

**Minutes of the Annual Town (Parish) Meeting held on 22 May 2014 at 7pm at the Church Hall,
St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton, Norfolk**

Chairman: Lorraine McCarthy, Town Mayor and Chairman of Watton Town Council

Minutes: Richard Crabtree

Other Present: District Councillor Claire Bowes, PCSO Rob Coote

Members of the Public: (20) Twenty

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

The mayor, Councillor L McCarthy, welcomed the attendees and read the prepared reason sheet. She said that this along with reports from organisations and grant recipients were on the table at the back of the room.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2013 TOWN MEETING

Councillor McCarthy asked that the minutes for the last Town Meeting be approved. This was challenged by Mrs Osborn. She said that they did not contain any mention of the 4 points she raised or the 2 from her husband. Councillor McCarthy explained that none of the points had been seconded. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Councillor J Rogers and seconded by Councillor J P McCarthy and were signed by Councillor L McCarthy.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Councillor L McCarthy introduced her Mayors report.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

No report submitted

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

5.1 Councillor Gilbert introduced his report where he spoke about his work on the Breckland Scrutiny Commission and Members Development Panel.

5.2 Councillor Bowes and Councillor Wassell introduced a joint report on the work of Breckland Council in relation to Watton. Mrs Osborn raised matters from a meeting at the Queens hall in 2012. She had queried Councillor Wassell on finance arrangements. He responded in saying that the promise to keep Council Tax down and keep services had been met and at the time the question of charging for car parks had been sorted out and no charges would be made. He assured Mrs Osborn that no charges would be made during the life of the present Breckland Council.

6. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Rob Cootes gave a report on Watton Policing. He said various promotions had taken place. Over recent times only 60 crimes were reported. The SNAP meetings had resulted in this reduction. The Mathew project had helped with drug problems. Speeding, phone use and seatbelt offences were dealt with. The next SNAP meeting is again open to all residents in the area. Councillor Rogers raised the problem of cyclists on the footpaths and this will be passed onto head office. A question was asked about interpreters for reported crimes.

7. WATTON TOWN TEAM

Councillor Bunning gave a report on the Town Team, Chris Edwards, the Chairman is ill but it is hoped all planned activities will go ahead this year. It had been a successful year with town wide events for books, classic cars, flowers, wedding show and a dance. They have a marquee available for hire. The next planned event is the Car Rally on 22nd June.

8. WAYLAND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP TRUST

No report from the Partnership

9. CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

No report from the CAB

10. GRANT REPORTS

Reports from groups and organisations that have had grants during the year.

George Collins - ATC they had used the grant to buy polo shirts locally for the cadets.

Eamon McGrath - Age UK produced a report on the activities of the group in this area.

Rob Walker – Watton Rugby Football club reported on the clubs activities.

Richard Crabtree spoke about The Watton Carnival and the Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

Written reports were available from:-

- The Christian Community Centre
- Watton Netball Club
- The Watton Society
- Watton Twinning Association
- Watton Sports and Social Club

11. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Discuss and receive questions from the public on Town affairs.

No questions had been sent to the Council offices.

Mr Nuttall spoke about the lack of infrastructure in relation to existing houses and the expected new ones. He queried sewage and suggested the number of new houses be reduced.

Mrs Osborn brought up her 4 points from a previous year.

1. Openness of draft budgets. Councillor Gilbert also brought this up again as to why the press and public were excluded. Breckland had agreed the actions of previous Councillors over this matter.
2. Why were the refurbishments of Wayland Hall taking such a long time? Councillor J P McCarthy said that delays had been caused by the production of a staircase with handrail and changes required by Mr Woodyatt.

3. The North is missing from the weathervane on the Clock Tower. This has been looked into in the past and it has proved to be very expensive.
4. A vacancy on the Council still exists despite several candidates being interviewed. Response was as already reported to Council that no one met the required standards. It will be for the town at the next election to fill all the posts. Councillor Wassell said any 10 people can ask for an election but the cost would be £7,600.

Councillor L McCarthy thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed it at 8:06pm.