

**Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 15 October 2013 at 7.00 pm at Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton, Norfolk**

Councillors Present: L McCarthy- Chairman  
J Rogers – Vice Chairman  
K Birch, B Bunning, P Cooper, R Crabtree, M Holmes, R Ivory, J P McCarthy, R Turner,  
M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

**13/73 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors P Blackmore and K Gilbert

**13/74 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 24 September 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**13/75 PRESENTATION – REDHILL PARK**

Andrew Campbell and Mr Barney gave a presentation of the latest changes to the proposed extension of Redhill Park mobile home site.

They had held discussions with Norfolk County Council Highways and proposed an extension to the excising footway from the cemetery to the car park entrance on Church Road. Some members would have liked to have seen the footway extended further.

In response to Members requesting it was agreed that a sum of £25,000 for recreation use specifically for Watton Town Council to decide where it be spent was part of the 106 agreement.

It was also planned to rebuild the wall surrounding the church and it was pointed out that this would need close consultation with the Town Council.

**13/76 CHRISTMAS EVENT GROUP REPORT**

Councillor Holmes informed Members that the committee was trying to secure various fund raising stalls, there would also be a Father Christmas Grotto, Watton Silver Band, other bands and various entertainers.

Sponsors were needed for some of the entertainers and the marquee and was agreed that the Councils contractors be asked if they would become sponsors.

**13/77 GRIT BIN LOCATION**

The Council had received requests to have grit bins in the following locations:-

Corner of Merton Road/Thetford Road (School and Doctors run).  
Junction of Saham Road/Harvey Street  
Junction Bridle Road /Stokes Avenue (Playground entrance)  
Corner of New Green Business Park  
Chaston Place  
High Street

It was agreed that the list be sent to Norfolk County Council Highways for their consideration and licences.

**13/78 COUNCILLORS REDUCTION IN NUMBERS**

Councillor P Cooper proposed that the number of Members of Watton Town Council be reduced from fifteen to thirteen.

The process would be that Breckland Council would carry out a community governance review which would include public consultation, the results of which would be reported back in due course. The proposal was based on comparative information for the other four Breckland Town councils which showed that Watton had the lowest people per Councillor figure.

It was proposed by Councillor P Cooper, seconded by Councillor M Wassell and

**RESOLVED**

(Voting: 7 for, 2 against and 2 Abstention)

That Breckland District Council be requested to conduct a Community Governance Review with a view to reducing the size of Watton Town Council from fifteen to thirteen elected Members taking account of the people per Councillor figures for the other four Breckland Towns, it would ensure that the Council was able to continue to be active and effective for the community it serves.

**13/79 FINAL LUNCHEON REPORT**

Councillor M Holmes gave a final report on the Wayland Luncheon Club which was now finally closed and all assets had been distributed to various charities. The Tapestry had been donated to the Town Council on behalf of the Town.

At her request it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Trustees from the council.

Councillor Crabtree confirmed that the Senior Citizens Christmas Party had received a donation, part of which had been given to the Rotary Clun for their Senior Citizen Christmas Party.

**13/80 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU GRANT**

Members noted that information previously requested from the CAB in respect of their grant application had not yet been received.

It was proposed by Councillor M Wassell, seconded by Councillor P Cooper and

**RESOLVED**

(Voting: 6 for with 5 abstentions)

That the grant would not be paid until the information which had been requested from the CAB had been received.

**13/81 WALKERS ARE WELCOME MEMBERSHIP/CONFERENCE**

An invitation has been received from Norfolk Trails for the Council to consider becoming a “Walkers are Welcome” registered town.

It was proposed by Councillor R Ivory, seconded by Councillor M Holmes and agreed to join for one year at no cost, but not attend the conference.

**13/82 DEFIBRILLATOR**

The Chairman proposed that the Council purchase a defibrillator for the town.

It was agreed that investigation be carried out to find out how many there were already in the town and where they were located.

**13/83 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

3PL/2013/0880 Mr & Mrs Clarke, Loch House, 83 Dereham Road, Watton – Single Story rear extension replacing small porch, demolish sectional concrete garage, internal alterations to turn kitchen into shower room and utility, replace upvc rustic windows with timber casements and insert new French doors into rear dining room wall.

No Objection

3PL/2013/0755 Astonpath Limited – Proposed conversion of residential home to nine self contained dwelling units, as per listed building permission ref:- 2011/1352/LG

No Objection

**13/84 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was Proposed by Councillor J Rogers, seconded by Councillor R Ivory in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and

RESOLVED:

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted relating to contractual arrangements, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

**13/85 CEMETERY GRAVE DIGGING**

Review of grave digging arrangements

**13/86 RICHMOND GOLF CLUB**

Letter to Breckland about the lease of land.

**13/87 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Lease with the CAB.

The Meeting ended 8:55pm

JS