

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14 June 2011 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Members of the Public Present: One (1)

1 INTERESTS

Councillors J P and L McCarthy declared personal interests in Item 16 as suppliers to one of the contractors.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

3 URGENT BUSINESS

3.1 Planning Committee

The Chairman announced that ten Members had indicated that they wish to serve on the Planning Committee. Councillor Harvey agreed to step down to allow the Committee to remain at nine.

It was agreed that the Planning Committee Members would be Councillors Blackmore, Bunning, Gilbert, Holmes, Ivory, J P McCarthy, L McCarthy, Rogers and Rudling.

4 CLERKS REPORT

4.1 One of the stained glass windows in the Council offices had been broken. The glaziers

had removed the window and boarded it for security. Crime report documented.

4.2 Reminder to all Members that the Raising of the Flag will take place on Monday 20 June 2011 at 11am, assembling at 10.30 at the Clock tower, followed by a small buffet at the Surge.

4.3 'The Saint Day' Family Support Group will be held at the Surge on Saturday 25 June 2011 commencing at 2.00pm.

4.4 Reminder that Members 200 words for the web site are needed by end of June 2011.

5.5 Notification that the Queens Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated next year on the weekend of 2 June 2012. The May Bank holiday is to be moved to Monday 4 June, and Tuesday 5 June will be a bank holiday in celebration of the Jubilee.

If the Council wishes to arrange celebrations for the town, this would need to be looked at before setting the budget for next year.

4.5 The Public Toilets were opened for the Carnival on Sunday 12 June 2011 for the duration of the day. The Ladies toilets had been left in a disgusting state at the end of the day.

4.6 A reply had been received from Breckland Council in relation to the Skateboard Park at the Sports Centre. The information had been forwarded to the Chairman of the Sports Centre.

5 COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Planning & Forward Development Committee

The Clerk informed Members that Mill Road was an un-adopted road and was the responsibility of Breckland Council.

The Chairman stated that he was surprised that the Committee had put forward the name of Dudley Bowes for a development in Watton, when the new guidelines from Breckland Council had clearly stated that people's full names would not be accepted. The Clerk reported that Breckland had informed her that the name would not be used, in line with their policy.

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 7 June 2011 be adopted

6 PUBLIC TOILETS

Report previously circulated

It was agreed that the Clerk obtain costs as soon as possible for the drainage problems at the Public Toilets.

7 COUNCIL CHAMBER MOVE AND REPLACEMENT OF CURTAINS

The Chairman stated that the layout of the present Council Chamber was not good, especially now that all fifteen Councillors attended the meetings. There was a lack of space for Councillors round the table, very little room for the public, who looked at Councillors Backs, mobility issues and no ventilation.

A small amount of the Members felt that the present Chamber could be adapted and liked the atmosphere, with the majority of the Members agreeing, that Wayland Hall would be more suitable and that it would encourage more Members of the Public to attend.

It was proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by J P McCarthy and

RESOLVED

Voting: 9 for with 4 Against

That the Council Chamber be moved into Wayland Hall at the rear of the building and that the costings be presented at the next meeting.

8 COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

The Chairman explained that the Community Car Scheme mileage for drivers had increased by 5p to 45p per mile by the government.

He stated that at the recent meeting with Breckland to discuss the issue, it had been indicated by the majority of the co-ordinators, that passengers were willing to pay the extra 5p.

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor J P McCarthy and

RESOLVED

That it be recommended to Breckland that the increase be passed to the passenger.

9 LITTER AND DOG BINS

The Chairman suggested that in view of the constant damage to litter and dog bins that the Council purchase a number of both dog bins and litter bins to held in stock.

It was proposed by Councillor Wassell and seconded by Councillor Crabtree and

RESOLVED

That one litter bin and three dog bins be purchased, thus saving the unnecessary time delay in replacement.

Councillor Gilbert reported the litter problem on Brandon Road and asked that a dog bin be placed at the junction of Wayland Avenue and Brandon Road.

It was proposed by Councillor L McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Harvey and

RESOLVED

That a dog bin be placed at the junction of Wayland Avenue and Brandon Road.

10 WEEDS IN GULLIES

Councillor Gilbert reported that the gullies on many of the roads in town were full of quite large weeds.

It was agreed that Norfolk County Council be asked to look at the problem and for their spraying policy.

11 DITCHES

Councillor Rudling reported that a resident had filled in the ditch at the cemetery and recommended and was agreed, that Members should meet at the cemetery on Tuesday 21st June at 7pm to inspect the cemetery

12 PARKING MERTON ROAD/JUBILEE ROAD

Councillors Holmes and Ivory explained the dangerous parking problems on the approach from Jubilee Road to Merton Road and also further down Merton Road. Vehicles were parking close to the turning and blocking the view.

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling and seconded by Councillor J P McCarthy and

RESOLVED

That Norfolk County Council and the police be asked to put yellow lines on the junction of Jubilee Road and Merton Road.

13 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND FESTIVE MARKET

The Chairman told Members that a decision was needed on whether the Council intended to continue their support for the "Festive Christmas Market" and the Christmas Lights. This was to stop the continuous comments being made by some Members.

He proposed and was seconded by Councillor Cooper that a named vote be recorded.

It was proposed by Councillor L McCarthy and seconded by Councillor J P McCarthy and

RESOLVED

Voting FOR: Councillors Cooper, Ivory, Holmes, Osborn, Bateman, Rogers, Bunning, Crabtree, Turner, Gilbert, L McCarthy, J P McCarthy and Harvey.

Councillor Rudling Abstained.

That the Council continue to support the Festive Christmas Market and the Christmas lights.

Councillor Rudling felt that Members of the Public should be asked to help with the Christmas lights and the market and queried the money spent.

The Clerk made clear that all money spent on the market and lights was accounted for each month in the Income and Payments list, which the Council approved.

Councillor Holmes stated that there were a number of people involved, who put in a lot of effort in the running and organising of the market, particularly the Clerk and that it was not good to be constantly criticized by certain Members.

The Chairman proposed and was agreed that the Committee consists of Councillors Osborn, Ivory, Bunning and Holmes plus the Clerk and Mrs Sandra Osborn co-opted.

14 OUTSTANDING ITEMS

List Tabled

The Chairman explained that in future a list of outstanding and on-going items would be circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor J P McCarthy and

RESOLVED

That the Council support the introduction of the document and thanked the Clerk and her staff for the extra work involved.

15 COUNCILLORS SURGERY

The Chairman asked Members if they felt that there was still a need to hold the monthly Councillor Surgeries, as the 'Breckland One Stop Bus' would be in the town, each month at the Farmers Market.

He had gone through the book, collated by the Councillors attending the surgery over the past year and found that only 16.98% related to Town and Parish Councils; all other enquires were for other authorities.

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

RESOLVED

Voting: 10 for with 2 Abstentions

That the Council no longer hold Councillor Surgeries.

16 MEMORIAL GARDEN PERGOLA

It was proposed by Councillor Cooper seconded by Councillor Harvey

in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and

RESOLVED

That in view of the [special] [confidential] nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw

The Chairman reported that the Pergola at the Memorial Garden had been damaged and needed to be removed urgently. He felt that the Council needed to decide if it should be removed permanently or be replaced.

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor Crabtree and

RESOLVED

Voting: 12 for with 1 Abstention

That T.T.S.R. be awarded the contract to remove and replace the Pergola on the Memorial Garden.

The Meeting ended 8.55pm

JS