

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 28th April 2015 at 7:00pm at Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG in the Council Chamber.

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

Officers Present: M Craigie – Administration Assistant

Others Present: PCSO Rob Coates

Members of the Public Present: 2 (Two)

14/319 APOLIGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J P McCarthy and P Blackmore

14/320 INTERESTS

Councillor B Bunning declared a prejudicial interest in Item 9 on the agenda (Fabric and Colour of Modesty Cloths for the Council Chamber)

14/321 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 14th April 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

A query was raised from the Chairman in regards to item 2 on the Underline items (Grass Cutting Contract) in regards to if it is breach of the Code of Conduct, this will be investigated into further.

14/322 COMMUNITY REPORTS

1.1 Police

PCSO Rob Coates gave a verbal report of the crime figures received for the town in March It does stated in the crime statistics that there were 2 car thefts in Watton but were found to be domestic related.

At the last snap meeting on 1st April 2015

Current priorities are:-

1. Cycling on the paths ways are still an ongoing item, 30 people have been stopped by the police and been cautioned.

2. Anti Social Behaviour at lime tree Walk – Alcohol has been confiscated.
3. ASB at St Mary's Church
4. Anti Social Behaviour in playgrounds particularly the Youth and Community Centre,
There was found to be a big group of youths, that were loitering around the centre but they have now moved to the bottom of the field. The police are aware of their drinking and this is still a high priority.

PSCO Coates updated the Councillor as to when the next SNAP meeting is being held which is 27th May 2015.

Wattons local homeless man has been arrested for breach of his Drinking ASBO and indecent behaviour; he is currently in HMP Norwich awaiting Crown Court.

The chairman raised the concern of speeding around the Town and that he had not seen any police or speed guns in recent months, This will be passed onto the relevant person.

Councillor Hebborn enquired about the local speed watch group and whether they are still up and running as the council has given them a grant for their hi vis jackets. This will be followed up.

There will be a speed awareness presentation at Wayland Academy in the near future.

1.2 District Councillors K Gilbert and M Wassell

Councillor K Gilbert has nothing to report at this time.

Copy of the Verbal report given by Councillor M Wassell is attached as 'Appendix A'

1.3 County Councillor S Hebborn

County Council is still in Purdah

Councillor S Hebborn stated in his report that RAF Coltishall Solar Farm went live in March and will generate a minimum of 10 Million pounds over the 25 year life of the farm.

As County Councillor he had received complaints regarding the Roadwork's at the Signals Development on Norwich Road.

Councillor Hebborn has spoken to Norfolk County Council Highways and has instructed Officers to speak with the developers regarding the problem being caused by the development being constructed "Out of Sync"

The question was also asked who was funding the Roundabout (Map Attached) "Appendix B" Councillor Hebborn is still awaiting a reply from Norfolk County Council Highways on the Roadwork's Update, including who is funding the Roundabout.

It was proposed by Councillor K Gilbert

Voting: Unanimously agreed

That a letter be written to Norfolk County Council Highways on the matter of the roundabout on Norwich Road.

14/323 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A matter was raised by a Member of the Public in regards to the Roundabout on Norwich road (The Signals) The Member of the public enquired as to who was funding the Roundabout, Was it the developer? Or tax payers?

Councillor Hebborn passed his contact details on to the gentleman, once the information needed is found County Councillor Hebborn will reply personally to the member of the public then report back to the Council.

14/324 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman gave a verbal report of events that he had attended in April 2015

12 April – Ladies Cycle Ride in aid of Breast Cancer

17th April – Mayors Civic Reception

21st April – Chairman of Breckland Robert Kybird Reception

27th April – Official opening of Little Acorns outside Play Area

14/325 VICE CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Vice Chairman gave a verbal report of events that he had attended in April 2015

17th April – The Mayors Civic Reception

27th April – Official opening of Little Acorns outside Play Area

14/326 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for April 2015 be approved as presented. (List Attached Appendix C)

Councillor P Cooper enquired about the Watton Carnival Committee Grant, the Council agreed a grant of up to £750 but only had £642.00 left to allocate, it was rectified that the carnival grant would come out of the financial year of 2015-2016 allowance.

A comment from Councillor L McCarthy asking if the Insurance can be investigated for next year's renewal as its premium is very high.

Councillor R Crabtree inquired into the cost of the Chairman's Civic Reception this year in comparison with previous years. It was stated that there was an allowance of £3000 in the budget for the Mayors Civic Reception.

While the subject of the Civic Reception was brought up The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and thanked staff and all who helped in the preparation of the Reception.

Tim Daymond the entertainment at the reception had sent an email to Councillor Bunning with regards to him doing a short promotional video of the evening and has asked for some feedback from the Chairman and Members.

Proposed by M Holmes, seconded by K Birch

Voting: unanimously agreed

That the Payments for April 2015 be approved

14/327 COUNCIL CHAMBER MODESTY CLOTHS – COLOUR/FABRIC

The Council agreed on the Fabric of Iona and the Colour of Blue to be used for the Modesty Cloths around the 3 Head tables in the Chamber.

It was asked by B. Bunning if a clear picture of the Watton Logo could be found for the template of the embroidery.

14/328 PROPOSED GIFT OF 2 HORSE CHESTNUT TREES

A donation of 2 Horse Chestnut trees has kindly been offered to the town by a resident of Watton.

Councillor Rogers suggested that the trees be situated in Bridle Road where the previous tree had fallen.

Councillor Gilbert Suggested the Cemetery but this was not an ideal area as the cemetery may need extending at a future date.

Councillor Bunning Suggested Shire Horse Way in the Open Space but was told by Councillor Rogers there are trees already positioned there.

Councillor Turner recommended the top end of the Youth and Community Centre near the 2 sheds, this will be looked into.

Councillor M Wassell mentioned the Jubilee Gardens, which seems empty and neglected.

It was agreed that this item be discussed at a future meeting.

Will Smith of TTSR be contacted in regards to the Jubilee Gardens and the current contract.

14/329 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

3PL/2015/0414 – Mr Simon Hill, 17 Charles Avenue, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6BY – Proposed extension to front of property.

No Objection

3PL/2015/0436/F – Mr Paul Garner, WATTON, 3 South View Close, IP25 6NW – Re-design of dwelling.

No Objection

14/330 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor J Rogers, seconded by Councillor K Birch

In accordance with Standing Order No 66 and section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the Public and Press.

RESOLVED:

That in view of the Confidential Nature of the business about to be transacted relating to staffing and Tenders it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

Councillor K Gilbert asked why the CAB Grant was down as being discussed underline, it was verified as being a mistake and that this item would be referred to another meeting with the new Council.

It was agreed that the CAB Grant will not be discussed underline.

- 1.1 Staffing Matters
- 1.2 British Gas Plan
- 1.3 Tender – Grass Cutting of Shire Horse Way

The Meeting ended 8.01pm

MC