukaniuk further thanked those people involved in the Christmas Light Switch On. He reported that the accident damaged Mercedes in London Road had now been removed following consultation with the owner of the vehicle. Following this and other incidents Cllr Lukaniuk stated he will be attempting to get yellow lines applied to London Road. Cllr Lukaniuk reported that he has had negotiations with a property owner in the High Street who's overflow pipe had been leaking and creating a glacier across the pavement. This is now being attended to by the property owner. The Clerk queried if there was any news regarding the establishment of a Leader/Major for Suffolk County Council as part of the devolved Local Government. Cllr Lukaniuk indicated that it may be a Leader of the Council.

Cllr Palmer informed the meeting that he was working through the numerous hurdles and levels of management within the NHS to establish a blood testing facility within Brandon. Cllr Palmer stated that he is currently actively working to ensure the Brandon Day Care Centre is fully resourced and an announcement will be made shortly. He also added that he is still currently working with various bodies regarding the issue of the street lighting.

Cllr Annear queried what the problem with the Day Care Centre was. Cllr Palmer informed the meeting that the daily attendance had dropped to approximately ten persons which is approximately half what is needed to operate efficiently.

Cllr Wittam referred to the street lighting issue which he had been assured in a meeting with West Suffolk that it would be resolved by autumn 2022. He understood that this has now been mooted to be at some point in 2023. Cllr Wittam stated that he and Cllr Lukaniuk had voted against the West Suffolk medium term budget in which it was proposed to spend approximately seventy million pounds on the construction of a new hub at Bury St Edmunds. This being opposed to the approx. cost of thirteen million pounds refitting the existing facilities. Cllr Wittam added that Cllr Lukaniuk and himself had made a donation from their locality budget to Zebras Children and Adults Charity to enable them to continue working in Brandon.

Cllr Palmer added that he had attended and voted on approving the new West Suffolk Hospital which will cost between six hundred million and one billion pounds, to be constructed on the Hardwick Estate adjacent to the existing hospital.

A member of the public spoke supporting the S137 grant application from Brandon P.C.C. They explained that the parish share payable to St Edmundsbury Diocese would be increasing from this year onwards. Adding that the electricity costs for the Church Institute had been approximately £350 per month and was now at a level of approximately £1000 per month.

A further resident thanked all those responsible for the lights and the Christmas Event.

THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING

8 CORRESPONDENCE

Email thanking Brandon Town Council – Christmas Fair – information received.

9 TO RECEIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AGAINST BUDGET FOR OCTOBER 2022

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

Signed.....

10 GRANT APPLICATION discussion to consider S137 grant from Brandon P.C.C.

Cllr Vant outlined the value to the local community of the Church Institute and that not supporting this worthwhile institution the groups using the facility would have to apply to Brandon Town Council for additional funding. Therefore, it was sensible to support the Church Institute and allow the groups to continue using the building. Cllr Annear stated that the financial picture would be clearer if the accounts of the Institute were separated from St Peter's. A vote then ensued.

Proposer: Cllr N Vant

Seconder: Cllr P Etherington

Resolution Record No: **BTC/111/20/Dec/22**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 5 for, 2 abstentions.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATION FROM BRANDON P.C.C. FOR £3000.00.

Cllr Palmer left the meeting.

11 TO APPROVE Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields Grant request for the second half of their allocation.

Cllr Vant gave an overview of the current situation following on from the meeting earlier in the year with the Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields and noted that a number of the comments made by Councillors had been acted on. Cllr Etherington stated that she wanted to see the Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields get the funding that they required but commented that the trustees did not appear to be acting efficiently and money generated by the various organisations was not filtering back to the trustees to fund essential works. Cllr Brabbs commented that he understood the trustees do not run the Sports and Social Club. Cllr Annear read out some outstanding comments that she had made at the previous meeting which she stated remained unresolved. Cllr Etherington commented that it seemed the money appeared to be disappearing into a black hole. Cllr Lukaniuk stated that running the Playing Fields by other means would cost more than thirty thousand pounds. A vote then took place.

Proposer: Cllr N Vant

Seconder: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Resolution Record No: **BTC/112/20/Dec/22**

FAILED: By majority vote: 3 for, 4 against – Cllr Annear as Chair had the casting vote against the resolution.

Cllr Palmer returned to the meeting.

12 TO NOTE MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING of 5th December 2022.

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

13 TO NOTE MINUTES OF NEW CEMETERY WORKING PARTY COMMITTEE MEETING of 28th November 2022.

The minutes from the last New Cemetery Working Party Committee Meeting were noted and received.

Signed.....

14 RESOLUTION from Cllr S Skinner No. 420

The New Cemetery Working Party recommends to the Full Council to approve the amended new cemetery layout.

Cllr Brabbs informed the meeting that for a period of time water had been extracted downstream to supply Thames Water during their period of a hosepipe ban and queried if this was affecting the water table readings that the Town Keepers were recording. The Clerk stated that Evolution who were dealing with the planning application to West Suffolk had been made aware of this information. Cllr Lukaniuk confirmed that he had dug a pit with the assistance of Cllr Skinner reaching a depth of seven feet before any evidence of water had been noted. Cllr Etherington stated she did not support the establishment of the car park adjacent to the southwest boundary adjacent to the Manor Road boundary but would abide by the majority verdict on the subject. A vote then ensued.

Proposer: Cllr P Etherington

Seconder: Cllr P Wittam

Resolution Record No: **BTC/113/20/Dec/22**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 4 for, 1 against, 1 abstention, 1 unable to vote.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO APPROVE THE AMENDED NEW CEMETERY LAYOUT.

15 RESOLUTION from Cllr V Lukaniuk No. 421

Brandon Town Council resolves to plant a tree in Victoria Avenue in dedication to the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Lukaniuk stated his proposal adding that previous comments describing the proposal being tacky were disingenuous. Cllr Etherington commented that there were better options that could be considered. Cllr Vant agreed that something needs to be done to commemorate the whole life of Queen Elizabeth II. Cllr Annear suggested that Councillors prepare suggestions ready for the next meeting.

Proposer: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Seconder: Cllr P Wittam

Resolution Record No: **BTC/114/20/Dec/22**

FAILED: By majority vote: 2 for, 4 against, 1 abstention.

16 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 P Wittam

Resolution Record No: **BTC/115/20/Dec/22**

CARRIED: Unanimous

Signed.....

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Confidential Minutes
of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting
held at Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon on Tuesday 20th December 2022 at 7pm

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

17 TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

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

Proposer: Cllr P Wittam

Seconder: Cllr P Etherington

Resolution Record No: **BTC/116/20/Dec/22**

CARRIED: Unanimous

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

18 MATTERS ARISING – None.

19 DISCUSSION re contribution to repair costs of wall in Church Road.

A wide-ranging discussion ensued regarding the contribution to the repair of the wall in Church Road. A vote then took place.

Proposer: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Seconder: Cllr P Wittam

Resolution Record No: **BTC/117/20/Dec/22**

CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO OFFER A CONTRIBUTION TO THE COST OF REPAIRING THE DAMAGE TO A WALL IN CHURCH ROAD.

The Clerk informed Councillors of an issue with a lighting column in Firs Way which had been raised by Suffolk Highways. The Clerk suggested to Councillors that this matter be deferred at this time. This advice was accepted by the assembled Councillors.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm

Signed.....