

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 27th September 2016 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors Present: Beryl Bunning – Chairman, Stan Hebborn, Patrick Alzetto, Peter Bishop, Gavin Bulmer, Janet Carr, Jennie Fishlock, Jane Fountain, Sue Hebborn, Margaret Holmes, Tina Kiddell, Patricia Warwick.

Officers Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Daniel Fishlock, Keith Gilbert and Maureen Roy.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

No Declarations of Interest made.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 13.09.16

The minutes of the meeting held on September 13th 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 welcomed new members of the Council – Patrick Alzetto and Gavin Bulmer.

The Mayor has attended the following:

14th September Coffee Morning. The Mayor thanked all involved including Tesco who provided cakes and allowed sale of cakes in the store. £124.05 raised for the Mayor's Charities.

17th September Social afternoon - thanks to Keith Gilbert and Rita for the hospitality.

18th September – Battle of Britain Service at Dereham (it has been queried why no Battle of Britain service is held in Watton).

19th September – Emergency Plan informal meeting with Tina Kiddell, Pat Warwick and the Clerk.

20th September – met new Councillors.

22nd September – opened new Army Cadets base and buried time capsule.

26th September – Wayland Partnership meeting.

27th September – meeting with members of the Loch Neaton Committee. Chairman gave a verbal update relating to the Loch Neaton area. It is hoped the Council may be able to assist the Committee which is in need of more volunteer help. It was suggested that a public meeting will be held to gauge what residents would like to see happen at the Loch and to promote the need for help with managing the area.

The Chairman gave an update on plans for the Festive Market. No marching youth band can be found for the afternoon but Dereham Town Band would be available to play at a cost of £200. It was agreed by all that Dereham Band be booked. Jennie Fishlock offered to make enquiries regarding hire of a marquee for the event.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice- Chairman attended the Thetford Battle of Britain service.

He also attended a meeting with the Chairman and Paul Adcock, who is a trustee of the Rainbow Project which was originally established to provide for youngsters in the town, to look at how money still held by the Charity may best be used.

The Vice-Chairman gave a verbal update regarding the planned firework display to be held on Saturday October 29th. Councillors were presented with a hard copy update of the plans for the event.

The Chairman would like to sell Glowsticks at the Firework Event which will be purchased by the Town Council.

The Council unanimously approved purchase of banners to advertise the event at an estimated cost of £100 and torches. Both purchases will be within the £10,000 allocated for the event. The cost of providing a night watchman, again within budget, was also agreed by all.

Councillors were asked to volunteer to assist on the day with Jennie Fishlock and Gavin Bulmer offering to act as Lost Children Officers.

A vote of thanks was voiced for the Vice-Chairman for his comprehensive written update on the event.

4.3 Police Report – no Police present.

Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Team Meeting held on 21.09.16 attended by Pat Warwick, Michelle Craigie and myself. Main concern raised was relating to vehicles speeding within the town. Minutes of the meeting will be circulated to Councillors when received.

4.4 County Councillor Report – no County Councillor present

4.5 District Councillor Report – no District Councillor present

4.6 Clerk's Report

A copy of the written report presented is filed.

Verbal update given highlighting the following:

Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2016

Members of the Council are invited to attend the parade which is to assemble at the War Memorial car park at 2.00pm and march to St. Mary's Church for the Remembrance Service at 3.00pm.

The Town Council has been asked to cover the public liability insurance for the event and it will be checked whether the Council's Insurers will accept this.

Justine Sherburn from Zurich Insurance will be assisting to update the Town Council insurance schedule against the asset register. The Clerk and Vice-Chairman are to meet with Justine on October 5th.

Highway Rangers

Norfolk County Council Highway Rangers are coming to Watton soon.

Any suggestions for work for the Rangers to undertake can be passed to the Town Council Office to forward to the Rangers.

Norfolk Precept Consultation – information forwarded to Councillors

Consultation will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Breckland Local Plan Consultation

The Local Plan will be an agenda item for the next meeting should the Council wish to compose a response to the consultation.

Breckland Council is running drop in sessions across the district for this interim consultation – Watton Sports Centre on 4th and 17th October 2-8pm.

Consultation documents can be viewed online at <http://consult.breckland.gov.uk>

What Watton Wants has approached the Council with a request that the group be permitted to hold a stall on market day to provide information on the planning appeal in respect of development at land south of Mallard Road.

It was agreed Peter Bishop will man a “surgery” stall which can be shared by What Watton Wants.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present

6. ACCOUNTS

6.1 Payments for September were accepted as presented.

6.2 Councillors were presented with a financial update with figures shown against the budget six months through the financial year. Some consideration will need to be given to virement between budget allocations and this will be considered further at the next meeting.

6.3 Consideration should begin to be given for the 2017 budget provision and it was agreed the Town Council meeting will start at 6.30pm on October 25th with an hour to be dedicated to budget discussion.

7. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORK

Sports Centre Play Area

It was agreed by 10 in favour and 2 against to accept the revised quote received to recover the entire surface at the Sports Centre Play area with bark chips. The work will include grinding out three large tree stumps and removing grass. Total cost £3358.80 plus VAT.

Lovell Gardens Play Area

It was agreed by 9 in favour with 3 against to remove the swing at Lovell Garden Play Area as the safety matting beneath the swing needs repair. The position regarding the swing will be further considered when budget commitments are reviewed at the Town Council meeting on October 25th.

Allotments

Complaints have been received that the vacant allotment plots at the Thetford Road site are not being adequately managed by the Town Council as they are being left very overgrown.

A proposal was made to offer free use of an allotment to the Men's Shed group in exchange for the group clearing and maintaining the vacant allotments. All in favour of this approach.

A proposal was also made and agreed by all to allow residents of neighbouring parishes to lease an allotment if no Watton residents are listed as wanting an allotment.

8. TRAINING

All were in favour of a whole council training session being arranged for a Saturday morning.

9. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2016

The quote received from the Council's preferred contractor was considered and accepted. A price will be obtained to extend the lighting further down the High Street and for additional lights for the Christmas Tree.

Gavin Bulmer offered to assist with erection of the lights if this would help to keep the cost of providing the lights down.

10. TREES FOR JUBILEE GARDEN

It was agreed that the £250 funding for Jubilee Garden received from the Eastern Daily Press Community Chest should be put towards purchase of apple trees as researched by Keith Gilbert and that any remaining money from the £250 should be spent on bulbs. Keith Gilbert to source.

11. GRANT APPLICATIONS/DONATIONS

11.1 Good Companions, Ashill

Application for £500 was unanimously turned down.

11.2 Wayland Partnership Development Trust

Application for £300 to support Wayland Book Week 2017 was accepted with only one vote against.

11.3 Watton Sports Centre

Watton Sports Centre has historically received an annual donation from the Town Council and the request for a £10000 contribution for the current financial year was considered by the Council.

The Council would like closer liaison with the Sports Centre Committee and ***it was proposed that the Council should request that a representative from the Council be invited to attend meetings of the Sports Centre Trustees*** to provide regular communication between the Council and the Sports Centre before a decision regarding any further donation is made. The Council would be in a better position to make a decision regarding whether £10000 of public funding should be passed to the Sports Centre if a representative were to attend meetings of the trustees of the Sports Centre.

The proposal made was supported by a very close majority.

11.4 Citizens Advice Mid-Norfolk

Generic letter requesting funding support received from the Citizens Advice Mid-Norfolk. ***It was agreed with two abstentions that no donation would be made at the current time.***

12. WATTON SOCIETY ANNUAL QUIZ

It was agreed the Council will enter a team in the Watton Society Annual Quiz.

13. EMERGENCY PLANNING ROADSHOW

The Chairman, Tina Kiddell, Pat Warwick and the Clerk met with Chris Crawley, Breckland Council Resilience Officer on 19.09.16 to consider the way forward regarding an Emergency Plan for the town.

Since that meeting however it has been discovered that Breckland Council has an Emergency Rest Centre Plan in place for the town and thus any further work on a community plan by the Town Council has been put on hold. Therefore no roadshow will be staged.

14. PLANNING NOTIFICATIONS

Application for consideration:

14.1	3PL/2016/1094/F erection of detached dwelling on land adjacent 26 Merton Road	No objections raised
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