

Minutes of the Watton Annual Town Meeting

held in Wayland Hall on May 28th 2015

Present: Mayor Mr K Birch(Chairman), District Councillors Mr K Gilbert (also a Town Councillor) and Mr M Wassell, County Councillor Mr S Hebborn (also a Town Councillor), 4 members of Watton Town Council and 18 members of the public.

Also present Watton Town Council Clerk and Administration Assistant.

The Mayor welcomed attendees and confirmed the order for the meeting.

1. The minutes of the 2014 were presented to those present and signed as correct.

Mr Nuttall wished it to be made known that he had voiced greater concern for the lack of infrastructure in the Town than was noted in item 11. of the 2014 minutes.

2. Chairman's Report

Being new to office the Chairman had no report to give.

3. District Councillors' Report

3.1 Councillor Wassell presented a joint report from Breckland Council compiled by Councillor Bowes and himself. A copy is filed and can be found posted on the Town Council website.

Mr Wassell stressed that Breckland Council will not be introducing car parking charges in the area during the term of the current administration.

He also informed attendees that Breckland Council will offer match funding for undertaking Neighbourhood Planning if communities successfully obtain funding from DCLG to compile a plan.

3.2 Councillor Gilbert presented a verbal report, a copy of which is filed and can be found posted on the Town Council website.

4. County Councillor's Report

Councillor Hebborn stated that he had little good news as Norfolk County Council (NCC) is facing further financial cuts which will result

in services suffering. He did note however that NCC purchased RAF Coltishall with a view to bringing money into the Council and as well as areas on the site set aside for residential and business use a solar farm on the site is expected to bring an income of £10m.

Locally Mr Hebborn has received concern regarding the “Bennetts” roundabout . He is also awaiting a site visit with NCC Highways Paul Sellick to look at the proposed roundabout for the Thetford Road. Mr Hebborn has been working on safeguarding and school transport issues as well.

5. Police Report

No report received.

6. Watton Town Team

No report received.

7. Wayland Partnership Report

Written report made available.

8. Citizens Advice Bureau Report

Verbal report given by John Constance, Director of CAB. A copy is filed and available on the Town Council website.

9. Reports from groups and organisations which have received grants from the Town Council

Written reports received from:

- 864 Watton Squadron
- Breckland Harmony Choir

Verbal reports given by;

- Queen’s Hall
- Queen’s Hall Carpet Bowls
- Age UK
- Watton WI

Copies of all reports are filed and available on the Town Council website.

Mr R Crabtree spoke about the Watton Carnival and the Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

A verbal report was given by Mr B Wykes, Chairman of the Trustees of Watton Sports and Social Club. A copy is filed and available on the Town Council website.

Mrs B Robinson spoke as the Project Co-ordinator of Museum for Watton. The project is progressing slowly but steadily. As part of the stage 1 fund raising consultation will be undertaken with the public regarding whether a museum is wanted in the Town.

10. Questions raised by attendees

- 10.1 It was noted that the Town is fortunate to have several organisations active in the town
- 10.2 Questions were raised and some discussion took place regarding the CAB use of the land at the Youth and Community Centre and concerning a grant that the CAB believe the Town Council has agreed to issue to the organisation.
- 10.3 Other concerns were raised concerning the use of Jubilee Gardens, the repair of the town clock and weather vane on the clock tower and the current poor state of the town planters.