

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 14 May 2013 at 7.00 pm at Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton, Norfolk

Councillors Present: P Cooper- Chairman
L McCarthy – Vice Chairman
K Birch, R Crabtree, K Gilbert, M Holmes, R Ivory, J P McCarthy, A Osborn,
J Rogers, M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Breckland Ward Councillor - Clair Bowes and Rosa McMahon – Reporter,
Eastern Daily Press

Members of the Public Present: Three (3)

240 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors B Bunning, R Turner, P Blackmore and R Ivory.

241 INTERESTS

Item 244, New Planning Applications, Councillors J P McCarthy and L McCarthy declared personal interests in this item as friends of the applicant.

Item 247, CAB accommodation, Councillor J Rogers declared a personal interest as he was involved in recommending a grant for the CAB.

242 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 30 April 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

243 URGENT BUSINESS

243.1 The Chairman reported that the company chosen to refurbish the windows for Wayland Hall had stated that they could not commence the work for eight weeks which it was estimated would take four to six weeks to complete. Members expressed concern that there could be a problem with this timescale holding up the work on the adjacent building.

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Birch and

RESOLVED
(Unanimous)

That Councillor J P McCarthy negotiate with the owner of the Kings to allow time for the windows to be refurbished before any building work commenced.

243.2 The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed that three quotations be obtained to carry out a full survey on Wayland Hall.

244 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3PL/2010/2013/0378, Mr & Mrs Nichols, 26 Watton Green, Watton, OPP for Retirement Bungalow

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Crabtree and

RESOLVED

(Voting: 5 for with 2 against)

That refusal be recommended as the proposed development is outside the settlement boundary.

245 AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT

Members discussed the request from Councillor Bowes that the Council allow, live reporting at meetings.

Some Members agreed that the Council should move forward and embrace the new technology with Visual/Audio recording at meetings, which would allow greater participation for the public to be involved in Council debates.

Some Members were more cautious and felt that the Council must put in place a system which would enable the Council to record a master copy. One Councillor did not think it necessary to record meetings and referred to a case many years ago which embroiled the Council in a legal case.

It was proposed by Councillor J P McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Wassell and

RESOLVED

(Voting: 8 for with 1 against)

That live reporting at meetings be agreed and that Council meetings be recorded with a master copy being held by the Council and that anyone attending could also record Council meetings, but that this would not commence until the Council had moved back into its Council Chamber and the equipment put in place.

246 COUNCILLORS DOCUMENTS POLICY

Councillor Holmes asked for clarification of how Members should be communicated with and receive documentation.

Members' opinions were split on whether they wished to receive hard copies or documents by e-mail. The Clerk understood that Agendas should be in hard copy and delivered to the Members' residences to comply with current requirements, but this would be clarified. The Clerk was asked to check this with NALC.

It was agreed that each Member should choose themselves how they wished to receive documents and let the Clerk know their preference.

Councillor J Rogers left the meeting at this point.

It was Proposed by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Wassell in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and

RESOLVED:

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted relating to CAB accommodation, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

247 CAB ACCOMMODATION

It was agreed in principle that negotiations with the CAB to re-locate to Wayland Hall should be entered into.

The Meeting ended 7.47pm

JS