

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 25th July 2017 at 7.00 pm

at Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG in the Council Chamber

Councillors Present: Stan Hebborn Chairman, Tina Kiddell – Vice-Chairman, Beryl Bunning, Peter Bishop, Keith Gilbert, Jane Fountain, Maureen Roy, Kathryn Stallard, Jake Tinsley, Pat Warwick.

Officers Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk

Also present 1 member of the public and Michael McCarthy (cleaning contractor)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Daniel Fishlock and Jennie Fishlock.

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 11.07.17

The minutes of the meeting held on July 11th 2017 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman. Notes from the Events Working Party Meeting held on 11.07.17 were accepted.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

July 12th - attended Watton U3A book launch. Snapshot of the High Street pamphlet book has been launched with assistance of a £300 donation from the Town Council.

July 15th – judged Redhill Park Gardens competition.

July 16th – attended PACT Open Day (PACT is one the Mayor's Charities)

July 19th – Medal presentation to Mrs Hilda Smith organised by Watton Royal British Legion and held in the Council Chamber.

July 25th – visit to STANTA with the invitation of a tour of the Ranges extended to all Councillors.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

July 20th – Met with Jan Godfrey (Wayland Partnership) and Debbie Harris (Chamber of Commerce) to discuss the possibility of a Go-Go Hare for Watton. The Town Council has been asked if it would be willing to support the donation needed to finance a hare for the town. The Chamber has pledged £500 towards the project and it was hoped the Town Council might do likewise.

Councillors were not supportive of this idea.

July 25th – attended medal presentation.

A suggestion was made that the sign on the fence at Jubilee Garden stating 'no signs or posters' should be removed.

Councillors were against removal of the sign.

The Youth have recently been represented in the local papers which is lovely to see but Councillors should be aware that political promotion via the Town Council is not to be encouraged. The Town Council is not politically controlled and it is hoped engagement and support from young people within the town can be enhanced through connections introduced via the new and youngest member of the Town Council.

Two new Councillors, Jake Tinsley and Kathryn Stallard have recently joined the Council.

4.3 Police Report – no Police present but reminder given of forthcoming meeting with the Police Inspector.

4.4 County Councillor Report – No County Councillor present.

4.5 District Councillor – Keith Gilbert reported that he will be asking Breckland Council about the much awaited report relating to street lighting within the district.

Clerk's Report

A copy of the written report presented is filed.

Verbal update given:

- An Open Gardens Event was suggested at a previous meeting and Keith Gilbert has offered to make some initial enquiries regarding putting on such an event in June or July 2018.
- Breckland Council has accepted the suggested names of Pingo and Aircraft as names for two roads for a new development in Watton. Names of people must be accompanied by agreement from their next of kin before they will be used.
- One quote has been received for replacement of the roof at Wayland Hall.
- Training for the Scribe accounting package used by the Council is to take place on August 3rd. It was agreed the Clerk and Admin Assistant should attend. Rather than shut, Councillor Jane Fountain offered to man the Office for the morning.
- Wayland Business Showcase - Sept. 13th 2017 5.00-8.00pm.
- The due date for Breckland Council to receive requests to hold an election for the one current casual vacancy on the Town Council was 24.07.17 but nothing has been heard as to whether or not an election is to be called.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michael McCarthy was present to inform the Council of what the company he works for could offer with regard to cleaning the public toilets in the town and possibly other maintenance work.

6. ACCOUNTS

Payments for July were accepted as presented and Councillors were made aware of expected payments for August.

6.1 Maintenance of Play Equipment

Maintenance work has been identified following the Annual Play Equipment Inspection recently undertaken at the Sports Centre Play Area. Quotes will be considered at the Town Council meeting on September 12th with a view implementing this work.

6.2 Cleaning of Public Toilets

The current contract for cleaning the public toilets will come to an end on September 30th and quotes will need to be considered and a decision made at the meeting on September 12th regarding the future contract.

6.3 Equipment for Town Handyman

A detailed report regarding replacement of the Town Council van and provision of pressure washing equipment for use by the Town Operative will be provided prior to the Town Council Meeting of September 12th.

7. PURCHASE OF REMEMBRANCE POPPIES

It was agreed by all that plastic poppies up to the value of £300 would be purchased to be placed on lampposts around the town to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Beryl Bunning offered to approach Watton Fire Brigade to ask if they might be able to help erect the poppies.

8. HIGHWAY PROJECTS

Councillors agreed the following suggestions should be passed to County Councillor Claire Bowes in response to information from her that she has a small budget to allocate to Highway projects of her choice in her ward.

1. Speed limit roundels could be painted on the Thetford Road carriageway as suggested by Traffic Management Officer David Law.
2. Repair to the pavement by Spoilt for Choice in the High Street.

Other suggestions for Highway improvements were:

- Repainting of the zebra crossing in the High Street.
- Painting a white arrow on the carriageway at the junction of Norwich Road and Dereham Road to indicate vehicles need to move into the right hand lane if turning right.
- Arisings need to be cut from the base of a tree at the Merton Road and Thetford Road junction to improve visibility for pedestrians.
- A crossing is needed for school children along Merton Road.

It was also noted the 'Welcome to Watton' that was positioned on the Thetford Road entering Watton was removed some time ago and has not been replaced. The Chairman offered to contact developers who may have removed it to request its return.

9. PSPO's

The majority were in favour (1 against and 1 abstention) of requesting that additions be made to the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which is to be introduced later in the year for the agreed restricted area in Watton prohibiting the following activities:

- a) **Consumption of alcohol in a public place**
- b) **Urination and defecation in a public place**
- c) **Use of a bicycle, skateboard or scooter in a pedestrianised zone**

10. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

It was decided the Social Media Policy presented needed to be expanded to include dealing with vexatious communications and it was suggested comments should be passed to Councillor Dan Fishlock who had compiled the draft policy for amendments to be made before the policy is again presented to the Council at the September meeting.

11. WAYLAND SHOW 2017

It was agreed Councillors attending the Wayland Show who offered to help man the Council stand at the stall would have their entrance fee to the show reimbursed by the Council.

Those offering to assist the Mayor and Mayoress: Pat Warwick, Jane Fountain, Keith Gilbert and possibly Daniel and Jennie Fishlock.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) UPDATE

A meeting was held on July 20th at the Youth & Community Centre, to which around 30 attended, to start the process of establishing thematic groups for the NP. A Group to look at flooding issues is already scheduled to meet on August 3rd and other groups will be set up following a further introductory meeting to be held on September 7th. **It was agreed the September meeting will be held at the Queen's Hall** if possible.

13. CEMETERY FEES

It was agreed to accept the revised Cemetery Fees as presented.

14. REPS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The list of Reps to Outside Bodies was updated and agreed by all. Copy filed.

15. HIGH STREET TREES

The Town Operative has removed some branches from the trees in pots outside Lings as requested but it is thought the trees may need removal as they are becoming quite large. Consideration will be given to possible work in the autumn.

16. IT PROVISION FOR THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

It was felt there was not enough time left in the meeting (Standing Orders dictate that a meeting should not last more than two hours) to consider the options presented and thus this matter will be an agenda item for the Town Council meeting of September 12th.

17. PLANNING NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

17.1 3PL/2017/0591/F Installation of car wash, Drome Garage Norwich Road, Watton

No objections

17.2 3PL/2017/0883/A 2 Fascia signs & 2 others (illuminated) (Retrospective) 9 Middle Street, Watton

Comment was that the signs are not in keeping with the location

17.3 3PL/2017/0735/CU Change of use from field/unassigned to garden 30 Swaffham Road, Watton

Councillors were uncertain as to why this application was needed but concern was raised regarding drainage as there is a ditch located on the land.

17.4 3PL/2017/0897/O Proposed residential development for 9 bungalows – re-submission of 3PL/2016/1291/O Griston Road, Watton

Councillors agreed to recommend refusal of this application as it is outside the settlement boundary and contrary to several planning policies. Objections suggested will be forwarded to Breckland Council.