



FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE BRANDON

MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2025 7.00 P.M.

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

MINUTES

25/87	Apologies for Absence None.
25/88	Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations None.
25/89	To receive a report from Sqn Ldr Eaton – RAF Lakenheath Received and noted report from Victoria Quamina, Community Relations Adviser – RAF Lakenheath.
25/90	Minutes of Previous Meetings Proposed by Cllr Siebert and seconded by Cllr Bland to agree and sign the minutes from the Full Council Meeting on 14th July 2025 and the Extraordinary General Meeting on 14 th August 2025. RESOLVED
25/91	Chairmans Report The Chairman reported the change of date of the next Full Council meeting. This will now be on Wednesday 8 th October 2025 at 7pm.
25/92	Public Participation Time The meeting was adjourned. A member of the public commented on how successful the Nine Stiles Walk expressed her thanks to Mrs Barnes, Senior Town Keeper for all her hard work. Meeting re-opened.

25/93	Reports from County and District Councillors Cllr Lukaniuk as County Councillor reported:- • Had communication from Suffolk Highways, with more paperwork to complete for the Speed Indicator Devices. • Have funds for the Speed Indicator Devices – just needs releasing. • Had communication from Highways regarding the TRO – requested lorry ban from Brandon Town Council, which is currently sitting with Transport Strategy. • Full Council Meeting at West Suffolk Council on Tuesday 23rd September to vote for the Unitary preference.
25/94	Reports from Town Councillors Cllr Bland reported he had been invited by Creative Forum to view the mosaic they are working on and they are doing a really good job. Cllr Siebert reported:- • Thanks from the British Legion for the loan of gazebos for the VJ Day celebrations, a lot of money was raised for the charity. • Successful breakfast clubs with Creative Forum crafting took place over the summer holidays, with over 400 children attending. Cllr Pinnell reported:- • Attended the Nine Stiles Walk, it was a great walk. • Attended a meeting in Newmarket in June re Suffolk County Council re money available for buses then contacted Coach Services to look at extension of 86 bus service. • Coach Services put a bid in three weeks after, but funding has already been spent so must wait for 2026/27 funding. • With Coach Services contacted Parish Councils in Suffolk and Norfolk County Council re 86 service – all behind the service. • Government have released more money – wait and see if can be used for this. • Bus stops survey completed, and is currently being reviewed by Passenger Transport to see if funding can be given to improve them. Cllr Brocklehurst reported:- • Brandon in Bloom attended the regional awards ceremony and Brandon maintained gold for five years in a row. In Bloom Nationals take place in Brighton on 31st October. • Anglia in Bloom Autumn seminar is being held in Brandon early November at the Harvest Centre. Councillor Wittam reported there has been movement on the Queens Memorial Garden with it now being landscaped. Cllr Challiss reported the passing of Fred who used to help with the grounds maintenance at the Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields. A bench will be placed in the memorial garden in his memory.

25/95	Late Planning Applications Received after Agenda was Published To receive, if required. Decision required: To discuss and agree the Town Council decision on any planning applications received after the agenda was published. None received.
25/96	New Cemetery Report To review planning application ready for submission. The Town Clerk gave an overview of what was included to be submitted. Councillors discussed the matter including the following: • Archaeology survey from 2013 and 2017 are being submitted. • From the Geophysical report, no water levels recorded from ground height to six foot – meaning no reason to raise ground levels, however it was argued, water levels need to be a certain amount below, which have been calculated, with the reason for raising of ground level. • Possibly restrict burials on top of one another to single depth or side by side. • Archaeology is down to the County Archaeological Office – so more maybe needed being a medieval site. • Biodiversity report have used the rear quarter of site as offsite enhancement, to deliver net biodiversity gain. • G3C national grassland habitat if used now has to stay for 30 years. Meaning we will only develop half in next thirty to forty years. • New laws – Council could buy carbon credits. • Inform planners tomorrow to go ahead with submitting the planning application and send to trustees solicitors.
25/97	Accounts Cllr Bland proposed and Cllr Savage seconded to approve and note payments made in July & August 2025. RESOLVED
25/98	Income & Expenditure Statement against budget for June & July 2025 Received and noted.
25/99	New NJC Salary Award Cllr Skinner proposed and Cllr Challiss seconded to approve 3.2% salary award. RESOLVED
25/100	Tree Tenders To award contract following completion of tender process. The Town Clerk:- • Thanked the three Councillors that came in to read and score the tenders. • Choice of tender was weighted, 45% cost, 55% quality score.

	• High quality tenders received but a huge price variance, over £27,000. • All Councillors marking tenders came to the same conclusion of best company. • All done via Financial Regulations and legislation. • Any questions asked were then sent to all companies, so everyone had the same information. • Officers recommendation was company H - Cost over three years £32,130. Contract awarded to company H, on officers recommendation. RESOLVED
25/101	LGR: Assets and services for consideration The following services were put forward to consideration. Buildings and Venues Services Open spaces/land management including street furniture The following points were discussed- • Interest in management of Market Square and Brandon Country Park. • Several Councillors and Town Clerk had a walk around Brandon to look at all open spaces in question. • Market Square – memorandum of understanding needed for what it can be used for. • Need to put forward an expression of interest, to be considered. • Focus on improving the industrial estate. • Town Clerk has to inform both District and County Council as to what Brandon Town Council are expressing an interest in. • Shadow Councils will be in place before Unitary Council. • Interest in police building and the library for residents. • General overview of interests:- - Open spaces and venues - Brandon Country Park - Police building - Market Hill - Playparks - Heritage Centre - Weed spraying/grass cutting - SSSI – Industrial Estate Clerk to write an EOI for LGR asset distribution.
25/102	Clerks Update The Clerk gave the following update:- • Thanked Cllr Watts for attending meeting regarding Remembrance. • Poppy Painting Event – Tuesday 23rd September at the British Legion. • Cemetery gates being painted before Remembrance. • Need to work on Biodiversity Policy – how manage open spaces.

	• Heritage Trail meeting – route is being worked on. • Several organisations keen to do events next year at Heritage Open Days. • Friends of Brandon Station need help to drive project forward. Greater Anglia funding maybe available.
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The meeting closed at 8.00 PM

Chairman

Date