

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting
held at Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7pm

Present: Cllr P Wittam (Chair), Cllr B Brabbs, Cllr G Brocklehurst, Cllr P Gorringe, Cllr J Hughes, Cllr H Kostecki, Cllr V Lukaniuk, Cllr D Palmer, Cllr P Ridgwell, Cllr J Savage, Cllr C Watts

Also Present: 5+ members of the public.

Cllr Wittam announced the passing of former Councillor, Bill Bishop. He was a very prominent and well respected figure in the town and Town Council, who will be greatly missed. As a mark of respect a minute's silence took place.

1 **APOLOGIES** for absence and approval of reasons tendered.
Cllr P Etherington, Cllr N Siebert – apologies accepted.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** and additions to Members Register of Interest.
None.

3 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SQN LDR GEARY - RAF LAKENHEATH**

Sqn Ldr Geary was accompanied by Victoria Quamina the Community Relations Adviser for the 48th FW. She left business cards with her contact details.

Sqn Ldr Geary reported that in addition to the continuing operational commitments and the routine training sorties required to retain currency and competency on the aircraft, 48FW aircraft participated in Exercise Atlantic Trident in the UK, conducted an Exercise in Ghedi, Italy and participated in the Dubai Air Show.

Away from flying operations, The Station hosted the latest UK/US Agile Combat Employment Working Group and 48FW conducted an Active Shooter Exercise in November. The Wing also successfully passed an Explosive Safety Inspection in December.

RAF Lakenheath continues to attract a plethora of visitors. During November and December, our visitors included the UK Minister for Defence Procurement, the US Deputy Secretary of Defence, the Czech Air Force and the United Services Organisation, the US leading charitable organisation in serving active-duty service members and military families who brought a group of celebrities, including Penn and Teller, to engage with, and perform for, 48FW personnel.

48FW supported over twenty-five events across Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire over the Remembrance weekend. The Sqn Ldr had delivered a presentation on 48FW flying activities and his role as the RAF Commander to a community group in Holt, Norfolk early in November. The USVF hosted a Thanksgiving Service at Ely Cathedral on 22nd November and on 1st December 2023, 48FW hosted members of the local community at the Station for a Tree Lighting Ceremony and Yuletide Event.

48FW will be conducting night flying activities for two weeks starting 8th January 2024.

Finally, he informed the meeting that he would be leaving the RAF Commander job in the Spring to take up an appointment at RAF Marham. He will let us know the name of his replacement as soon as he has their details.

Cllr Lukaniuk thanked the Sqn Ldr for all his help. A few questions were asked by the public and Councillors, which the Sqn Ldr answered.

Signed.....

Cllr Wittam introduced PC Michael Harman, our Community Police Officer, to the meeting. PC Harman introduced himself and gave an overview of his role and how he can help the residents of Brandon. Cllr Wittam offered the opportunity to ask questions of PC Harman. A number of questions were asked by the public and Councillors to which PC Harman answered. PC Harman left business cards with his contact details.

4 TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN MINUTES

- Of the Brandon Town Council Meeting of Monday 11th December 2023.
Cllr Ridgwell and Cllr Lukaniuk raised some queries, which would be rectified.
Proposer: Cllr B Brabbs
Seconder: Cllr C Watts
Resolution Record No: **BTC/139/08/Jan/24**
CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2023 BE APPROVED.

- Of the Brandon Town Council Extraordinary General Meeting of Wednesday 20th December 2023.
Proposer: Cllr P Gorringe
Seconder: Cllr J Savage
Resolution Record No: **BTC/140/08/Jan/24**
CARRIED: By majority vote: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2023 BE APPROVED.

5 MATTERS ARISING for information exchange only of the Full Council Meeting of 11th December 2023.

Cllr Ridgwell queried if we were able to get any money regarding the bypass. Cllr Palmer responded to say there were no decisions as yet.
Cllr Lukaniuk commented that Cllr Ridgwell had made a good point. Cllr Lukaniuk further asked Cllr Palmer if he was able to let him know the names of the people he is working with on the bypass. Cllr Palmer did not wish to disclose this information to Cllr Lukaniuk and stated that when he has any information the Council will be fully informed.
Cllr Ridgwell raised the subject of the government issuing money specifically for the repair of potholes. Cllr Lukaniuk commented that he would respond when he gives his report later in the meeting.

6 URGENT BUSINESS any items the Chairman considers a matter of urgent business.
None.

7 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORT from the Town Clerk.

Report was received. Cllr Lukaniuk enquired who the point of contact would be regarding the D-Day Event and asked for an invitation to the next Events Committee meeting.

Signed.....

- 8 PUBLIC FORUM** monthly event limited to 3 minutes duration maximum per resident, this will include reports from County, District and Town Councillors also Community Group Representatives.

Cllr Lukaniuk confirmed that Suffolk County council have a massive budget deficit of several million pounds and in an attempt to balance their budget have transferred eighteen million pounds from reserves. Suffolk County Council are only able to increase their budget by five percent unless there is a referendum. Cllr Lukaniuk suggested that we need to prepare ourselves for further cuts. Cllr Lukaniuk further commented about the issue of potholes stating that he cannot personally repair potholes but he does follow up on the works and unless it is an emergency they can take twenty one days to be repaired.

Cllr Palmer asked if the Chairman could give the public an update on the Town Clerks position.

Cllr Wittam informed the meeting that the Town Clerk has now resigned his post.

Cllr Kostecki raised the issue of the old Collins Fish and Chip Shop and all the mess at the rear of the shop and that it could attract rats. Cllr Lukaniuk stated he had met with Environmental Health about the issues and he has asked them to progress the issue with the owner. Cllr Brocklehurst stated he had also contacted Environmental Health about this issue and asked that other people do the same. Cllr Lukaniuk suggested that they email Paul Speakman at West Suffolk District Council with their concerns.

A member of the public asked if the District Councillors could report back at the next meeting regarding West Suffolk Council offering the opportunity for the general public to comment on the up-and-coming council tax. The member of the public commented that it would be interesting to see how many people participated in the survey and what comments were taken into account when deciding the cost of the Council Tax. The member of the public was disappointed that it appeared that those people that did not have computers would not be able to take part and wondered if West Suffolk did this again could they make sure that everybody had the opportunity to be involved.

A resident asked the Chairman what action had been taken to rebuild the confidence of the public, as a result of the 'Vote of No Confidence' at the last meeting. Cllr Wittam stated that he had been elected by the people of Brandon that he represents and there was very little else he could do.

Cllr Wittam declined further discussion on this subject. Cllr Lukaniuk stated that he had every confidence in the Chair and Cllr Brocklehurst as the Vice Chair. Cllr Savage asked Cllr Wittam if he wouldn't reconsider his response to the public regarding the 'Vote of No Confidence. Cllr Wittam stated that he wasn't prepared to do that tonight.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

10 ACCOUNTS To approve the payments for December 2023.

Cllr Lukaniuk commented that he was pleased to see that we had been reimbursed the large sum of money from BT and was impressed with how it was shown on the accounts and could it be done like this in the future.

Proposer: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Seconder: Cllr G Brocklehurst

Resolution Record No: **BTC/141/08/Jan/24**

CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PAYMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2023.

Signed.....

Invoice Date	Invoice No	Supplier	Expense Type	Nett	VAT	Gross	Payment
11/12/2023		Abbecroft Leisure	S137 Grant	£1,950.84	£0.00	£1,950.84	BACS
02/12/2023		Breckland Brass Band	Entertainment - Christmas Ev	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	BACS
13/12/2023		M Skinner - Liam Fund	Donation re Christmas Event	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00	BACS
14/11/2023	IV104490	Aurora Ltd	Photocopier - Copies	£447.16	£89.43	£536.59	Direct Debit
16/11/2023	INV-3513	Hugofox Limited	Website Subscription	£29.99	£6.00	£35.99	Direct Debit
18/11/2023	M007 GE	BT	Phone OSH	£94.54	£18.91	£113.45	Direct Debit
21/11/2023	M072 HZ	BT	Phone OSH	£75.72	£15.14	£90.86	Direct Debit
22/11/2023	M048 1U	BT	Phone OSH	£37.52	£7.50	£45.02	Direct Debit
10/12/2023	S026 WU	BT	Phone OSH - Credit	-£3,079.00	-£615.80	-£3,694.80	Direct Debit
01/12/2023	10938	Cranberry Comms.	Microsoft 365	£119.95	£23.99	£143.94	Direct Debit
02/12/2023	1398724	YU Energy	Electric OSH	£142.13	£7.11	£149.24	Direct Debit
02/12/2023	1398726	YU Energy	Electric BRPF Yard	£171.81	£8.59	£180.40	Direct Debit
02/12/2023	1398722	YU Energy	Electric Pillar 8 Market Hill	£34.21	£1.71	£35.92	Direct Debit
02/12/2023	1398727	YU Energy	Electric Pillar 9 Market Hill	£11.76	£0.59	£12.35	Direct Debit
02/12/2023	1398725	YU Energy	Electric Cemetery Yard	£11.29	£0.56	£11.85	Direct Debit
02/12/2023	1398728	YU Energy	Electric Christmas Tree Pillar	£9.23	£0.46	£9.69	Direct Debit
04/12/2023	1419184	YU Energy	Gas OSH	£114.46	£5.72	£120.18	Direct Debit
16/12/2023	2746086	Everflow Water	Water OSH	£22.27	£0.00	£22.27	Direct Debit
28/12/2023	1215028	West Suffolk Council	Trade Waste	£75.76	£0.00	£75.76	Direct Debit
29/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	£0.90	£0.00	£0.90	Direct Debit
31/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	£41.70	£0.00	£41.70	Direct Debit
30/11/2023	96536	Sky High Access Ltd	Boom Lift - Christmas Light.	£372.00	£74.40	£446.40	BACS
01/12/2023	3754 AJF887	Travis Perkins Ltd	Rocksalt	£17.16	£3.43	£20.59	BACS
02/12/2023	3754 AJF908	Travis Perkins Ltd	Rocksalt	£34.32	£6.86	£41.18	BACS
09/12/2023	R9527/LOR	Ray Tuttle Lift Sers. Ltd	6 Month LOLER - Lift Inspect.	£99.09	£19.82	£118.91	BACS
11/12/2023		Mrs A Barnes	Reimbursement - Leaf Grab.	£13.30	£2.66	£15.96	BACS
12/12/2023		Mr G Brocklehurst	Reimbursement - Stamps	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	BACS
13/12/2023	44925	Amazon	Moss Clear	£74.96	£14.99	£89.95	BACS
18/12/2023	994087	J & D Green	Window Cleaning OSH	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
19/12/2023	1085620963	Stannah Lift Services Ltd	Quarterly Lift Service	£116.67	£23.33	£140.00	BACS
21/12/2023	62373	Chase Timber Products	Post Mix - Market Hill Bin	£4.68	£0.94	£5.62	BACS
22/12/2023	3774	Evolution Town Plan.	New Cem. Fees 7/9 to 20/12	£508.25	£101.65	£609.90	BACS
22/12/2023	271437	Fengate Fasteners Ltd	Secateurs, Sign re H & S	£30.50	£6.10	£36.60	BACS
31/12/2023	20240000005	Finevale Service Station	Fuel	£68.12	£13.62	£81.74	BACS
05/01/2024		HMRC	NICS	£3,186.54	£0.00	£3,186.54	BACS

11 TO RECEIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AGAINST BUDGET FOR NOVEMBER 2023

The Income and Expenditure Statements against Budget for November 2023 was received.

12 RESOLUTION from Cllr P Wittam No. 455

Brandon Town Council resolves to approve the precept for 2024/25.

A number of points were raised regarding the precept. Cllr Ridgwell was disappointed that the grant for the Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields had not been increased with the rate of inflation.

Proposer: Cllr P Wittam

Seconder: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Resolution Record No: **BTC/142/08/Jan/24**

CARRIED: By majority vote: 10 for, 1 abstention.

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES A PRECEPT FOR 2024/25 OF £389,480.

Signed.....

- 13 TO NOTE MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING** of 21st December 2023.
The minutes from the above Planning Committee meeting were noted and received.

14 TO APPOINT ANOTHER MEMBER TO THE H.R. COMMITTEE

In her absence and as she had shown an interest, Cllr Siebert was suggested for the new member of the H.R. Committee.

Proposer: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Seconder: Cllr J Savage

Resolution Record No: **BTC/143/08/Jan/24**

CARRIED: Unanimous

CLLR SIEBERT WAS APPOINTED AS THE NEW MEMBER TO THE H.R. COMMITTEE.

15 TO APPOINT ANOTHER MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Gorringe commented that he would like to become a member of the planning committee.

Proposer: Cllr P Wittam

Seconder: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Resolution Record No: **BTC/144/08/Jan/24**

CARRIED: Unanimous

CLLR GORRINGE WAS APPOINTED AS THE NEW MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

16 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Public and Press be excluded from the Meeting temporarily due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed concerning QUOTES: LAND: STAFF: CONTRACT.

Proposer: Cllr P Gorringe

Seconder: Cllr C Watts

Resolution Record No: **BTC/145/08/Jan/24**

CARRIED: Unanimous

Signed.....

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Confidential Minutes
of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting
held at Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7pm

THIS PAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL
ONLY THE RESOLUTIONS MAYBE DISPLAYED
AS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD

17 TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

- Of the Brandon Town Council Meeting of Monday 11th December 2023.

Proposer: Cllr J Savage

Seconder: Cllr J Hughes

Resolution Record No: **BTC/146/08/Jan/24**

CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2023 BE APPROVED.

- Of the Brandon Town Council Extraordinary General Meeting of Wednesday 20th December 2023.

Proposer: Cllr P Wittam

Seconder: Cllr J Savage

Resolution Record No: **BTC/147/08/Jan/24**

CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2023 BE APPROVED.

18 MATTERS ARISING

Mrs Prior brought to the attention of the meeting that no request had been received for an election to fill the vacancy on the Council and we could now co-opt. The Councillors were asked to look at the documents that the office had prepared. Cllr Lukaniuk commented that we do not have to co-opt and that the vacancy does not have to be filled. Cllr Wittam asked Mrs Prior to advertise the vacancy.

19 QUOTES

19.1 RESOLUTION from Cllr G Brocklehurst No. 456

Brandon Town Council resolves to consider quotations to replace the worn town flag at Old School House (various options.)

A brief discussion took place. It was decided to go with option 'b.'

Proposer: Cllr G Brocklehurst

Seconder: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Resolution Record No: **BTC/148/08/Jan/24**

CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO ACCEPT OPTION B FROM THE QUOTATIONS TO REPLACE THE WORN TOWN FLAG AT OLD SCHOOL HOUSE.

Signed.....

19.2 RESOLUTION from Cllr P Wittam No. 457

Brandon Town Council resolves to consider the quotation to replace 4 x guide rollers on the lift. Cllr Lukaniuk commented he was happy to second the resolution if he could please see the old parts if possible.

Proposer: Cllr P Wittam

Seconder: Cllr V Lukaniuk

Resolution Record No: **BTC/149/08/Jan/24**

CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO ACCEPT THE QUOTATION TO REPLACE 4 X GUIDE ROLLERS ON THE LIFT.

19.3 RESOLUTION from Cllr P Wittam No. 458

Brandon Town Council resolves to consider quotations to replace columns and lanterns as per list. There was a general discussion. Cllr Wittam asked Mrs Prior if she could find out what it meant by 'relocate' of a column which was on the list. Cllr Wittam stated that we will get the money back from the Decarbonisation Initiatives Fund. Cllr KostECKI commented that he had been approached by a resident about the possibility of installing a second streetlight in Gas House Drove. Cllr Lukaniuk commented that it would be a very expensive process but he would enquire about the price.

Proposer: Cllr P Wittam

Seconder: Cllr G Brocklehurst

Resolution Record No: **BTC/150/08/Jan/24**

CARRIED: Unanimous

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO ACCEPT QUOTATIONS TO REPLACE COLUMNS AND LANTERNS AS PER LIST.

The meeting closed at 8.32pm

Signed.....