

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 24th November 2015 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors Present: Ken Birch Chairman, Beryl Bunning – Vice-Chairman, Kevin Abbott, Peter Bishop, Richard Crabtree, Jennie Fishlock, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Margaret Holmes, John Rogers.

Officers Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk, Michelle Craigie Administration Assistant

County Councillor Claire Bowers
District Councillor Michael Wassell

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Keith Gilbert were accepted by all. Apologies received from Janet Brown and Emma Parker - 6 voted to accept the apologies 4 voted against.

2. INTERESTS

No Declaration of Interests made.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 10.11.15

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following:

7th November – St Mary's Church Remembrance event

8th November – Laid Remembrance wreath

11th November – Remembrance silence at Chaston Place

15th November – WW1 service at Sports Centre

23rd November – met EDP photographer at Wayland Hall

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman attended the Remembrance silence at Chaston Place.

Plans for the Festive Market were outlined and jobs allocated.

4.3 Police Report

No Police present.

4.4 County Councillor's Report

Claire Bowers was elected as County Councillor for Watton following a by-election on November 19th and therefore relatively new to post. She has however been investigating recent reported problems with the delivery of post in the Town.

4.5 District Councillor's Report

- Michael Wassell reported that the Local Plan will be considered by Breckland Council cabinet on December 1st with public consultation to take place in January 2016.
- Breckland Council draft budget for 2016/17 is being prepared. The Council has aspirations not to be reliant on Central Government funding.
- Town and Parish Council Forum will take place at Swaffham Green Britain Centre on December 2nd at 6.15pm.
- High levels of contamination (non-recyclables) are being seen in recycled rubbish which Breckland Council is keen to avoid.

4.6 Clerk's Report – report filed with verbal update given.

- An initial approach to Heritage Lottery Funding for financial assistance with the clock tower has confirmed that before any application could be considered a survey of the work which would be needed on the building must be undertaken. This matter will be an agenda item again for the next Council meeting on January 12th when a decision regarding the proposed survey will be made.
- One volunteer has submitted an expression of interest regarding joining the Council and therefore co-option will be considered.
- A meeting of relevant agencies has been arranged at Westfield School on November 30th to consider the issues of parking around the school.
- Road closure notification received – Harvey Street December 7th – 9th.
- Dates of meetings 'Re-imagining Norfolk' copied to Councillors.
- Crime figures for parishes can be found at <http://www.norfolk.police.uk/aboutus/yourrighttoinformation/streetlevelcrime.aspx>
- Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel meeting 25.11.15 at Watton Fire Station.

5. ACCOUNTS

5.1 Payments were agreed as presented.

Declarations of interest made by Beryl Bunning, Stan and Sue Hebborn and Jennie Fishlock. Therefore payments approved by 4 votes with 1 abstention.

5.2 2016/17 Budget

Councillors were presented with up to date expenditure against the budget and past budget comparisons with a view to setting the precept request in January. It was agreed to hold a meeting to consider the 2016/17 budget and there will therefore be a meeting on January 5th 2016 with the budget and ring fenced money as the only items on the agenda.

A request was made for the hire of the Industrial Unit at Linmore Road to be considered at the next meeting of the Town Council.

5.3 Purchase of Christmas Lights

New lights were to be purchased together with previously hired lights, but as none have proven to be suitable no purchase is to be made this year.

5.4 Use of the Community Rehabilitation Team

The Community Rehabilitation Team has been engaged at £75 per day to decorate rooms at Wayland Hall and to undertake some clearance of overgrowth at Bridle Road Play Area.

All were in favour of using the Rehabilitation Team again should suitable projects arise.

5.5 Clearing Guttering at Wayland Hall

One quote has been received to clear the guttering at Wayland Hall. It was suggested the roof should be cleaned at the same time thus quotes will be sought. It was agreed by all that legal advice should be obtained if necessary regarding permitted access to the roof.

5.6 Pollarding of Lime Trees at Church Walk

Three quotes were presented for pollarding of the trees at Church Walk. It was agreed by all to accept the quote of £3865 plus VAT for the work to be undertaken.

6. *PUBLIC PARTICIPATION*

No members of the public present

7. **MUSEUM FOR WATTON**

It was agreed by all, with 1 abstention, to grant £500 to the Museum for Watton group.

The group will be invited to approach the Town Council again with their plans if they are still interested in the use of rooms at Wayland Hall.

8. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME**

It was agreed by all to accept the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme as presented.

9. **CHURCH WALK**

Crime prevention advice has been received from Norfolk Constabulary regarding how anti-social behaviour issues in Church Walk may be addressed. The Council has considered the report and appropriate responses will be made, including painting out graffiti on a litter bin and continued monitoring of rubbish in the vicinity.

10. **PLANNING – consultations for consideration**

10.1 3PL/2015/1307/F Single storey front extension Princess Close.

No objections raised

10.2 3PL/2015/1322/F Demolition of 21 Swaffham Road & associated outbuildings & erection of 23 dwellings and garages.

No objections raised

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

Town Council meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – no members of the public present

12.1 CEMETERY RULES

New draft rules for the Cemetery previously presented to Councillors will be adopted with minor amendments made as suggested. The rules themselves remain unchanged with the revised version to be published with rewording of some points for clarification.