

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday 29 May 2012 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG**

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk  
Michelle Craigie  
Keith Bell

Others Present: Sergeant Lance Ogbourne-Norfolk Police

Members of the Public Present: Four (4)

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Osborn and District Councillor Claire Bowes

**2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was agreed by Members that the Minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

Councillor Birch put forward a motion and was seconded by Councillor Rogers that due to the content of Item 248 of the Minutes of Tuesday 15 May 2012, that a vote of no confidence be called for in Councillor Osborn.

It was agreed that this be deferred to the next meeting.

**3 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN/TOWN MAYOR**

The Chairman called for nominations for election of Chairman/Town Mayor for the year 2012/2013.

Councillor Rogers proposed and was seconded by Councillor Ivory that Councillor Cooper be elected Chairman/Town Mayor for the year 2012/2013.

There being no other nominations Councillor Cooper was duly elected Chairman/Town Mayor for the year 2012/2013.

The past Chairman Councillor Wassell then congratulated Councillor Cooper and invested him with the Chain of Office.

**4 SIGN DECLARATION OF OFFICE**

The Chairman signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk.

Councillor Cooper took the Chair.

He said that it had been a pleasure to serve as Vice Chairman to Councillor Wassell during his term of office, and felt that he would agree that during his year in office he had ruffled a few feathers and he would probably do the same. On behalf of himself and the Members he thanked Councillor Wassell and wished him well with his Breckland adventure, and thanked his fellow Members for electing him.

## **5 PAST CHAIRMAN'S BADGE**

The Chairman presented the outgoing Mayor with his Past Chairman's badge.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Jan Wassell who presented Mrs Maureen Cooper. He then thanked his wife in advance for her support for the forthcoming year.

## **6 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman called for nominations for the election of Vice Chairman for the year 2012/2013.

Councillor Birch proposed and was seconded by Councillor Turner that Councillor Ivory be elected Vice Chairman for the year 2012/2013.

Voting: 5 for

Councillor Wassell proposed and was seconded by Councillor Cooper that Councillor L McCarthy be elected Vice Chairman for the year 2012/2013.

Voting: 8 for

Councillor L McCarthy was duly elected Vice Chairman for the year 2012/2013.

Councillor L McCarthy signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk.

## **7 OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Councillor Wassell said it has been a busy year, he had counted up everything that he had done, that he would not have done had he not been a Councillor, for either Breckland District Council or Watton Town Council, which totalled 358, meetings, events and briefings etc, just under 60% had been Watton Town Council events. He felt that the now adopted two council meetings per month worked very well, but does place extra work on the Chairman of the council, if you are going to try and maximise the benefit of involving all the councillors in all of the decisions and speed up the whole process.

He congratulated Councillor Cooper, on becoming Mayor of the Town in which he was born, stating, he is not an incomer like me, also congratulations to Councillor L McCarthy for becoming Vice Chairman. He hoped that Paul and Maureen would enjoy their year as much as Jan and I had theirs. If he could offer any advice, it would be, go to everything, enjoy the people that you meet and always have a few pertinent words either written down and in your mind for the inevitable, "Would you like to say a few words Mr Mayor!"

He thanked the Town Clerk Jacqui Seal her staff for their support, help and advice; also Paul Cooper for being a superb deputy, a great sounding board, and someone to let off steam at. He thanked his fellow Watton Town Councillors for giving him the privilege of being Chairman of this Council and Mayor of the best town in Breckland. He was convinced that without the high profile that being Chairman of Watton Town Council gave him at Breckland he would not have progressed as he had at Breckland.

Above all he wanted to thank his wife Jan for putting up with the past year of having their lives put on hold, they had both enjoyed the year, but was very conscious that she had been as involved as he had, and without her support and love it would not have been nearly as much fun, but could say that about his life in general. So Jan, thank you and I may well be spending more time at home, so I hope that does not prove to be a problem?

## **8 PAYMENTS**

It was agreed that payments for May 2012 be approved

## **9 GRANTS**

Grant applications have been received from the Carnival Committee.

Councillor Crabtree declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting.

It was agreed that up to a £500 grant be given for the hire of a Climbing Wall for the Carnival.

On Councillor Crabtree's return to the meeting, the Chairman reminded him that the grant given to the Carnival was not written in stone every year, and that other avenues should be pursued.

## **10 Planning Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Birch and seconded by Councillor Ivory and

RESOLVED

That the following Councillors would for the Members of the Planning Committee:

Councillors Gilbert, Birch, L McCarthy, JP McCarthy, Bunning, Ivory, Holmes, Crabtree and Blackmore.

The Chairman invited everyone to join him at the Watton Sports Centre for a Celebratory drink.

The Meeting ended 7.50pm

JS