

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 6.30 pm

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

Councillors Present: Beryl Bunning –Chairman, Stan Hebborn – Vice-Chairman, Patrick Alzetto, Peter Bishop, Gavin Bulmer, Janet Carr, Daniel Fishlock, Jane Fountain, Keith Gilbert, Margaret Holmes, Maureen Roy, Patricia Warwick.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Sue Hebborn, Jennie Fishlock and Tina Kiddell.  
District Councillor Michael Wassell also sent apologies.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE**

Stan Hebborn noted that expenses for the Firework display are to be considered for refund to him under item 6.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 11.10.16**

The minutes of the meeting held on October 11th 2016 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman has attended the following:

12<sup>th</sup> October attended the weekly Country Market held in the Central Hall to join in with birthday celebrations.

12<sup>th</sup> October Inner Wheel lunch time concert.

19<sup>th</sup> October as president took the chair at Watton Society AGM.

20<sup>th</sup> October guest at Rotary Club Charter Night dinner.

21<sup>st</sup> October Wayland Partnership Tourism Conference.

23rd October Dereham Civic Service.

**2016 Festive Market Update:**

- Andrew Francis to again sponsor children's gifts.
- First Response confirmed attendance.
- Happy Feet Nursery and Wayland Partnership willing to allow car parks to be used on the day by band, entertainers etc.
- Booked entertainers Uncle Razz and Aunt Pearl will be promoted as children's entertainers rather than clowns.
- Marquee has been booked.
- Dereham Town Band has requested the use of 25 chairs to be placed in the marquee on the day.

Reference was made to the recent article published in the Eastern Daily Press relating to the financial position at Watton Sports Centre and whether the Town Council should respond.

Discussion took place with agreement reached that Keith Gilbert would raise relevant questions at the next Breckland Full Council meeting.

#### 4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman opened the Twinning Association Beer Festival. He has also attended the Thetford Battle of Britain Memorial Service and the question has been raised as to why no such service is held in Watton. The Vice-Chairman offered to investigate the possibility of working with the Royal Air Force Association to arrange an event.

#### Fireworks Event update

- Event Management Plan presented to Councillors.
- RAF providing generators for power.
- Volunteers established for set-up on Friday and Saturday and Sunday clear-up.

#### 4.3 Police Report

No Police present

#### 4.4 County Councillor Report

County Councillor not present

#### 4.5 District Councillor Report

Keith Gilbert informed the meeting that Breckland Council had engaged with Local Democracy week and various events had been organised to promote local democracy.

Concern was raised regarding the money passed from Breckland Council to the town councils and the fact that Watton seems always to receive the least. Breckland Council will be asked to explain and justify this.

#### 4.6 Clerk's Report

Hard copy of report presented to Councillors is filed.

Verbal update given:

- Norfolk Association of Local Council's AGM is to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> November at East Tuddenham Village Hall 10.00am– 1.00pm. Places need to be booked via the Town Council Office if Councillors wish to attend.
- Engaging with young people course to be run by Breckland Council November 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-8pm. Places need to be booked via the Town Council Office if Councillors wish to attend.
- Norfolk County Council is proposing a 20mph speed limit zone for Shire Horse Way, Saddlers Drive and Paddock Close. The question was raised as to whether all estates could be made 20mph zones.

- The Council has been allocated funding of £7754.70 from Breckland's Outdoor Sport and Play Fund to provide a "freestyler" in the Lovell Garden Play Area and adult gym equipment at Bridle Road. A photo opportunity has been arranged at Breckland Council to promote the award.

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*No members of the public present.*

## **6. ACCOUNTS**

Payments for October were accepted as presented.

Gavin Bulmer offered to research whether savings can be made on energy usage at Wayland Hall as the cost of gas for heating is astronomical.

## **7. BUDGET REVISION 2016/17 AND BUDGET PREPERATION 2017/18**

Councillors were presented with estimated figures for expenditure until the end of the financial year and suggested revision to the 16/17 budget to be considered and agreed at the next meeting of the Town Council.

Councillors were also presented with a first draft of the 17/18 budget for consideration. It was proposed and agreed by all that a Working Party Budget Group would be established with the sole task of assisting the Clerk to compile the draft budget to present at the Full Council meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Peter Bishop, Patrick Alzetto, Gavin Bulmer and Beryl Bunning will be members of the Working Party and will meet on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2.30pm at Wayland Hall.

Discussion took place regarding the release of budgeted funding to support Watton Sports Centre. Representatives of the Sports Centre have been invited to attend a meeting prior to the Full Council meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup> and once further information has been gained and facts established a well-considered decision can be reached regarding the request for £10000 funding which has been made by Watton Sports Centre.

## **8. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATIONS:**

8.1 It was agreed by all to sign up to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England Pledge regarding the allocation of no new sites for house building in revised local plans until all existing allocations in current core strategies have been developed.

8.2 Breckland Local Plan interim consultation

All agreed that the Council will submit the following comments:

"Watton Town Council is very glad to note that there are no preferred options in the document.

Page 45, para 7.1 states that Watton has been identified for 1,305 dwellings over the plan period 2011 to 2036.

It is sincerely hoped that this number will not be exceeded during the plan period. 905 of this number has already been committed or completed as of 31st March 2016, and that in para 7.5 page 47 it states that 277 of the remaining 400 have recently received approval, leaving 123 to be delivered during the plan period to 2036. It is the Town Council's hope that any application to exceed this number will be strongly contested by Breckland Council.

Page 45 para 7.3 talks about landscape character and sensitivity to change, and states that there are three character areas, then goes on to talk about four.

The section starting “The final landscape area” and mentioning the Watton Airfield Plateau, states that it has a low sensitivity to change, despite the fact that, as mentioned, it contains Wayland Wood, an SSSI. The Town Council would suggest that this be changed to a very high sensitivity to change.

The section starting “Land to the south west” talks about the SPA relating to Stone Curlews, stating that it is within the SPA. However no mention is made of sensitivity.

The Town Council would like the area to be designated as having a very high sensitivity to change.

Pages 47 to 50. Alternative Options.

As the allocation for Watton is virtually fulfilled for the duration of the plan period to 2036, the Town Council would like to see all the Alternative Option sites included in the Unreasonable Options sites list. This would allow for any small scale, maybe specialist dwellings, to be considered during this period. As the number of dwellings to be considered during this period is only 123, this equates, on average, to just over 6 dwellings per year.”

### 8.3 Precept consultation

All agreed to respond to the consultation as forwarded by Norfolk Association of Local Councils relating to precept referendums.

The Council is against the proposal “that referendum principles are introduced for town and parish councils whose Band D precept is higher than that of the lowest charging district council for 2016/17 (75.46), and which have a total precept for 2016/17 of at least £500,000.....”

## 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT

No applications for comment received

.