



**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**OLD SCHOOL HOUSE BRANDON**  
**MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025 6.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillors: Wittam (Chair), Brocklehurst, Bland, Challiss, Gorrington, Hughes, Kosteci, Lukaniuk, Savage, Siebert, Watts. Clerk: Cunnell, Minute Taker: Prior

**MINUTES**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr M Pinnell, Cllr S. Skinner.

**2. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**RESOLVED**

**3. CHAIRMAN ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chairman, Cllr Wittam gave the following report:-

- Thanked Councillors for their sterling work.
- Thanked all staff, Town Keepers do a marvellous job.
- Thanked Tina Cunnell the Town Clerk. Passed probation and is now a full time member of staff.
- Projects going ahead in Brandon include:-
- Slipway initiative.
- Queen Remembrance Garden.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

To receive verbal reports from Chairs of Council Committees:

**4.1 New Cemetery Committee - Councillor Gary Brocklehurst**

Cllr Brocklehurst as Chair of the New Cemetery Committee reported:-

- Started project years ago, with planning applications being made.
- Residents wanted to see progression on the project.
- No figures on cost can be given currently until response from planning application is received.
- Possibility of a full Archaeology survey and raising the ground level, if so Council will look into funding.
- Lots of rumours about what will happen to the land if not used as a cemetery but this will be addressed as part of the process.
- Once planning is in, plan for a public consultation, once response is received.
- Thanked consultants and committee members.

- 4.2 Planning Committee - Councillor Gary Brocklehurst  
Cllr Brocklehurst as Chair of the Planning Committee reported:-
- Over the past year, met twelve times and discussed twenty-eight planning applications, five relating to trees or Tree Preservation Orders.
  - Due to low number of planning applications, decision made to streamline the planning process
  - Planning discussions now in Full Council meetings.
  - Future agendas focus on applications of significant local interest.
  - Chair and Vice Chair review applications to determine if addition to Full Council agenda is necessary.

Cllr Hughes arrived at 7.00 P.M.

- 4.3 Events Committee - Councillor June Hughes  
Mrs Prior a member of the Events Committee gave the following report:-
- D Day Celebration in May, at the Remembrance Playing Fields, where the beacon created by the town team was lit. Event well supported.
  - 2024 was first year to provide free summer activities for local children. These were well attended and looking at providing more this year.
  - Remembrance Sunday road closure went well. Service well attended.
  - Christmas Fair was successful, raising £420 for the Mark Skinner Campaign, our chosen charity. Christmas Fair was well attended with positive feedback.
  - Apple Blossom Day in the Orchard on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and VE Day celebrations on 8<sup>th</sup> May on Market Hill.
  - Thanked everyone involved with the events.

## 5. REPORTS FROM CHARITIES

Written reports from Charities received and noted.

## 6. S137 GRANTS

Verbal reports from S137 grant recipients for the year 2024/25.

Glade Academy gave the following report:-

- Thanked the Council for the funds, made a huge impact.
- Increase in children attending, more settled coming into school.
- Purchased a wider variety of fruit and cereal. Also buying waffles, pancakes, brioche, juices and hot chocolate.
- Children learning to get their breakfast and wash up independently.
- Purchased learning resources, to do after breakfast.
- Presented the Council with a thank you card/booklet from the children.
- Councillors welcome to attend breakfast club.

Fledgelings gave the following report:-

- Photos distributed of sensory room.
- Sensory room for children struggling with school life, a quiet area for all.
- Improving childrens development having the sensory room, with example given.
- Helping children with transition to High School.
- Thanked the Council for the grant.

Brandon Creative Forum gave the following report:-

- Grateful for money received from the Council.
- Can now produce our first mosaic.
- Also purchased sets of tools and basic materials.
- Trialling smaller mosaics and will start full size in next few weeks.
- Encouraged to complete a further series of mosaics, showing Town as it was invited.
- Community to join them, to make it a community project.
- Further funding from the Prosperity fund & with RBL have enabled crafting sessions whilst RBL provided a free breakfast, during school holidays.
- Thanked again for the Councils support.

SARS gave the following report:-

- Grateful for double funding given.
- Respond to four emergencies a month.
- Two calls already on 1<sup>st</sup> May.
- SARS runs on donations only.
- First on scene to 26% of calls.
- Currently recruiting to join SARS as paramedics.
- Doctor on road in car, a year costs £50,000.
- Aim remains to help the community the best we can.

Friends of Brandon Station gave the following report:-

- Thanked the Council for the grant money received.
- Financial statement given of how money spent.
- Since group formed in June 2024, a website has been set up.
- £4 million pounds to be spent on the project.
- Their project will bring jobs to area.
- Weeting are being kept informed of the progress.
- Funding will pay for printing costs, flyers and a banner.

Brandon Festival and Brandon Football Club, sent in written reports.

## **7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public asked if the new cemetery was still a stand alone committee or part of the Full Council meeting. It was explained to the member of the public that it would be part of a Full Council meeting but if necessary, a separate meeting would be called.

Cllr Siebert, as the RBL manager commented they were lucky to have received funding from both Brandon Town Council and the Prosperity Fund which has enabled her to work with most of the people, at the meeting. Working together makes Brandon great and achieve good things. The RBL have provided free breakfasts for over 100 children and free afternoon tea for 40 senior members of Brandon, with the funding.

The meeting closed at 7.25 P.M.

Chairman

Date

