

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 28th March 2017 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors Present: Beryl Bunning – Chairman, Peter Bishop, Jane Fountain, Margaret Holmes, Maureen Roy, Patricia Warwick.

Officer Present: Michelle Craigie Administration Assistant

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Tina Kiddell, Daniel Fishlock, Jenny Fishlock, Gavin Bulmer, Janet Carr, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn

No apologies were received from Keith Gilbert.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

No declarations of Interest were made

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 14.03.17

The minutes of the meeting held on March 14th 2017 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 informed council members of Gavin Bulmer's resignation.

It was asked that a letter be sent to Gavin in reply to his resignation letter.

The Chairman updated councillors on the Festive Market planning – The Action Plan was discussed

- It was unanimously agreed that £75.00 be accepted to book DJ Tim
- The Chairman was delegated to book the Smoke House Blues Band
- As Razz and Pearl entertainers are unable to make the Festive Market it has been asked that Justo James be contacted.

The Mayor has attended the following:

Thursday 16th March – Councillor Bill Borretts Civic Reception

Friday 17th March – Breckland Council Local Plan Meeting

Wednesday 22nd March – Twinning Association AGM

Friday 24th March – Meeting with MP George Freeman in regards to Flooding and Mallard Road appeal

Monday 27th March – Focus on Meeting with Revd Gerry Foster

Tuesday 28th March – Job Fair at the Queens Hall

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

No report was given as the Vice-Chairman was not in attendance.

4.3 Police Report – no Police present.

It was asked if the police be contacted in regards to the crime statistics and their lack of attendance at Council meetings.

4.4 County Councillor Report – A hard Copy of the report was given.

County Councillor Claire Bowes reported that Breckland Council is proposing to expand the Market Town Initiative. Meetings are to be held to discuss a way that works to support the Breckland market towns. By doing this it could see around 220k invested into promoting the town centres. Councillor Bowes informed the council that she will be highlighting Watton's issues as the discussions progress.

It was reported that Breckland Council will consult with local communities on using legislation that will give the council powers to deal with a wider range of nuisance behaviour. The Current Alcohol Exclusion Zones in the towns will become the Public Space Protections Order in October 2017 which will have wider powers. Breckland will be working with the police and town councils to develop tailor made PSPO's.

Breckland will be launching a programme of work to identify and tackle unsightly and neglected sites that have significant impact on their wider environment such as those that are publicly unsafe or attract anti-social behaviour. Breckland Council has limited power over privately owned sites but does have legislative power to require landlords to take action.

The issue of litter in the town is still being persuade.

4.5 District Councillor Report – No District Councillor was present

4.6 Clerk's Report - No written report as Clerk was on annual leave.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – *No members of the public present*

6. ACCOUNTS

6.1 Proposed by Councillor Holmes and Seconded by Councillor Bishop and voted unanimously that the payments for March were accepted as presented.

Bank balance provided to Councillors.

7. EVENTS WORKING GROUP MEETING

Proposed by Councillor Bishop and Seconded by Councillor Jane Fountain and Councillor Pat Warwick, all voting unanimously that the Notes and Action Plan from the meeting held on 14.03.17 were accepted.

8. GRANT APPLICATIONS

8.1 Grant application from Watton U3A

Proposed by Councillor Bishop and seconded by Councillor Fountain and agreed by all that £300 will be donated to Watton U3A as requested.

8.2 Grant application from St Mary's Church

The Town Council queried as to why on the grant application it states the cost of the project being £415.00 but £500.00 is being requested. Revd Gerry Foster will be contacted to clarify what the extra £85.00 is for. It was provisionally agreed that if written clarification is provided then the full £500.00 will be given and if not £415.00 would be awarded.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 3PL/2017/0284/HOU Demolition of existing flat roof side extension and erection of new side and rear single storey pitched roof extension 23 South Road, Watton

No Objections

9.2 3PL/2017/0300/F and 3PL/2017/0301/LB Listed Building consent for erection of stud wall and minor internal alterations/repair and Change of Use for mixed use Town Hall (B1) and Museum (D1)

No Objections

9.3 3PL/2017/0283/HOU Proposed extension to side and front of bungalow and removal of car port replacing with flat roof garage at 102 Brandon Road

No Objections

9.4 3PL/2017/0270/O residential development of five new dwellings at Richmond Hall, Saham Toney

No Comments were given as this planning application is not in the parish of Watton, but Watton Town Council fully support Saham Toney Parish Council on any comments made.

The meeting finished at 7:30pm