

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 25 November 2014 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors Present: J Rogers Chairman, K Birch Vice Chairman, P Blackmore, B Bunning, P Cooper, R Crabtree, J Fishlock, S Hebbon, M Holmes, J P McCarthy, L McCarthy, R Turner and M Wassell

Officers Present: J Scarrott acting as Locum Clerk

Others Present: District Councillor Claire Bowes

Members of the Public Present: (5) Five

**14/221 APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor K Gilbert.

**14/222 INTERESTS**

No interests declared.

**14/223 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11 November 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14/224 COMMUNITY REPORTS**

**1.1 Police**

Two members of the SNT were present and an update was given regarding the two priorities of current focus to the SNT. Issues of anti-social behaviour around the Sports Centre and in the town centre are being addressed but the current priorities are to be re-considered at the SNAP meeting to be held on 26.11.14.

Discussion took place regarding assistance for the homeless as there is concern for an individual from the community who is known to have no fixed abode.

**1.2 District Councillor Michael Wassell**

A verbal report was given by Cllr Wassell and is attached as appendix A.

**1.3 District Councillor Claire Bowes**

Cllr Bowes encouraged all to get involved with the current consultation regarding the Breckland Local Plan.

**1.4 County Councillor Stan Hebborn**

Cllr Hebborn reported that recent alterations to the yellow lines and parking bays in the town was working as anticipated and assisting traders by accommodating deliveries. There has been some zealous parking enforcement however relating to deliveries and loading/unloading and Breckland Council will be consulted regarding this.

The Community Rangers are to visit the area in the near future so any suggested work for them should be passed to the Clerk.

The recently introduced changes to household waste collection are believed to have increased recycling rates considerably.

There are moves to develop RAF Coltishall and businesses are expressing interest in hiring hanger and runway space.

Some concern was raised regarding mud on Thetford Road. The Highway Engineer has been informed of this as there is an obligation on the developer to keep the road clear. It was resolved that any concerns should be directed through Cllr Wassell to Breckland Planning Team. Similar concern was also voiced relating to Norwich Road in the area opposite Watton Green Road.

It was noted a new footpath is being installed along Thetford Road which is adding to problems around the area due to traffic management.

**14/225 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No matters raised.

**14/226** The planned presentation regarding safety at the Festive Market was not given as the speaker was unable to attend the meeting. The Chairman requested that all be observant and diligent during the event.

**14/227 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that he had attended an interesting meeting at Little Cressingham regarding fostering within the County.

**14/228 VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Both the Vice-Chairman and Chairman attended Remembrance Day services.

**14/229 NOTICE AND ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING PUBLIC RIGHT TO FILM COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The recommended NALC notice/announcement covering the public rights to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of a meeting of the Council or its committees when they are open to the public was approved.

**14/230 BRECKLAND GUIDANCE AND PROTOCOL ON PUBLIC RIGHTS TO FILM COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Breckland Guidance and Protocol on the public rights to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of a meeting of the Council or its committees when they are open to the public was approved.

**14/231 PAYMENTS**

Payments for November 2014 were approved.

## **14/232 BUDGET 2015/16**

Two budget options had been presented to Councillors prior to the meeting. Consideration having been given to the two options it was proposed by Cllr Blackmore, seconded by Cllr Birch and agreed by the majority (2 abstentions) that the more prudent budget option of £215,731 be accepted.

## **14/233 GRANTS**

### **1.1 Watton Senior Citizens**

Cllr Crabtree declared an interest in this item as Treasurer of Watton Senior Citizens Party. Concern was raised that no financial statements were submitted with the application. It was agreed however that this matter will be addressed should a request be forthcoming in subsequent years but the majority (with one abstention) were in favour of a grant of £250 to be given to Watton Senior Citizens Party.

### **1.2 Watton Speed Watch**

Concern was raised that no financial statements were submitted with the application. It was noted however Watton Speed Watch is a volunteer organisation and no accounts are held. A request was made for the Town Council to receive copies of the receipts for the purchase of the jackets as requested for the £180 grant money. It was agreed by all that a grant of £180 be given to Watton Speed Watch.

The Town Council Grant Policy will be reviewed at a later date to address concerns raised.

### **1.3 Breckland Harmony**

It was agreed by a majority with 1 abstention that a grant of £250 be given to Breckland Harmony.

## **14/234 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1.1 3OB/2014/0012/OB - Aston Path Limited, Quinton House, Harvey Street, Watton. Application to modify or discharge a planning obligation. The modification refers to cancellation of provision of affordable housing at Quinton House but for a contribution to be made elsewhere. The Council had no objection to this application if the contribution is to remain in Watton.

1.2 3PL/2010/2014/112 - Proposed ground floor extension, rear porch and erection of double garage at 47 Griston Road, Watton  
No objection from Council.

1.3 3PL/2014/1125/F – erection of orangery to side at 4 George Trollope Road, Watton. No objection from Council. One concern however that the extension will protrude beyond the front of the property.

1.4 3PL/2014/1223/F – alterations and extension to 1 Monkams Drive, Watton  
No objection from Council.

**14/235            EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**It was proposed and agreed 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.**

## Report to Watton Town Council 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014

### Local Plan

Breckland has started consulting on a new Local Plan for the whole district. The consultation runs from the 17<sup>th</sup> November to 9<sup>th</sup> January. This consultation document is not specific to any particular site but offers an opportunity for Breckland Council to seek input and views from the widest range of statutory consultees including Parish Councils, interest groups and residents on the issues and priorities that should be considered when identifying and assessing potential future policies and proposals. I want to emphasise that the documents do not represent a statement of intent but are a starting point for discussion and debate on the direction of planning policy within Breckland for the next 15 – 20 yrs. Local Plans should be aspirational but realistic, addressing the implications of economic, social and environmental change. This consultation document covers key areas of policy such as:

- How much housing, (market and affordable) will be needed in the future and where it should be built.
- How much land we need to develop to support new jobs, including jobs in the rural economy.
- Town centre and retail strategies.
- Approach to market towns and villages.
- How to protect and enhance our special habitats, natural and historic landscapes.
- How to achieve development that contributes towards a high quality life for all.

There is a drop in session being held in the Queens Hall Watton on 27<sup>th</sup> November between 2pm and 7pm. Further information is available on the Breckland website.

### Recycling

Residents living in Breckland are being offered the chance to find out more about their improved recycling service by coming along to a roadshow event near them.

Breckland Council is holding the Recycling Roadshow to give people an opportunity to discuss the range of items which they can now put in their recycling bins and enable them to raise any questions they may have now they've had a chance to make use of the new service.

Residents will also be able to hear about the many Christmas-related items which could go in the recycling following the festive period, such as wrapping paper, cards, foil trays and glass bottles.

Since October, householders in Breckland have been able to recycle far more using their domestic recycling bins than ever before, following the launch of an improved countywide recycling service.

Glass jars and bottles, plastic food pots, tubs and trays, aluminium foil and foil trays, juice cartons, envelopes and shredded paper are all now accepted in mixed recycling collections, in addition to the previously accepted materials of card, paper, steel and aluminium cans and plastic bottles.

The expanded service means fewer materials will be sent to landfill and more will be sorted, processed and turned into useable item

The road show in Watton is on the 4 December between 9.30am-1pm at Tesco supermarket

### **Participatory Budget (Your Budget – Your Decision)**

On the subject of Grant Funding, I want to talk about an innovative funding project that is utilising some of the Pride in Breckland funding. Each market town in Breckland will be allocated £10,000 from Breckland funds to award grants to groups within the town and the surrounding villages. Groups and individuals within Watton and the Wayland villages will be able to submit applications for their particular projects. There is a minimum amount of £250 and a maximum of £1,000. The closing date for applications is 5pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015. The funding will be awarded by a public vote at a public event at Wayland Academy on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015. More details are available from me or from Jan Godfrey who is co-ordinating this for the Wayland Area. Please email me if you would like more information and please encourage groups that you are involved with to apply. I hope to have forms and details with me at the Festive Market on Sunday, in between looking after lost children!

I will happily answer any questions.