

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 14 January 2014 at 7.00 pm at Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton, Norfolk

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Rosa McMahon – Reporter, Eastern Daily Press, District Councillor Claire Bowes

Members of the Public Present: One (1)

13/116 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors K Birch, R Crabtree, M Holmes R Ivory and JP McCarthy

13/117 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 26 November 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13/118 BUDGET AND PRECEPT CLAIM 2014/2015

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:
(8 voting for)

That the budget for 2014-2015 be ratified and that the precept of £199,704.00 be claimed from Breckland Council.

13/119 PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT SURFACE–WATTON SPORTS CENTRE

The Chairman informed Members that to remove the bark, back fill with soil and turf and install safety grass mats under the 2 bay swing would cost approximately £25,554.00.

It was agreed that further quotes be obtained, a check be made to see if there was any 106 money available for Watton and apply for a grant from Breckland Council.

13/120 WEDNESDAY MARKET GROWTH

Councillor Gilbert reported that he had been approached by a market stall holder regarding the future of the Wednesday Market.

The Clerk reported that over the past four to five years there had been over thirty stall holders with a variety of products who had attended the market but did not stay mainly due to lack of sales and not enough customers. Many of these had come on the recommendation of the existing stall holders. Councillor Bunning reported that the same problems had occurred with both the Entrepreneurs Market and the Farmers Market.

It was agreed that the stall holders be contacted to ask if they had any ideas as to how to attract new stall holders.

13/121 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION-REMEMBRANCE DAY FEEDBACK

The Royal British Legion thanked the Council for their hard work in making sure that the War Memorial was repaired in time for the Remembrance Day ceremony. They had asked for feedback from the Council on their views on last year's ceremony at the War Memorial, followed by the church service.

Members expressed mixed feelings on whether the ceremony and service which was traditionally held at 2pm in the afternoon should be moved to the morning in line with other Towns and Parishes.

It was suggested that instead of splitting the ceremony and the service, the whole event should take place at the War Memorial.

The ownership of the War Memorial was queried and it was agreed that this should be investigated.

13/122 REPORT ON WATTON FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENT AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Councillor Bunning reported that there had been wonderful support for the event from the Town Council, Town Team and the Stall Holders who took part.

After running costs a surplus of £296.40 was left which had been donated equally between the Town Council and the Town Team. Other donations had been given to Watton ATC Cadets, Army Cadets and the Watton Silver Band.

Councillor Bunning was thanked for all her hard work and effort that she had put into making the event so successful.

Members agreed that the new Christmas lights had been a huge success with the residents of the town and had been approached by many members of the public full of praise. One Member stated that he had not seen one single negative comment.

13/123 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW RESPONSE

It was reported and noted that the Council's application to Breckland Council to reduce the number of Town Councillors from 15 to 13 was taken to the General Purposes Committee which resolved that the review be deferred until the full District wide review was carried out.

13/124 REPORT ON OPEN SPACE TRANSFER –ABEL'S DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Rogers reported that part of the ground was covered with earth so it was difficult to see all the land and suggested that any decisions to accept the land be delayed until the site had been cleared.

It was agreed that no decision be made to accept the land until it had been cleared and the amount of the commuted sum offered was confirmed.

13/125 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3PL/2013/1147/F – Defence Infrastructure Organisation, RAF Honnington, Bury St Edmunds – Proposed external children's play area adjacent to Building W37, Blenheim Centre, Tedders Close

The Council had no objection to the application.

The Meeting ended 7.28pm

JS