

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26 July 2011 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton

Councillors Present:

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Neil Davis – Tesco Ltd

Members of the Public Present: Eleven (11)

46 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Blackmore and Ivory

47 INTERESTS

Councillors L McCarthy, Crabtree, Holmes, Gilbert and J P McCarthy declared personal interests in Item 56 as Members of the Twinning Association.

Councillors Rogers and Wassell declared personal interests in Item 58 as Members of Breckland Council Licensing Committee.

48 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

49 COMMUNITY REPORTS

49.1 Police

Crime figures previously circulated.

49.2 District Councillors

49.2.1 Councillor Gilbert would be working on a large project with Scrutiny.

49.2.2 Councillor Wassell reported that he was now the representative for Wren where a large number of grants are made and that he would be regularly attending the One Stop Bus in Watton on the Farmers Market weekend.

He had attended the Breckland Cabinet meeting, where the land at Mill Road had been discussed.

Despite Watton Town Council asking that it stay as open space, Breckland had decided to investigate submitting a planning application. If this did not get approval, then Breckland would consider the option to offer the land to Watton Town Council as open space. Should this happen, there would be no commuted sum and all costs associated with maintenance, would become the responsibility of Watton Town Council.

The Community Car scheme was also discussed and agreed that a deadline of 1 October 2011 would be given to sign the new agreement. The Council would be sent copies of the new agreement for their decision.

50 URGENT BUSINESS

50.1 Councillor Turner asked that the Council look at the possibility of a swimming pool in Watton. He had been asked by many people in the town if the Council would look at the project.

The Chairman suggested that Councillor Turner research the possible costs and report back to Council.

Councillor Rogers informed Council that when a swimming pool for Watton had been looked at previously, the NHS had offered £175,000 for the project and suggested that they be contacted.

Councillor Holmes welcomed the idea back on the Agenda.

50.2 Planning and Forward Development

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 5 July 2001 be adopted.

51 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jan and I attended the mayor of Wisbech at home and flower festival,

I spoke on Wayland radio on the 1st July and will be there again on the 5th august at 5:30 pm

On the 13th July I attended, with the vice chairman, a SNAP meeting, as both a town and district councillor, there were a number of members of the public there, which was nice to see, and it gave them an opportunity to express their concerns to the police authority. I hope that members of the public continue to attend these types of meetings which are intended for their benefit.

Jan and I attended a reception at Bodney at the invitation of the Commanding Officer of the Household Cavalry. As a follow on to that, I was asked by the current owners of grandmas patch if I could help them to distribute a large number of knitted gloves and balaclavas that a group of ladies had knitted for serving members of HM Forces. This is an on-going project and they had been unable to find forces unit that wanted them. I was able to speak with the Regimental Corporal Major of the Household Cavalry who were delighted to accept them and I delivered the gloves and balaclavas to them

The following night we also attended the chairman of Norfolk County Council Summer Reception at Easton College

And to round off a busy 3 days the next night we attended a performance by the Thetford Singers, at the Queens Hall, which was most enjoyable.

This afternoon, I attended the sports centre for the launch of a new booklet *Norfolk health, heritage and biodiversity walks: walks in and around the Watton area*. The launch celebrated the final booklet in a series of 12, bringing the total number of promoted routes to 150 across the county.

We attended, last Sunday, along with many of the Councillors, a cream tea in honour of the Royal British Legion, hosted by our own town clerk, Jacqui Seal and her husband Graham. We were blessed with excellent weather, and large sum of money was raised for this worthwhile cause.

52 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Cooper informed Council that he had sprayed the weeds on the Memorial Garden.

53 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk informed the Council that the report on the Kings Lynn incinerator was in the office for their perusal.

54 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for July 2011 be approved

55 MEETING WITH MP

It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with George Freeman MP for a Friday convenient to him, to discuss the future development of Watton, to include industrial development, expansion of existing companies, type of housing, demographics, NHS and infrastructure.

56 TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Members discussed the request to fund a Buffet Lunch for the Twinning Association for the 25th Anniversary on Saturday 26 May 2012.

There was confusion as to what was expected from the Council, as to whether it was a buffet lunch or tea and cakes. Members were also split as to the Councils involvement.

The Chairman felt that Members of the Council who were Members of the Twinning Association should have declared prejudicial interests as costs to the Council were involved.

It was agreed that before any decision was made that the situation relating to interests be clarified.

57 OUTSTANDING/ON-GOING ITEMS

Previously circulated.

58 TESCO UPDATE

The Chairman invited Neil Davis to give an update on the present situation.

Mr Davis informed Council that Tesco would not be opening a pharmacy in the store, and that the site was open 24 hours due to cleaning staff. There would be no walkway onto the Norwich Road only to Charles Avenue, and were looking at the acoustics in the car park.

He also stated that Tesco realise that the store is not big enough even with the extension. It would not be as large as Dereham or Thetford.

The Chairman informed both Members and members of the public that the existing entrance was temporary and would cease on 16 October 2011. He also pointed out that Tesco had given the money to the Council, for the work on the Thetford Road Allotments. Councillor Rogers stated that Tesco would be contributing a significant amount of money for highways improvements to the entrance to the store.

The Meeting ended 8.05pm
JS