

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 28th July 2015 at 7.00 pm

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

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

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

2 members of the public were in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received and accepted from Beryl Bunning, Keith Gilbert, and Emma Parker.

2. INTERESTS

Stan and Sue Hebborn declared an interest in item 8.3 as they live adjacent to the site.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 14.07.15

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

It was noted that the Council would like to see a Councillor acting as observer at the Citizen Advice Bureau meetings. If any Councillor volunteers for this role in future then they will take precedence over any non-Councillor “rep”.

Ken Birch and John Rogers asked that it be recorded that they had not agreed that Peter Bishop should speak on behalf of the Town Council at a recent meeting of Breckland Council Planning Committee.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman’s Report

The Chairman noted that as concern has been raised recently regarding the cost of running the Town Council Mini-bus further monitoring of the subsidy made by the Town Council should be undertaken with the view that all users of the bus should be asked to donate towards fuel at least. It is hoped that donations for running the bus would help alleviate the financial burden being placed on the Council.

The Chairman has attended the following events:

- 22.07.15 raising of the flag for Armed Forces Day
- 30.07.15 RAF Marham Open Evening
- 02.07.15 Wisbech Rose Fair
- 10.07.15 RAF Lakenheath Lunch Reception

- 11.07.15 Breckland Harmony Singing Together
- 18.07.15 Swaffham Market 800 year celebration
- 24.07.15 Norfolk County Council Summer Reception

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

No report as the Vice-Chairman was not present.

4.3 Police Report

No report as no representatives for the Police were present. Apologies had been received.

4.4 County Councillor Report

No meetings of the County Council have taken place since Stan Hebborn's last report to the Town Council so no report was given.

4.5 District Councillors Report

No report received.

4.6 Clerk's Report - copy attached

- It was agreed to join the Local Council Advisory Scheme at a cost of £95 plus VAT.
- It was noted that the Council is supportive of the proposed scheme to reduce the speed limit on a section of the A1075 Watton Road, from the south of Watton to the north of Stonebridge.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public who lives adjacent to the play area at Watton Sports Centre voiced complaints regarding activities at the play area. A copy of his concerns was handed to the Council and is filed. The gentleman was invited to write to the Council with the view that his letter will then be addressed.

6. ACCOUNTS

6.1 The revised budget as previously presented was accepted with one against and one abstention.

6.2 Payments presented for approval were agreed for payment. Copy attached.

6.3 Discussion during item 4.6 had led to a **resolution agreed by all** *to purchase a laptop for the Town Council with expenditure up to £500.*

6.4 It was **resolved** *by 6 votes for, 4 against and 1 abstention to purchase a flag up to the cost of £10 to be flown on Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September 2015.*

6.5 It was **resolved** *to adopt the grant application pack presented but with item 2 on page 2 to be removed and clarification to be made to state that applicants must attend the appropriate Annual Town Council Meeting following award of a grant.*

6.6 It was suggested that the Town Council would consider a donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) if the CAB provides a copy of its accounts to the Town

Council. Allocation has been made in the budget for a donation for CAB but the Town Council still needs to decide whether the expenditure should be made.

6.7 It was **resolved** *to engage the current grounds maintenance contractor to cut back all allotment edges, strim down all the allotments that are not in use and weedkill all boundaries and perimeters at the Thetford Road allotment site at a cost of £250 plus VAT.*

7. PLANNING

7.1 3PL/2010/2015/0769/O – Erection of 9 dwellings (outline) at rear of Audley House, 121A Brandon Road, Watton

No objections

Comment noted that the proposed development is adjacent to Peddars Way.

7.2 3PL/2010/2015/0768/F – Change of use of Unit1 from B1 (business) to part D2 (soft play centre) & part A3 (cafe) at Unit 1, Hillier House, Norwich road, Watton

No objections

7.3 Application to modify planning obligation - proposed extension of time for provision of Alternative Community Land at RAF Radar Site, Watton

The Council was unanimously against modification of the planning obligation originally agreed as part of a 106 agreement signed in 2008 and felt that no extension of time should be given.

8. It was **resolved** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

Following approach a local land owner addressed the Council regarding the possibility of an easement over Council owned land at Church Walk. The Council would need further clarification over what is being requested before any decision could be made.