

**Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 28 October 2014 at 7.00 pm
at Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG in the Council Chamber**

Councillors Present: J Rogers Chairman
K Birch Vice Chairman
P Blackmore, B Bunning, P Cooper, R Crabtree, M Holmes,
J P McCarthy, L McCarthy, R Turner and M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Doug Faulkner – Reporter, Eastern Daily Press

Members of the Public Present: (4) Four

14/190 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor K Gilbert and County Councillor Stan Hebborn

14/191 INTERESTS

Item 14/202 – Watton Sports Centre Grant - Councillor JP McCarthy declared a prejudicial interest in this item as a Member of the Sports Centre.

Item 14/202 – Watton Sports Centre Grant – Councillors L McCarthy, P Cooper and R Crabtree declared personal interests as a Member, Employee and Trustee of the Sports Centre.

14/192 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 14 October 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/193 COMMUNITY REPORTS

1.1 Police

Crime Figures previously circulated

1.2 District Councillor Keith Gilbert

Report given Appendix ‘A’

Councillor Wassell stated this should not have come before Watton Town Council as this was done on behalf of Breckland District Council.

1.3 District Councillor Michael Wassell

Report given Appendix ‘B’

14/194 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Member of the public asked the Council to consider the creation of a habitat garden at the front of the Lovell Garden Play Park.

The Chairman advised that this was not Town Council land and County Councillor S Hebborn should be contacted to clarify the land ownership.

14/195 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Saturday	4 th October	Norfolk Knitters & Stitches Grand Exhibition
Monday	6 th October	Carbrooke School Event
Wednesday	15 th October	Watton Society AGM
Tuesday	21 st October	Budget Meeting
Thursday	23 rd October	Abel Homes unveiling of Shire Horse Artwork

14/196 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Tuesday	21 st October	Budget Meeting
Thursday	23 rd October	Abel Homes unveiling of Shire horse Artwork

14/197 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for October 2014 be approved

14/198 CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND – WATTON SPORTS CENTRE REPORT

The Chairman reported that the playground was now open again and that the wood chippings had been cleared away from the play area.

He also stated that no decision had been formally agreed regarding taking over the extra area to incorporate it with the existing play area.

Councillor Crabtree again stated that it had been agreed by the Sports Centre that the stumps be ground down.

Councillor Cooper suggested and it was agreed that the owner of the chestnut tree which overhung the Playground be written to asking that the overhanging branches be cut back.

14/199 TOWN AMBULANCE - PRINCES TRUST

The Chairman referred back to the previous meetings presentation by the Prince's Trust request for use of the Town Ambulance.

It was unanimously agreed that the Prince's Trust be allowed to use the Town Ambulance for their project.

14/200 WAYLAND HALL REPAIRS

Councillor JP McCarthy explained the problems with the roof on Wayland Hall with the chimney needing to be repointed, Moss removed from the tiles and guttering to be replaced. The aerial also needed removing. He felt this needed to be done whilst the existing scaffolding was there to save on costs.

It was proposed by Councillor P Blackmore, seconded by Councillor K Birch and

RESOLVED

That the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Councillor J P McCarthy and Councillor Wassell agree the work and the cost as a decision needed to be made before the next meeting.

14/201 MR HALLIWELL RESPONSE

A letter dated 16 October 2014 had been received raising the following points:-

- Council Minutes – the minutes of the meeting on 30 September 2014 were confirmed as a correct record at the following meeting on 14 October 2014 and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that there was no provision for challenge by a Member of the public against the Council's minutes.

- Town Hall Chamber – the comment made about a modesty cloth on tables on the raised platform was noted.
- Habitat Garden – this was dealt with earlier in the meeting – item 14/94 refers.
- New Housing Development – this was a matter for Breckland Council.

14/202 WATTON SPORTS CENTRE GRANT

Members agreed the Grant of £10,000 towards the maintenance costs of the land at the Watton Sports Centre (seven voting for and four abstentions).

14/203 RECORDING EQUIPMENT, HEARING LOOP AND MICROPHONE DECISION

The Chairman informed Members that the approximate cost of the equipment would be £10,000 to £15,000.

It was agreed that three individual quotes be sought for consideration of budgetary cost for 2015/16.

14/204 CHRISTMAS MARKET UPDATE

Councillor Bunning gave an update on the Christmas Market. A £100 donation had been pledged by Andrew Francis Funeral Director.

She said there were still concerns regarding the times that the lights could be put up.

It was agreed that the lights would be installed between the hours of 6-10pm and one Sunday on 16 November 2014. When making the decision, no costs had been given for the extra amount of work involved.

All Members offered to help on the day.

14/205 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1.1 3PL/ 2014/1054 – Mr & Mrs Easter, 38 Stokes Avenue, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6LP – Conservatory to the side of the property.

The Council had no objection

1.2 3PL/2014/1068 – Mr & Mrs Darkin, 26 Hunters Oak, Watton – Erection of two storey extension to house.

The Council had no objection

The Meeting ended 8:00 pm

JS