

BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Brandon Town Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 11 April 2017

In the Council Chamber, The Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr. P Callaghan, Cllr. P Ridgwell, Cllr. T Simmons, Cllr. N Vant, Cllr. V Lukaniuk, Cllr. P MacLoughlin, Cllr. D Palmer, Cllr. G Hughes, Cllr. I Horner, Cllr. P Etherington, Cllr. R Silvester.

Also present: Mrs C Mason (Town Clerk), and ten members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

Prior to the meeting a minute's silence was held in respect of former employee Michael Vail who had served the town for twenty-five years.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE and approval of reasons tendered.

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and additions to Members Register of Interests.

None.

Agenda item 7 was now heard.

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM RAF LAKENHEATH

Due to deployment, there has been a decrease in flying activity; a small amount of night flying going on until Thursday night. Questions included whether bigger planes will fly into RAF Lakenheath when RAF Mildenhall closes: the possibility of the fence near to the traffic lights being expanded for plane spotters; the 4th July celebrations at RAF Feltwell (once again not being held, family event only).

3. CLERK'S REPORT

Questions raised included the problems with access to rectify the town clock electrical fault. It was suggested the clock be given over to Suffolk County Council; the lateness of planting the new trees in The Orchard (now planted, intense watering required); the impracticalities of replanting a tree from the Playing Fields to The Avenue (replacement tree purchased from Barchams); the placing of the cages around the new lime trees on London Road (still awaiting a scan to pinpoint cables located along the grass verge).

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Matters raised included the length of the grass in The Orchard (to be cut this Wednesday ready for the Tesco fund raising event being held on Saturday); leaves and other items still not been cleared particularly in Wellington Close (East Ward District Councillors to action); figures on the Police website show increased crime levels in Brandon (severe budget cuts to blame for minimal policing levels); possibility of including FHDC responses to complaints in the Clerk's report; the planned Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Centre (due to an oversight by the present Chairman of the Brandon Heritage Centre, the Annual General Meeting cannot go ahead. An informal meeting, however, will be held in its place.

Signed.....

5. TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN MINUTES

Of the Brandon Town Council Meeting of Monday 6 March 2017.

Resolution Record No. **BTC/103/11/Apr/17**

CARRIED:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF
MONDAY 6 MARCH 2017 BE APPROVED.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Of the Brandon Town Council Meeting of Monday 6 March 2017.

Santon Downham Parish Council were not informed of the recent partial road closure in the High Street; traffic count figures still not available (the Clerk to investigate).

8. TO RECEIVE REPORTS from County and District Councillors, Community Group Representatives.

A report from Cllr. G Hughes relating to the SALC meeting was noted. A report from Cllr. P Etherington relating to the 2018 WW1 Armistice celebrations was circulated at the meeting and noted.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

A letter from the Monitoring Officer was circulated prior to the meeting. With five complaints in the last year relating to Brandon Town Council (5 different Town Councillors, three of which have been complained about on multiple occasions) and only one complaint relating to the other Parish and Town Councils in West Suffolk, the Monitoring Officer has recommended the Town Council seeks to commission trained mediators to work with Councillors and Councillors and Staff to identify concerns each other holds and how things may change in future to address these.

The Chairman has spoken with Forest Heath District Council and as a first it has been agreed in the first instant, internal mediation will be carried out before costly external mediation is commissioned.

11. CO-OPTION

Written applications from two candidates had been received. A secret ballot was held and counted by Cllr. G Hughes and Cllr. I Horner.

By majority vote, Mr B Brabbs was duly co-opted to Brandon Town Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

12. ACCOUNTS

12.1 Resolution Record No. **BTC/104/11/Apr/17**

CARRIED:

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PAYMENTS FOR MARCH
2017.

Signed.....

Date	Amount	Supplier	Chq No	Net	Vat
Mar-17	260.00	Culford Waste	BACS	216.67	43.33
Mar-17	156.81	Tindalls	200803	130.68	26.13
Mar-17	66.50	J & D Green	200796	66.50	
Mar-17	626.40	Sage Payroll	BACS	522.00	104.40
Mar-17	37.17	Finevale Services	200797	30.98	6.19
Mar-17	80.97	N Norton	BACS	80.97	
Mar-17	48.00	Graham Smith	200798	40.00	8.00
Mar-17	5501.52	Stannah Lifts	BACS	4584.60	916.92
Mar-17	4263.00	Ellis Whittam	BACS	3563.40	699.60
Mar-17	37.90	East England Trees	BACS	37.90	
Mar-17	34.90	Land Registry	O/L	34.90	
Mar-17	2666.64	G H Bullards	BACS	2222.20	444.44
Mar-17	13230.00	A C Tree	BACS	11025.01	2204.99
Mar-17	50.38	CBS Office	200799	41.98	8.40
Mar-17	11533.80	Ashtons Legal	BACS	9615.50	1918.30
Mar-17	36.78	Fengate Fasteners	200800	30.65	6.13
Mar-17	533.92	Arco	200801	444.92	89.00
Mar-17	71.83	Chase Fencing	200802	59.86	11.97
Mar-17	228.84	Bookmycourse	BACS	190.70	38.14
Mar-17	120.00	Multisigns	BACS	100.00	20.00
Mar-17	36.36	Safetysigns	BACS	30.30	6.06
Mar-17	18.43	Tools Today	BACS	15.36	3.07
Mar-17	231.60	Direct2You	BACS	193.00	38.60
Mar-17	390.00	Richardsons	BACS	325.00	65.00
Mar-17	54.99	Chums	BACS	54.99	
Mar-17	69.61	Barriers Direct	BACS	58.01	11.60
Mar-17	33.12	Amazon	O/L	27.60	5.52
Mar-17	85.63	Top Tree Supplies	BACS	71.36	14.27
Mar-17	210.00	A C Tree	BACS	175.00	35.00

12.2 Withdrawn

12.3 An amendment was tabled to increase the donation to two hundred pounds. With no seconder, the motion fell.

Resolution Record No. **BTC/105/Apr/17**

CARRIED:

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES A S137 DONATION OF ONE HUNDRED POUNDS TO ST NICHOLAS HOSPICE.

12.4 Resolution Record No. **BTC/106/11/Apr/17**

CARRIED:

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL REQUIRES FURTHER SPECIFIC COSTINGS FOR PLANNED PROJECTS FROM BRANDON SCOUTS PRIOR TO A S137 DONATION BEING CONSIDERED.

Signed.....

13. RESOLUTION from Cllr. P Ridgwell No. 194.

That Brandon Town Council resolves that the Heritage Centre is opened on Easter Saturday 15th April 2017 and to discuss future Saturday openings.

Not the responsibility of Brandon Town Council, consequently, the resolution is ultra vires and therefore, was not progressed.

14. RESOLUTION from Cllr. P Ridgwell No. 195.

Resolution Record No. **BTC/107/11/Apr/17**

CARRIED:

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO SEEK QUOTATIONS OR TENDERS FOR REMOVING SILT FROM THE LODE. COUNCILLORS LUKANIUK AND RIDGWELL TO LIAISE.

15. RESOLUTION from Cllr. P Ridgwell No.196.

That Brandon Town Council resolves that the conservation area to be extended from the Flintknappers along Thetford Road to Mace's and also to include cottages in Gas House Lane and George Street.

Resolution Record No. **BTC/108/11/Apr/17**

NOT CARRIED:

16. RESOLUTION from Cllr. P Callaghan No.197.

Resolution Record No. **BTC/109/11/Apr/17**

CARRIED:

THAT BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES TO DISSOLVE ALL EXISTING COMMITTEES IN ADVANCE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

17. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolution Record No. **BTC/110/11/Apr/17**

CARRIED:

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.

The meeting was adjourned for a five-minute comfort break.

18. TO RECEIVE, CONFIRM AND SIGN THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Resolution Record No. **BTC/111/11/Apr/17**

CARRIED:

THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE BRANDON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2017 AND MONDAY 6 MARCH 2017 BE APPROVED.

19. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

Signed.....

20. NEW CEMETERY

21. GRAVEL PIT

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed.....