



FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE BRANDON

MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2025 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors: Wittam (Chair), Brocklehurst, Bland, Gorringer, Hughes,
Kostecki, Lukaniuk, Palmer, Pinnell, Savage, Skinner, Watts. Clerk: Cunnell,
Minute Taker: Prior

MINUTES

25/138	Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Cllr L Challiss and Cllr N. Siebert.
25/139	Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations Cllr Palmer declared a DPI, ORI and NRI due to being a trustee of BRPF and his wife being the secretary. Cllr Palmer asked permission to stay in the room re item 25/143, to which it was given. He would then be leaving the meeting after this item, as he has other interests. Cllr Brocklehurst – Brandon Heritage Centre trustee. Cllr Lukaniuk declared an interest in the BRPF grant and the Heritage Centre grant.
25/140	To receive a report from Sqn Ldr Eaton – RAF Lakenheath Received and noted report from Victoria Quamina, Community Relations Adviser – RAF Lakenheath.
25/141	Minutes of Previous Meetings Cllr Gorringer proposed and Cllr Bland seconded to agree and sign the minutes from the Full Council Meeting on 8th October 2025. A slight amendment would be made, requested by Cllr Lukaniuk. RESOLVED
25/142	Chairmans Report The Chairman had nothing to report.
25/143	Public Participation Time The meeting was adjourned. A number of representatives from Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields gave an overview of the charity, the security and safeguarding of the playing fields, the football and social club, money being raised for a new play park and skate park and how the grant would be spent, benefitting Brandon.

	<p>A member of the public commented that there was no date for the precept meeting on the website. They would be emailing questions in regarding this.</p> <p>Meeting re-opened.</p> <p>Cllr Palmer left the meeting at 7.28pm.</p>
25/144	<p>Reports from County and District Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Lukaniuk as County Councillor reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked Cllr Siebert and the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday. Immense hospitality with record numbers attending. • Brandon in Bloom received a gold award at national level. • Bannisters have been repaired like for like, in oak, on the bridge. • More roadworks because of the utilities, to take place in Brandon. <p>Cllr Lukaniuk as District Councillor reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood plain has been problem to develop skate park at the playing fields – flood plain has now been abolished. • Good for playing fields and the new cemetery due to the water table no longer registering.
25/145	<p>Reports from Town Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Pinnell reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Been in contact with West Suffolk about EV charging points at the Leisure Centre car park and the County Park. He has also asked regarding Heath Road and Warren Close having EV charging points. • Met with Suffolk Highways/Bridal Way department – re footpath/bridge to river, which has been closed off Riverside Way. Meeting with them on 20th November with Cllr Savage on site to discuss the repair. • Attended the Harvest Centre along with Cllr Savage and Cllr Gorringe. Interesting visit, and a great facility. Maybe able to help them further, not just with funding. Encourage Councillors to go <p>Cllr Watts reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped with the planting of the hedgerow at the playing fields. • Went along to Anglia in Bloom awards with Cllr Brocklehurst and Brandon in Bloom won a gold award. Thanked all involved within the town. <p>Cllr Bland reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streetlights are back on down by the bridge. • Attended Brecks Resilience Conference with Cllr Savage and the Clerk. • Joined a steering group for the new Brecks Landscape Partnership. • Attended RBL Festival of Remembrance on Friday. • Well done to all for the Remembrance Parade. • No updates from Enforcement on Wangford Road or Mr G's. • Bridge Hotel has been stopped for the second time for working on pod. Being investigated by Enforcement. • Re-elected to SALC board as Vice Chair for West Suffolk.

	<p>Cllr Brocklehurst reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented Brandon on Saturday to lay a wreath, at the Rose Garden, Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds. • All the Anglia delegates will be at the Harvest Centre on Thursday, with 200 visitors to the town, from all over Anglia in Bloom. • Helped with the planting of the trees along with Cllr Watts and another two Councillors, at the playing fields. • Radio Suffolk on Wednesday at 11.20am will be interviewing Rachel from Brandon in Bloom who was awarded a national award as a community champion.
25/146	<p>Planning Applications to Consider</p> <p>To discuss and agree the Town Council decisions on each of the applications below to be submitted to West Suffolk Council Planning.</p> <p>DC/25/1535/FUL – Brick Kiln Farm, Brandon Fields, Brandon – Consultation https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T3EIP2PDN4X00</p> <p>Cllr Wittam gave an overview of the planning application.</p> <p>The following points were then made on application DC/25/1535/FUL:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local farmer who wants to expand the business. • Production increase to handle 40,000 tonnes per annum, therefore claims to reduce traffic movements. • Application states, traffic movement should not significantly increase but there may still be more traffic. • In our TRO, local businesses will have a permit, so potentially not an issue. • Traffic management – Highways will be involved. <p>Cllr Brocklehurst proposed and Cllr Lukaniuk seconded, to support the application.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>DC/25/1589/HH – 165 Thetford Road, Brandon - Consultation https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T3V6C9PDO3E00</p> <p>Cllr Wittam gave an overview of the planning application.</p> <p>The following points were then made on application DC/25/1589/HH:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most could be done under permitted development. <p>Cllr Wittam proposed and Cllr Lukaniuk seconded, to support the application.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>DC/25/1612/TPO – 34 Riverside Way, Brandon – Tree https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T44LKNPDFQV00</p> <p>Cllr Wittam gave an overview of the planning application.</p> <p>The following points were then made on application DC/25/1612/TPO:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk working on planning policy, it could be put in the policy to not comment on TPO's. <p>Cllr Lukaniuk proposed and Cllr Gorringe seconded, to support the application.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>

DC/25/1342/FUL – Bridge Hotel Brandon, 79 High Street, Brandon – Re-consultation

<https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T112F3PDM9O00>

Cllr Wittam gave an overview of the planning application.

The following points by members of the public were then made on application DC/25/1342/FUL:-

- Already erected marquee and used before enforcement took it down.
- Very loud music – concerned it will happen on a regular basis.
- View from bridge is ruined with such a large marquee being erected.

The following points by Councillors were then made on the application:-

- Agreed restrictions required on noise.
- Change to the planning application is the big marquee.
- Over development of site within Brandon's Heritage Asset.
- Marquee will obscure an important protected view.
- In contravention of condition 4 of Application DC/23/1757/FUL.
- In contravention of West Suffolk Council Policies DM2, DM14 and DM46. Also, chapter 15 of NPPF and relevant core strategy policies.
- In contravention of Hotels own Site Management Plan in relation to condition 4 of Application DC/23/1757/FUL.
- In contravention of condition 15 of Application DC/23/1757/FUL.
- Insufficient parking for a marquee that has potential to hold 200-400 people.
- No access for emergency vehicles.
- Unsuitable adjacent to residential properties with regard to noise, disturbance, antisocial behaviour and loss of amenity.
- Our original objection still applies regarding the toilet block and small marquee.
- Applicant is investing in the town, bringing in business and jobs to the town.

Cllr Wittam proposed and Cllr Bland seconded, to refuse the application. The Town Clerk requested a copy of the reasons as to why we are objecting, to put on the planning portal.

RESOLVED

DC/25/1522/ADV – 9 Bury Road, Brandon – Consultation

<https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T38YN5PDN2F00>

Cllr Wittam gave an overview of the planning application.

The following points were then made on application DC/25/1522/ADV:-

- Signage to front and rear.
- Not a listed building and not in a conservation area.
- CD value is very low.
- As medical allowed to put up illuminated signage.

Cllr Brocklehurst proposed and Cllr Gorrington seconded, to support the application.

RESOLVED

	<p>DC/25/1731/TPO – 26 Woodcock Rise, Brandon – Tree</p> <p>https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T55EOFPD G8O00</p> <p>Cllr Wittam gave an overview of the planning application.</p> <p>The following points were then made on application DC/25/1731/TPO:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave to the Tree Officer to decide. • Overhanging path - needs tidying up. <p>Cllr Bland proposed and Cllr Savage seconded, to support the application.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/147	<p>Late Planning Applications Received after Agenda was Published</p> <p>To receive, if required. Decision required: To discuss and agree the Town Council decision on any planning applications received after the agenda was published.</p> <p>None.</p>
	<p>Cllr Bland proposed and Cllr Lukaniuk seconded to extend the meeting past two hours.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/148	<p>New Cemetery Report</p> <p>The Clerk gave the following report:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently no objections from public or statutory consultees. • West Suffolk is currently supportive of the proposal and is minded to approve the application, subject to final checks. • Response outstanding from Ecology consultee – the statutory body for biodiversity and environmental impact. • Started outlining pre-commencement conditions Council need to comply with, before the application can be passed. • The planning officer has outlined the following conditions that must be met, before development can begin;- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological investigation Contamination risk assessment Method statement <p>Maybe additional ecology conditions such as biodiversity net gain strategy, enhancement strategy and landscape and ecological management plan.</p> • As a minor application it may not require determination by West Suffolk planning committee but this is to be confirmed. • Asked Evolution for time scales and costs. • Costs fall within what we have put aside. • Archaeological costs would need to be a specialist quote. This would be piecemeal and would only be costed for the first piece of land to be worked on. • There may be additional conditions attached to the planning application – twenty in total. • Will keep Council up to date once know what the additional conditions are.

25/149	<p>Grant Policy</p> <p>To approve amended grant policy. The Clerk gave an overview of the amendment to the grant policy which will allow organisations to apply for running costs.</p> <p>Cllr Brocklehurst proposed and Cllr Skinner seconded to approve the amended grant policy.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/150	<p>Accounts</p> <p>Cllr Pinnell proposed and Cllr Skinner seconded to approve and note payments made in October 2025.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/151	<p>Grant Applications</p> <p>A representative from the Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields gave an overview of the Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields and also explained that their income is low as they do not charge non-profit organisations for children's activities. The Council have three representatives that attend the meetings.</p> <p>Cllr Pinnell proposed and Cllr Brocklehurst seconded to approve the S137 grant from Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields, for the sum of £37,440, to be paid in full in May 2026. It was unanimously voted to approve the grant.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>A representative from the Harvest Centre gave an overview of the organisation providing food parcels to people/families in financial crisis. They further explained that it is very hard to get funding for food.</p> <p>Councillors are welcome on a Tuesday between 10am and 12pm to visit the centre.</p> <p>Cllr Wittam proposed and Cllr Savage seconded to give £4,000 to the Harvest Centre. Cllr Pinnell proposed to amend the grant to £2,000, seconded by Cllr Lukaniuk.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Cllr Wittam presented the Heritage Centre grant explaining what the grant was being applied for.</p> <p>Cllr Wittam proposed and Cllr Lukaniuk seconded to approve the S137 grant from the Heritage Centre, for the sum of £1,800.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
25/152	<p>Financial Update</p> <p>Received and noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income & Expenditure Statement against budget for September 2025.
25/153	<p>Purchase of Defibrillators</p> <p>Cllr Brocklehurst provided the following information:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originally asked for four defibrillators but overlooked costs - quote from Suffolk Highways to attach to power and supply post was £1,500. Asking for two more defibrillators at a cost of £1,900 and may be able to get one free so may only need to pay half. One defibrillator is to go along Green Road.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breckland School is the other site – have outline permission for this.• Also have 10% contingency fund.• Now fully covered Brandon – apart from the industrial estate where we are currently in talks with companies to put a defibrillator on the outside of the building. <p>Cllr Brocklehurst proposed and Cllr Watts seconded to approve the purchase/installation of two defibrillators at a cost of £3375, from the projects fund.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>																														
25/154	<p>Budget 2026/27</p> <p>Following discussion, Cllr Skinner proposed and Cllr Wittam seconded to agree the budget of £428,528.55 with a rise of 4.57% for 2026/27.</p> <p>A named vote took place:-</p> <table><tr><td>For</td><td>Against</td><td>Abstention</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Gorringe</td><td>Cllr Pinnell</td><td>Cllr Brocklehurst</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Hughes</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Bland</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Skinner</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Kostecki</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Lukaniuk</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Watts</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Savage</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Wittam</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>RESOLVED</p>	For	Against	Abstention	Cllr Gorringe	Cllr Pinnell	Cllr Brocklehurst	Cllr Hughes			Cllr Bland			Cllr Skinner			Cllr Kostecki			Cllr Lukaniuk			Cllr Watts			Cllr Savage			Cllr Wittam		
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25/155	<p>Clerks Update</p> <p>The Clerk gave the following update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended two meetings today:- One with Andrew from Suffolk Highways to talk about all things relating to highways. He then was going to Green Road as he is doing the siting of the SID's survey and will come back to us on suitable locations. The other meeting was with the West Suffolk Quick Reaction Team. They will be working with the Council early December. A walk around will take place to address weed issues.• At the BFER Resilience Conference – lots of organisations would like to work with Brandon Town Council and the open spaces and the river.• A few Councillors had a meeting with Bush Adventures regarding the jetty. The EA permit has now been approved. Talking to Structures at Highways for the licence to be completed before Christmas.• Christmas Fair – The team are working hard. This year we have a Polar Express train and Santa arriving by river.• CPP Marketplace have been in to see us and they will be undertaking a project in Brandon, which includes, Team Chill working with Brandon Country Park on a mural to go on the side of the Heritage Centre.																														

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Heritage Centre and West Suffolk to get the lease secured before LGR happens. • Poppy project was incredible. Planting looked good and poppies were beautiful. Made the front page of National Clerks Magazine. Thanked Cllr Watts. Poppies to be moved to the Harvest Centre garden for a visit from Anglia delegates re Anglia in Bloom, on Thursday.
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The meeting closed at 9.17 PM

Chairman

Date