

**Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 7.00 pm at Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton, Norfolk**

Councillors Present: J Rogers Chairman  
K Birch Vice Chairman  
B Bunning, P Cooper, R Crabtree, K Gilbert, M Holmes, J P McCarthy,  
L McCarthy and M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: District Councillor Claire Bowes and County Councillor Stan Hebborn

Members Failed to Attend: A Osborn

Members of the Public Present: Six (6)

**14/13 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor P Blackmore, R Ivory and R Turner and Julian Horn – Editor Wayland News and Breckland View

**14/14 INTERESTS**

Item 14/30 1.2 Grants - Councillor M Wassell declared a personal interest in this item as his wife is a member of the Evening Women's Institute.

Item 14/31 Watton Medical Practice – Councillor J Rogers declared a personal interest as one of the patients de-registered.

Item 14/31 Watton Medical Practice – Councillor M Holmes declared a personal interest as a member of the patient liaison Committee.

Item 14/31 Watton Medical Practice – District Councillor Claire Bowes declared a personal interest as a member of the Breckland Council Task and finish group which will be looking at the problems of the Watton Medical Practise.

**14/15 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 10 June 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14/16 COMMUNITY REPORTS**

**1.1 Police**

Crime Figures previously circulated

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the police asking them to address the situation of cycling on pavements which had once again increased.

**1.2 District Councillor Keith Gilbert**

Councillor Gilbert reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the overview and scrutiny commission where a number of issues had been resolved.

A Task and Finish Group had been set up to investigate the Watton Medical Practise. He would not be able to be on the group as he was a patient but would be attending the meetings and permitted to speak.

**1.3 District Councillor Michael Wassell**

Report Submitted. Appendix 'A'

**1.4 District Councillor Claire Bowes**

Councillor Bowes reported that she was a member of the Task and Finish Group which would be investigating the Watton Medical Practise.

## **1.5 County Councillor Stan Hebborn**

Report Submitted. Appendix 'B'

County Councillor Hebborn reported that he had met with NHS England regarding the Watton Medical Practice and found them very unhelpful. He had asked what message he could take back to Watton and was met with no response.

He felt that a common stance should be taken by all authorities and interested parties.

He stated that the Watton Medical Practice had never had a full complement of Doctors and that the County as a whole had a shortage of forty seven doctors.

County Councillor Hebborn said he would be on Radio Norfolk and "Look East" supporting elected Members working together. He felt there was too much negativity on social medial sites.

He also reported that there was now better broadband connection and that the recent Car Rally in the Town had been excellent.

County Councillor Hebborn left the meeting due to other business commitments

### **14/17 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Vice Chairman attended the following events:-

- June 8<sup>th</sup> – Watton Carnival
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Classic Car Rally
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Armed Forces Day

Councillor Birch had met Mr Halliwell at the Lovell Gardens Play area to see the problems with the rubbish which littered the site.

### **14/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Halliwell had complained many times about the problem with litter at the play area and had carried out a litter pick himself. He produced a large sack of rubbish to demonstrate the amount which had been collected along with various pictures of the litter taken at various times.

He had met with a PCSO before the meeting who had suggested that a community group be formed and extra bins be placed on site.

A member of the public voiced his concerns about the future development of more houses with no infrastructure in place to cope with the new influx of people.

A member explained that although it seemed strange, planning applications were not decided on infrastructure which always followed afterwards.

### **14/19 LOVELL GARDEN ISSUES**

The Council had been asked to look at parking issues at Lovell Garden Play area.

Councillor Wassell suggested that a Residents' Association be set up, which could apply to Breckland to look at green open space conversion.

The Residents' Association could also apply for funding for various projects or apply to the Town Council to look at taking over the sites.

### **14/20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman attended the following events:-

- June 7<sup>th</sup> – Twinning
- June 8<sup>th</sup> – Watton Carnival
- June 13<sup>th</sup> – Mayor of Thetford Civic Reception
- June 15<sup>th</sup> – Mayor of Thetford Civic Service
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Classic Car Rally

- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Armed Forces Day

#### **14/21                    PAYMENTS**

It was agreed that payments for June 2014 be approved

#### **14/22                    AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

It was proposed by Councillor K Birch, seconded by Councillor M Wassell and

RESOLVED

That the Audited Accounts be approved.

#### **14/23                    INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT**

It was proposed by Councillor K Birch, seconded by Councillor B Bunning and

RESOLVED

That the Internal Auditors Report be approved.

#### **14/24                    ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

It was proposed by Councillor B Bunning, seconded by Councillor K Birch and

RESOLVED

That the annual governance statement be approved

It was unanimously agreed that the Annual Return be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

#### **14/25                    INSURANCE**

It was proposed by Councillor M Holmes, seconded by Councillor B Bunning and

RESOLVED

That the Council agree to a five year agreement with Zurich Municipal.

#### **14/26                    WAYLAND PARTNERSHIP DEMENTIA AWARENESS PAPER**

Members fully supported the Dementia Awareness Paper and felt that both Members and staff should attend training.

Councillor Gilbert stated that he had attended a training session at Breckland and would highly recommend it.

#### **14/27                    PLANNING**

3PL/2014/0558/F – Mid Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau – Replace existing modular cabin with portakabin, Watton The Cabin, Harvey Street

It was proposed by Councillor P Cooper, seconded by Councillor R Crabtree and

RESOLVED

That no comment be made as the Council was the Trustee of the Charlotte Harvey Trust.

3PL/2014/0618/F – Mr Parrot, Wood Field Farm Cottage, Sleigh Lane, Thetford Road, Griston – Erection of single story domestic garage

No Comment was made.

#### **14/28                    ABEL DEVELOPMENT**

It was agreed that Councillors J Rogers, P Cooper and R Crabtree arrange a meeting with Mr Abel to discuss the fencing of the attenuation Tank.

It was agreed that a five foot fence be erected round the attenuation Tank.

**14/29 STREET NAMING**

The developer Hopkins Homes had put forward the following four road names for their development on Thetford Road:-

Byfords Way  
Dudley Close  
Bowes Close  
Muston Walk

It was proposed by Councillor M Wassell, seconded by Councillor K Gilbert that all four names be accepted.

**14/30 GRANTS**

1.1 A Grant application has been received from Queens Hall Watton

It was proposed by Councillor M Wassell, seconded by Councillor B Bunning and

**RESOLVED**

That a grant of £500 be awarded to Queens Hall Watton

1.2 A Grant application had been received from the Watton Evening Women's Institute

It was proposed by Councillor J P McCarthy, seconded by Councillor R Crabtree and

**RESOLVED**

That a grant of £320 be awarded to the Watton Evening Women's Institute.

**14/31 WATTON MEDICAL PRACTICE**

The Chairman allowed at his discretion Members to discuss a response to the Daily Mail and BNP comments relating to the Watton Medical Practice.

Councillor Holmes who is a member of the Patient Liaison Committee was concerned about the many rumours regarding the surgery and felt that the surgery needed support as it was doing a good job and gave excellent service. This was supported by other members.

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

**RESOLVED**

(Voting: 11 for with 1 against Councillor J P McCarthy)

That the following statement be issued by the Council:-

This Council utterly condemns the racially intolerant and inaccurate post on social media and local and national press by the British National Party and UKIP regarding the current problems at Watton Medical Practice.

This Council is aware of the various problems facing Watton Medical Practice, and will co-operate with any inquiry into these problems, with the hope of finding suitable resolutions for all people using the practice.

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It was also agreed that the Council arrange a closed meeting with the Practice Manager.

**14/32 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was Proposed by Councillor K Gilbert, seconded by Councillor M 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 Staffing Matters, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

## 1.1 Staffing Matters

It was proposed by Councillor K Birch, seconded by Councillor J Rogers and agreed that the Council offices be fitted with a Security System for the protection of staff.

The Meeting ended 8:55 pm

JS