

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday March 13th 2018 at 7.00pm

at Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG in the Council Chamber

Councillors Present: Stan Hebborn Chairman, Beryl Bunning, Peter Bishop, Jane Fountain, Keith Gilbert, Sue Hebborn, Tina Kiddell, Gavin Maby, Kathryn Stallard, Pat Warwick, Jake Tinsley.

Officers Present: Michelle Craigie – Deputy Clerk

Also present: 7 members of the public and County Councillor Claire Bowes

Jake Tinsley arrived at 7:05pm

One minute silence was observed in remembrance of past Watton drainage group member Bob Dore.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED

Alysha Houlder-Moat, Margaret Holmes, Daniel Fishlock and Maureen Roy

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

Sue and Stan Hebborn declared an interest in item 6

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 13.02.18

The minutes of the meeting held on February 27th 2018 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Kathryn Stallard and seconded by Tina Kiddell

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

Verbal report given

- On March 3rd the chairman attended the Watton Twinning Association annual carvery, it was a good opportunity to speak to members of the Twinning association that were present and to thank them for their continued work.
- On March 10th the chairman opened the 1st Art exhibition of 2018 at the Dragonfly centre, the exhibition was for individual artist throughout the district of Breckland.

4.2 Vice-Councillors Report

A copy of the written report presented is filed.

4.3 Clerk's Report

It was noted that a tree survey was undertaken and that it would be added to the next town council meeting agenda on March 27th.

4.4 Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Update

The notes received from the last Neighbourhood plan meeting which took place on February 26th were electronically circulated to all councillors on March 13th.

Jane Fountain verbally reported on character appraisal surveys of the town and general areas. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group decide to undertake a character

assessment of their local area to inform and help support design policies in their neighbourhood plan. Specific areas of interests were the RAF base and central reservation area which hadn't been touched since 1970.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Bowes only spoke on item 11.1 objecting to it being a confidential matter. No County or district council matters were reported.

Mr Wykes expressed his concerns that the council have disallowed any input from the public and asked that it is considered item 11.1 is moved from below the line into the public domain.

Mr Francis a funeral director in Watton attended the meeting and spoke at length concerning council procedure regarding burials in the cemetery and a funeral, that was not scheduled with the councils permission.

Some councillors commented on their disquiet that Mr Francis had made unfounded allegation towards a member of staff of the council.

It was reported by Mr Osborn that the Cemetery still appears to not be well maintained with overhanging trees and pot holes in the gravel driveway. Mr Osborn was made aware that a tree survey had been undertaken and no urgent work was needed.

6. FINANCES

6.1 To consider Training for charity trustees

Stan and Sue Hebborn left the meeting due to a declaration of interest.

3 options were presented to the council

It was proposed by Peter Bishop and Seconded by Kathryn Stallard that this item be deferred to the next council meeting agenda and to seek more information on options 2 and 3:-

- How long would the training session be
- Whether they provide a free helpline to assist on any problems following the training and if so, for what period of time
- Maximum of delegates per training session

It was suggested that option 1 be replicated and sent to the other 2 options as a template for quoting.

7. S106 BENNETTS COMMUNITY LAND

Breckland Council and Bennetts are keen to transfer the open space land at the former Officers Mess site in Watton.

It was discussed that communication has been made with Carbrooke Parish Council concerning ownership of the land.

It was proposed by Keith gilbert and seconded by Jake Tinsley

Voting 8 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions

That a working group be set up consisting of a couple of councillors from each council as well as the Clerks and with any legal advice/bodies needed to expedite an agreement.

Keith Gilbert, Jake Tinsley and Sue Hebborn volunteered to be part of the working group.

8. REMEMBRANCE 2018

8.1 To consider participation in Battles Over – A Cry for Peace National Proclamation Event – Town Crier

It was proposed by Sue Hebborn and seconded by Tina Kiddell

Voting 10 in favour with 1 against

That the Council sign up to take part in Battles Over tribute.

8.2 To consider participation in “There But Not There Campaign”

It was agreed not to participate in “There But Not There Campaign” but

It was proposed by Jake Tinsley and seconded by Sue Hebborn that the council Investigate creating a memorial of soldiers for the Remembrance with the potential involvement of the Wayland Men’s Shed and children from a local school.

9. REGISTRATION OF WAYLAND HALL

The Land registry has refused to provide an extension and has cancelled the first registration application.

The Council agreed to defer this item to the next full council meeting agenda and in the meantime a few councillors are to meet and go through documentation that was collected from solicitors before a decision is to be made.

10. PLANNING: To consider planning applications received for consultation

Planning: Agreed consultation responses to planning applications received since the last Full Council meeting

10.1 3PL/2018/0189/VAR – Variation of condition 16 on pp 3PL/2013/0510/F – relocation of play equipment to northern most area of public open space – Thetford Road, Hopkins Homes

No Objections

10.2 3PL/2017/1358/D

Residential development of 98 dwellings, open space and play areas (Revised Location Plan) - Land off Town Green Road Watton

No objections

It was asked that comments were submitted to Breckland District Council in regards to the road layout at Watton Green.

It was decided that Sue Hebborn, as a member of the cemetery working group and in the absence of the working group chairman, that non-confidential matters regarding the Cemetery Working Group report would be disclosed before a resolution to exclude the public was made.

Contact with The Environment Agency in relation to any suitable land if available and a potential site visit was briefly spoken on.

11. A resolution was passed to exclude the press and public to update on confidential commercial and legal matters:

Proposed by Jane Fountain and seconded by Peter Bishop

Voting 8 in favour with 3 against

Jake Tinsley left the meeting unannounced and without apology at 8:20pm.

11.1 To receive report from the Cemetery Working Group

The Cemetery Working Group notes were read out to the council.

It was agreed that a few councillors meet to draft a list of facts regarding the cemetery that can be presented to the full council at the next meeting.

The matter concerning a local funeral director was discussed. With 1 against and 1 abstention all were in favour that legal advice be sought and a letter be compiled as soon as possible.

It was noted that a petition had been created on social media regarding the adornment removal at the cemetery. This is to be deferred to the Cemetery Working Group.

Meeting ended 9:00pm