

BRANDON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting
held at Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon on Monday 13th May 2024 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr B Brabbs, Cllr G Brocklehurst, Cllr P Etherington, Cllr P Gorringe, Cllr J Hughes,
Cllr H Kostecki, Cllr V Lukaniuk, Cllr D Palmer, Cllr P Ridgwell, Cllr J Savage,
Cllr N Siebert, Cllr C Watts, Cllr P Wittam

Local Government Electors of the Town of Brandon: 7 members of the public all eligible to speak and vote on proposals.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** and approval of reasons tendered.
Cllr M Pinnell – apologies accepted.

2. **TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF MONDAY 15TH MAY 2023**

Proposer: Cllr N Siebert

Seconded: Cllr P Gorringe

Resolution Record No: **BTC/206/13/May/24**

CARRIED: Unanimous

THE MEETING RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15TH MAY 2023.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE YEAR 2023/24**

I would like to thank the two ladies, Jackie and Donna. They stepped up to the plate and took over the management of the office and Council when our then Town Clerk left his post. I am sure you will all agree that they have done a marvellous job. I certainly cannot remember a time when this Council has run so smoothly.

I wish to thank Cllr Brocklehurst for his admirable support to me throughout the past year through his role of Deputy Chair. Also, for his stepping in to cover me in Civic Duty appointments at short notice. My big thanks go to the Town Keepers too. They have kept our Town tidy and looking good despite the awful wet weather that was a major feature of late winter and most of springtime.

Cllr Gorringe deserves mention for his sterling work, supported by Cllr Brocklehurst, in getting the Town two new defibrillators and having them installed. One by Mr G's and one near Church End/ Manor House Close.

Cllr Lukaniuk deserves special mention for his match funding for the lovely new bus shelters in London Road.

Two Councillors and a member of the public attended the retrospective planning application meeting in Norwich regarding the second railway siding at Brandon Station. They were able to get two conditions added to the Norfolk Councils approval of the application. They were that the operators install a HGV chassis and wheel wash and most importantly, that all HGV traffic, both to and from the site, do not drive through Brandon High Street. You will no doubt have all noticed the sudden lack of aggregate lorries driving through our Town.

Signed.....

I am sure we all present will wish to give our very own Dennis Coburn congratulations in Licensing as Curate in Charge.

Finally, I would like to say that it has been an absolute honour to have served this last year as Chair of this Council. Thank you.

4. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CHARITIES – THE BRANDON POOR’S ESTATE; THE EDMUND ATMERE CHARITY; THE LINGHEATH TRUST CHARITY; BRANDON REMEMBRANCE PLAYING FIELDS.

Reports were received from the Brandon Poor’s Estate, the Edmund Atmere Charity, the Lingheath Trust Charity and Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields.

5. TO DISCUSS MATTERS AFFECTING THE TOWN OF BRANDON

Cllr Wittam commented that next year we are looking to have the town meeting on a separate day in order for the public to have longer time to raise any concerns about the town.

A member of the public stated that they were concerned about the progress of the new cemetery as there is not much land left in the old one. They also asked if the new committee could give their most urgent consideration to this. They wondered if it would be possible to have two cemetery visits per year. A resident wanted to inform Cllr Brocklehurst and Cllr Pinnell how they had discovered that they had become aware of the meeting they had had with an applicant that had applied for planning, as their meeting had been held in a public place and had been overheard. The resident stated that it had been reported and they do not feel that Cllr Brocklehurst should be put forward for a seat or a position because of putting other Councillors in jeopardy.

Another member of the public raised some concerns about a restaurant in the High Street that they believed should not be trading. They were concerned that they are swapping the door numbers around so to comply with Licensing Regulations and it was felt that the town Councillors should be investigating this. Cllr Wittam commented that it is the responsibility of West Suffolk Council but he will take it to West Suffolk Council on their behalf.

Cllr Ridgwell commented that the new cemetery had been going on for some years now and he hoped that we didn’t have to give the land back as this is what happened in Thetford with the bus station.

Cllr Wittam raised concerns that the government have brought out new legislation and this may become prohibitively expensive and that we may not be able to afford the new cemetery.

A resident commented that they had completed a West Suffolk survey regarding Devolution and that they would hope to see some of that money in Brandon. Cllr Lukaniuk commented that the sixteen million pounds was for the whole of Suffolk and if we were entitled to any money we would go after it. The resident also thanked everyone involved in working so hard to install the defibrillator at Manor House Close and stated that everyone was over the moon.

Cllr Ridgwell commented that he had mentioned, last year the speed humps at Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields are too high and wondered if whoever would be on the Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields Committee could perhaps get them to reduce the height of the speed humps.

Cllr Ridgwell also made a comment about the heavy traffic in Bury Road and made a suggestion of a one-way system. Cllr Wittam stated that Cllr Ridgwell would require a Traffic Regulation Order to create a one-way system and suggested that he pair up with another Councillor to help to put his plans forward to Suffolk Highways. Cllr Wittam further commented that if they do not know about your scheme, they cannot do anything about it.

Signed.....

There followed a discussion about HS2 money and the hope of some of the money being used for a bypass for Brandon. Cllr Ridgwell made a number of suggestions that he felt might make parking easier in Brandon. Cllr Ridgwell commented that we pay a lot of Council Tax and Cllr Wittam explained about the distribution of monies and that it is not just the council tax that pays to provide the Council services.

Cllr Ridgwell asked of the possibility of having a bus shelter in Green Road. Cllr Wittam suggested to bring it back to another meeting as a proposition.

A member of the public referred to the minutes of the last meeting where Cllr Brocklehurst offered to step away from the Planning Committee and asked if he had. Cllr Wittam commented that the committees will be formed in the meeting following.

The meeting closed at 7:00pm

Signed.....