

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 31 January 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 – Vice Chairman
K Gilbert
M Holmes
L McCarthy
A Osborn
J Rogers
R Rudling
R Turner
M Wassell - Chairman

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: PC Man and PCSO Jermy -Norfolk Police

Members of the Public Present: One (1)

166 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Ivory, J P McCarthy and District Councillor Claire Bowes

167 INTERESTS

Item 169.3 Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest as a Member of the Committee at Norfolk County Council discussing the incinerator.

Item 170 Councillors Gilbert, Holmes and L McCarthy declared personal interests as Members of the Twinning Association.

Item 173 Councillor Wassell declared a personal interest as an Allotment Holder.

168 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

169 COMMUNITY REPORTS

169.1 Police

Crime figures previously distributed.

PC Mann reported that under the new policing structure there would be 10 Police Officers. There would be two PC's at the Watton Office at all times with a Beat Manager – PC Readie and 3 PCSO's.

He stated that although crime figures had gone down in the Watton area Thefts had increased.

169.2 District Councillors

Councillor Gilbert reported that under the new Standards system, failure to declare a pecuniary interest would be a criminal offence, the LDF site specific had now been finalised and that the money raised by

the property portfolio at Breckland was £45.68 per Band D property per year. Without this, the Band D would be much higher.

Councillor Wassell reported that Breckland were having an increase in licensing issues for Taxis, much of it due to tinted window problems. There was now a register on the Breckland web site listing licensed properties.

He also stated that he was now a Member of Breckland's Planning Committee.

169.3 County Councillors

County Councillor Rogers reported that Traffic Lights across Norfolk were being looked at including Watton.

The County Council had been awarded:-

- ≡ £169 million for the incinerator should it go ahead
- ≡ Blind people and their companions will now be able to travel before 9am £0.051m
- ≡ £89 million for the Norwich Northern Distributor Road
- ≡ By 2013 Norfolk County Council will be in charge of the National Health Service
- ≡ October/November elections will be held for the Police Commissioner
- ≡ £0.05 million to support 40 extra places for young people to help young people to break the cycle of no experience, no job
- ≡ £0.033 million to provide apprenticeships for young people
- ≡ £0.123 million for Public Rights of Way

170 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman asked Members to set a budget for a gift for the 25th Anniversary of Twinning.

It was proposed by Councillor Blackmore and seconded by Councillor Turner and

RESOLVED

Voting: 8 for with 2 against and 1 abstention

That the Council grant up to £500 for a suitable gift to be presented to Weeze to mark the 25th Anniversary of the towns Twinning.

171 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had attended the following events and meetings:-

- ≡ Visited Wayland Prison with the chairman of Breckland District Council and the chairman of Norfolk County Council. The prison had a scheme whereby trusted prisoners are employed by local businesses, that they are keen to promote
- ≡ ATC Christmas Ball.
- ≡ Two Watton and Griston Cyclepath Steering Group meetings.
- ≡ Meeting of the Wayland Chamber of Commerce and a Wayland Healthy Eating group meeting.

≡ Watton Pantomime which was great fun.

≡ Went to the junior school as part of their jobs week, where they had invited people to come in and talk about what they do. A very enjoyable experience, with some interesting questions, for example, is the chain real gold, could I sell it if I wanted to, do I get paid a lot for being mayor, do I get given a big house and car, if I don't get paid, why do I do it, and how do I pay for my house and buy food! some questions to ponder on perhaps

172 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Cooper reported that he had attended a meeting of the Jubilee Committee on 19th January 2012, minutes previously circulated. It would appear that many of the villages would be organising their own events.

A Member queried the suggestion by the Committee to have the Christmas lights rather than Bunting, as this would seem more appropriate.

Various ideas were discussed on how the Council could mark the occasion, with suggestions, such as planting trees on Bridle Road play area, updating both Bridle Road and Stokes Avenue play equipment and planting a Rose garden on the green open space adjacent to the allotments on Thetford Road.

The Clerk suggested and was agreed that the ex-Gardener Mr Lewin be asked if he would like to design the Jubilee Garden for the Town.

Councillor Gilbert suggested that all named Royal Roses be planted.

173 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk suggested and was agreed that the allotment to the front be exchanged with one of the normal sized allotments.

She also suggested and was agreed, that the surrounding area, to the side of the allotments, be looked at, so as to increase the number and reduce the waiting list.

174 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for January 2012 be approved

175 CONTRACTORS LIST

Members put forward additional names to be added to the list.

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling and seconded by Councillor Holmes and agreed that the contractors list, with the additional names be approved.

The Chairman suggested and was agreed that the Garden Contract be extended for 1 year to TTSR.

176 GRASS CUTTING AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

It was agreed that the Grass Cutting and Maintenance Contract be approved.

177 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AND LIGHTS

The Chairman suggested and was agreed that, to avoid any future problems with the Christmas Festivities, that all the shop keepers and the Chamber of Commerce be written to, inviting them to give their assistance and support.

178 COMMITTEE REPORT

178.1 Planning and Forward Development

Councillor Gilbert urged Members to attend the Office to look at the plans prior to the meeting.

He also invited all Members to attend a meeting with the new owners of the Kings Arms Public House to discuss their plans.

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 10 January 2012 be adopted

179 OUTSTANDING/ON-GOING ITEMS

Councillor Blackmore asked the Chairman if he could give his assurance, that he would support the Watton Residents, in their opposition to the suggested car parking charges.

The Chairman stated that he did not want to see charges brought in, and would look at all the evidence.

The Meeting ended 8.15pm

JS