



**BRANDON**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL,  
OLD SCHOOL HOUSE BRANDON**

**MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 7.00 P.M.**

Present: Councillors: Wittam (Chair), Brocklehurst, Bland, Challiss, Gorringe, Hughes, KostECKi, Lukaniuk, Pinnell, Ridgwell, Savage, Watts. Clerk: Cunnell

**MINUTES**

1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies received from Cllrs N. Siebert and S. Skinner.
2	<b>Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations</b> None.
3	<b>To receive a report from Sqn Ldr Eaton – RAF Lakenheath</b> Sqn Ldr Eaton gave a verbal report:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drone activity over the RAF bases in November and December.</li><li>• Unusual amount of nighttime flying due to drone activity.</li><li>• Report any sightings of drones over military establishments to the police as it is illegal.</li><li>• Temporary flight restrictions on non-airfield bases.</li></ul> Councillors asked the Sqn Ldr a few questions, to which he answered.
4	<b>Minutes of Previous Meetings</b> Agree and sign the minutes from the Full Council Meetings on 9th December 2024 and the Precept Meeting held on the 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025. Resolution Record No: <b>BTC/124/13/Jan/25</b> <b>RESOLVED</b>
5	<b>Chairmans Report</b> The Chairman did not produce a report this month.
6	<b>Public Participation Time</b> The meeting was adjourned. A resident had a query with an invoice on the accounts. Their query was answered. They also queried the amount on the precept for the new cemetery works and made comment about keeping the site for the new cemetery maintained for the air ambulance to be able to land.  Meeting re-opened.

7	<p><b>Reports from County and District Councillors</b></p> <p>Cllr Lukaniuk, as County Councillor, reported:- Highways issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30mph roundels going in on Green Road as they have disappeared.</li> <li>• Two bollards going in the top end of Victoria Avenue.</li> <li>• One upright parking sign going into the High Street.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Lukaniuk reported, as District Councillor, that the restructure of local government will not affect Town/Parish Councils.</p> <p>Cllr Savage reported, as District Councillor, that after a meeting with Cadent they will be top soiling the area on Green Road and they have cleared up The Paddocks estate.</p> <p>Cllr Wittam reported, as District Council, on the reorganisation of government and that Suffolk voted in favour of suspending the County elections in May, which does have to be approved by government. This will give indication whether Suffolk will go with the advanced priority for Devolution. A Councillor asked how long the Elections would be suspended for. The Clerk answered this.</p> <p>Cllr Ridgwell asked for an updated from Cllr Lukaniuk about the Wangford Road site. Cllr Lukaniuk updated him on this.</p>
8	<p><b>Reports from Town Councillors</b></p> <p>Cllr Brocklehurst reported that Cadent have been in contact with Brandon in Bloom and they will be providing bulbs and assistance with some of the work on the Green Road area. He also thanked Cllr Lukaniuk, on behalf of Brandon in Bloom, for the table in The Orchard which helps assist Brandon in Bloom.</p> <p>Cllr Gorringe reported he had had complaints about the sound quality of the meeting. The Clerk will look into a resolution.</p> <p>Cllr Brocklehurst further reported that the Heritage Centre applied under the West Suffolk Decarbonisation Fund for Solar Panels, which have now been fitted.</p> <p>Cllr Wittam thanked Cllr Lukaniuk for the bench in The Orchard and the bus shelters that were replaced on London Road.</p>
9	<p><b>Accounts</b></p> <p>To approve and note payments made in December 2024 A query was raised over an invoice on the payments list. Cllr Lukaniuk proposed for this to be removed from the payments list, until further clarity was made. This was seconded by Cllr Wittam. Resolution Record No: <b>BTC/125/13/Jan/25</b> <b>RESOLVED</b></p>
10	<p><b>Grant Applications</b></p> <p>To consider S137 grant from Brandon Creative Forum. A representative from Brandon Creative Forum gave an overview of what the community group are looking to achieve. Several Councillors had queries and asked questions. A vote took place to pay the £500 to Brandon Creative Forum as requested in their grant application. Resolution Record No: <b>BTC/126/13/Jan/25</b> <b>RESOLVED</b></p>

11	<p><b>Income &amp; Expenditure Statement against budget for November 2024</b> Received and noted.</p>																
12	<p><b>Budget 2025/26</b> To agree budget and precept for 2025/26 Cllr Pinnell proposed and Cllr Brocklehurst seconded, to agree the budget and precept for 2025/26 of £405,011. Resolution Record No: <b>BTC/127/13/Jan/25</b> Recorded vote:-  <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><b>For</b></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><b>Against</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Gorringe</td> <td>Cllr Challiss</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Hughes</td> <td>Cllr Pinnell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Bland</td> <td>Cllr Kostecki</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Ridgwell</td> <td>Cllr Lukaniuk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Watts</td> <td>Cllr Brocklehurst</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Savage</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Wittam</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <b>RESOLVED</b></p>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Cllr Gorringe	Cllr Challiss	Cllr Hughes	Cllr Pinnell	Cllr Bland	Cllr Kostecki	Cllr Ridgwell	Cllr Lukaniuk	Cllr Watts	Cllr Brocklehurst	Cllr Savage		Cllr Wittam	
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13	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meetings</b> To receive and note minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Received and noted.</p>																
14	<p><b>To discuss and agree support for landscape enhancements in Brandon</b> The District Council applied and was successful in receiving a grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) for certain green enhancement projects to the amenity areas it is responsible for in its rural towns. The district is now seeking the Town Council's support and feedback prior to progressing works in and around the lake in Brandon Country Park, which it hopes to complete by the end of March 2025. Cllr Lukaniuk gave an overview of the grant funding received and the work which would be undertaken in and around the lake in Brandon Country Park. Councillors raised questions, to which Cllr Lukaniuk answered. All Councillors were in agreement to support the work in and around the lake in Brandon County Park.</p>																
15	<p><b>Gov.uk domain</b> To consider moving to a gov.uk domain. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/benefits-of-getting-a-govuk-domain">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/benefits-of-getting-a-govuk-domain</a> The Clerk outlined the security benefits of moving to a gov.uk domain. The Councillors raised a few questions, which the Clerk answered. Resolution Record No: <b>BTC/128/13/Jan/25</b> <b>RESOLVED</b></p>																
16	<p><b>To consider quotations for digital cemetery records:-</b> Several companies were sent the same criteria and these are the quotes we have received against that criteria:-  a) £2047.61 + VAT/year including training  b) £981 + VAT set up cost/training - £449 + VAT/year  c) £1137.50 + VAT set up cost/training - £840 + VAT/year</p>																

	<p>After discussion and recommendations from staff, the Councillors accepted quotation 'b'.</p> <p>Resolution Record No: <b>BTC/129/13/Jan/25</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p>
17	<p><b>Clerks Update</b></p> <p>The Clerk gave the following update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working on TRO and gave update.</li><li>• CPP MarketPlace – Light Up Town Project – Event on Market Hill on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.</li><li>• Attended Clerks meeting at West Suffolk today with Devolution being the main point of discussion.</li></ul>

Chairman

Date