



# BRANDON

## TOWN COUNCIL

### EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING OF BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

#### OLD SCHOOL HOUSE BRANDON

**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 1.00 P.M.**

Present: Councillors: Hughes (Chair), Challiss, Hughes, Savage, Siebert, Skinner, Watts, A Barnes, J Prior, Mrs Blanchard, S Annear, J Tucker . Clerk: Cunnell.

#### MINUTES

25/30	<b>Election of Chair</b> Cllr Challiss nominated Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Savage. Cllr Hughes is the Chair of the Events Committee, for the year 2025/26.
25/31	<b>Election of Vice Chair</b> To elect a Vice Chair Cllr Savage nominated Cllr Challiss, seconded by Cllr Skinner. Cllr Challiss is the Vice Chair of the Events Committee, for the year 2025/26.
25/32	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies received from Cllr C Watts.
25/33	<b>Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations</b> Mrs Barnes and Mrs Prior – Members of staff.
25/34	<b>Minutes of Previous Meetings</b> Agree and sign the minutes from the Events Committee Meeting held on 27th January 2025. <b>RESOLVED</b>
25/35	<b>Public Participation Time</b> There were no members of the public.
25/36	<b>Terms of Reference</b> It was proposed by Cllr Skinner and seconded by Cllr Savage to agree the Terms of Reference for the committee. <b>RESOLVED</b>
25/37	<b>Updates on Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apple Blossom Day</li><li>• VE Day</li></ul>

	<p>Mrs Prior gave a rundown and update about the two events. All feedback received has been positive. BFER had also received positive multigenerational feedback, on the Apple Blossom Day Event. There was a discussion about the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advertise our events in the Town Magazine to be able to advertise to a wider audience. Mrs Prior to find out costs.</li> <li>• Possibility of installing a natural hard standing area, for staging and somewhere for a maypole in the orchard, perhaps levelling and surfacing part of the Orchard.</li> <li>• Send letters of thanks to everyone involved in VE Day.</li> <li>• To have a summer event in the orchard</li> </ul>
25/38	<p><b>Future Events</b> Discuss other possible events for the new Council year 2025/26:- Light Up The Town:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very good feedback from this year's event with potential for future events in Brandon, maybe later in the year, maybe around Christmas.</li> <li>• Light Up The Town returns in February 2026.</li> <li>• The projections were very popular and a projector could be used for several different events. Officers to price for a projector.</li> </ul> <p>Holiday Activities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BFER, RBL and Keystone Innovation Trust have indicated that they would like to be involved.</li> <li>• Use Orchard for crafting events and bush craft.</li> <li>• Cllr Watts - Idea of a community harvest day: - Make plum jam. Demo of jam making. Recipes for plum jam. Ask community for family recipes.</li> <li>• Ballet School to be asked to perform a version of the Sugar Plum Fairy.</li> <li>• Thundercat's to be asked to provide a session.</li> <li>• Circus skills workshop and facepainting were other suggestions.</li> </ul> <p>Run Breckland Event Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are putting on a social run for 25-30 people that is at a more leisurely pace that allows to enjoy the nature and heritage enroute.</li> <li>• UKPF paid for a run leader to be trained so these runs will happen for next 3 years.</li> </ul> <p>Nine Stiles Walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24<sup>th</sup> August 2025 the last day of the Brecks Festival.</li> <li>• Officers to order feather flags to place at start of the walk.</li> <li>• Panache to play steel pans.</li> <li>• Scouts to do tea and cake.</li> <li>• Senior Town Keeper to help with marshalling on the day.</li> </ul> <p>A discussion took place about a Hay Making Event:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have run the event before in the cemetery and could be in orchard and under cover of gazebos for both locations.</li> <li>• Brecks Festival interested in this event, because of heritage skills involved.</li> </ul>

- Could potentially buy in the hay in case weather is bad so hay is dry enough.
- Officers to develop ideas further to bring back to committee.

#### Marketplace Activities

- Encourage use of space on days the market is not on.
- Contact West Suffolk Council - Markets Development Officer.
- Temporary playground sprayed on with games i.e. hopscotch, snakes and ladders etc – permission needed from West Suffolk.
- Other organisations to put on events and performances on the marketplace.

Cllr Challiss left the meeting at 2pm.

#### Increasing use of Garden at OSH

- Used last year for crafts, and Santas grotto.
- Herb garden opened for the community.
- Family hub and pre-school have asked if they can use the garden.

Cllr Watts joined the meeting at 2.05pm.

#### River Community Days

- UK Prosperity Fund paying for jetty/slip to be restored and River Community Days.
- Licences have been applied for from Environment Agency and Highways and Bridges.
- Jetty/slip will have full disability access.
- Hold a community day to launch.
- Is it possible to have floats along river lit up, for launch?

Cllr Savage left the meeting at 2.15pm.

#### Christmas Fair 2025

- Bush adventures have agreed to bring Father Christmas into the town by river sleigh.
- Officers to price a Snow Cannon.
- Ice Skating Rink/Glacier. Officers to investigate and price.
- Christmas Market in Orchard.
- Continental Market on a separate day to normal market.
- Roller Skating Rink/Disco. Officers to investigate and price.

#### Developing Heritage Open Days Offer for 2026

- Have a Heritage Open Day in Brandon – 2 weeks in September 2026
- This would be an opportunity to highlight Brandons environmental and built heritage, engaging our heritage organisations, schools and individuals to put on events.
- BTC would provide secretariat for the event to facilitate organisations and individuals to take part who may otherwise not do so.
- Clerk to apply to Breckland society for funds to develop heritage resources for the event.

25/39	<b>Officers Update</b> The Town Clerk reported:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee and officers need to look for potential funding for events and heritage bids.</li> <li>• Contact businesses or organisations that might be interested in being involved.</li> <li>• Invite school children to the next events meetings to discuss Christmas Fair.</li> </ul>
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The meeting closed at 2.50 PM

Chairman

Date