

**Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 30 September 2014 at 7.00 pm at Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton, Norfolk**

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Doug Faulkner– Reporter, Eastern Daily Press and District Councillor Claire Bowes, Dylan Halliwell, Robert Ferris and Vanessa King

Members of the Public Present: Four (4)

**14/155 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Cooper, M Holmes, P Blackmore, R Ivory and County Councillor Stan Hebborn

**14/156 INTERESTS**

Item 14/171 – Councillor Bunning declared a personal interest in planning application 3PL/2014/0778/CU as the property is next to her sons business.

Item 14/174 1.1 Councillors Crabtree and L McCarthy declared personal interests as a trustee and member of the Sports Centre respectively.

Item 14/171 – Councillor J P McCarthy declared a personal interest in planning application 3PL/2014/0924/F as the land bordered his land.

**14/157 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 29 July 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14/158 COMMUNITY REPORTS**

**1.1 Police**

Crime Figures previously circulated

**1.2 District Councillor Keith Gilbert**

Councillor Gilbert reported that he had been contacted by Hopkins Homes to engage in the Planning process for their new proposed development.

**1.3 District Councillor Michael Wassell**

Report submitted – Appendix 'A'

**14/159 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public stated that she was very pleased with the new recycling program which Councillor Wassell had spoken about in his report and welcomed it.

**14/160 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

14 September – Mayor's Civic Service  
15 September – Norfolk County Council Battle of Britain  
21 September – Battle of Britain Commemoration Service  
22 September - Watton District Guiding Association Mini Games Evening  
28 September – The Mayor of Wymondham Civic Service

**14/161 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

9 September – Norfolk Age UK Annual General Meeting  
14 September – Watton Town Council Mayor's Civic Service  
15 September – Scout Council Annual General Meeting  
17 September – Citizen's Advice Bureau Annual General Meeting  
21 September – Mayor of Dereham Battle of Britain

**14/162 PAYMENTS**

It was agreed that payments for September 2014 be approved.

**14/163 THETFORD ROAD ALLOTMENT COMPOST REMOVAL**

Councillor Wassell reported that he had received complaints regarding the compost heap at the Thetford Road Allotment site. Rubbish was being dumped by people who did not have an allotment. The general state of the allotments needed to be looked at.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should inspect the site and report back at the next meeting.

The Clerk had obtained a quotation from the Councils grounds maintenance Contractor T.T.S.R to remove the compost and the frame for £750.00.

It was proposed by Councillor Wassell, seconded by Councillor Turner and

**RESOLVED**

That the compost and frame be removed.

**14/164 BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW**

The Chairman informed Members that the Watton Ward would remain unchanged and continue with three ward Members.

Breckland would reduce its Members from fifty four to forty nine.

**14/165 OPEN SPACE AUDIT**

The Chairman suggested that Members attend the office to look at the map and give suggestions of any additional sites. Breckland's intention to protect sites which were open and available to the public.

**14/166 COMPLAINT – Councillor HEBORN**

Councillor Hebborn was concerned that the statement made by the Council at the meeting on 24 June 2014 inferred that he was a racist and was looking at the opportunity of a local resolution.

Members did not feel that Councillor Hebborn was a racist and wanted his support.

It was agreed that the Chairman would write a letter on behalf of the Council confirming that when making the statement it was not intended in any way to imply that he was a racist, His support and commitment to Watton was welcomed and it was hoped he would continue to work with the Council in the future.

#### **14/167            SMOKE DETECTOR ALARMS**

The alarm system contractors informed the Council that smoke detectors were needed in the new offices.

It was unanimously agreed that the new offices be fitted with smoke detectors at a cost of £446.55

#### **14/168            CEMETERY SEAT**

The office had received a request from Mr Gipp to have a seat in the Cemetery in memory of his wife who had been very active in the town joining the Twinning Association and making the dress for the princess for the carnival.

It was proposed by Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor Crabtree and

**RESOLVED**

(Voting 9 for with 1 Abstention)

That permission be given to Mr Gipp to place a seat in the Cemetery in memory of his wife under the Councils policy that after purchase it is owned and maintained by the Council.

#### **14/169            LOVELL GARDEN - ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Mr Halliwell had reported that he had called the police as a group of youths had set fire to rubbish on the Lovell Gardens play area.

This was part of an ongoing problem with litter and anti social behaviour which he had repeatedly reported to the Council, the police and the school.

Councillor Wassell said that he was aware of the problems and had been contacted by Mr Halliwell.

The Clerk suggested that Mr Halliwell should be thanked for his monitoring of the situation and confirmed that he was in regular contact with the office.

Councillor Gilbert stated that 20% of all anti social behaviour in Watton was caused by one individual.

Mr Ferris confirmed that there was litter every night and every morning. It was from children of all ages. He stated that the school had a moral responsibility for the children and had reported what was happening to the schools.

Councillor Wassell said that Mr Halliwell should be commended for what he was doing and asked him to extend that to others who were helping. Other Members agreed.

The Clerk suggested that the Council continue with Serco collecting the rubbish on Mondays and Fridays with the Town Handyman collect on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

It was unanimously agreed that Serco collect the rubbish on Mondays and Fridays

Councillor Gilbert suggested and was agreed that a movable CCTV Camera be investigated.

Mrs King gave an explanation of the work that the speed watch group had been doing. She said they had also been surprised at the speed some motorists were driving. She said they had been surprised at the roads where speeding occurred with Swaffham Road being one of the worst.

It was explained that the Council had budgeted for a VAS sign in this year's budget.

A Member said that the Speedwatch group should be commended for what they were doing and giving up their free time.

Councillor Wassell stated that Shipdham and Ovington had a movable camera and that the Council should contact them.

The Speedwatch group invited the Council to go along to observe what they were doing and how Speed Watch works.

3PL/2014/0720 – Mr Stuart Bennett, 5 Blenheim Way, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6XS – Single Storey living room and Utility room extension at rear of property.

The Council had no objection

3PL/2014/0732 – Norfolk Colonial Homes C/o Agent Mr David Futter, David Futter Associates Ltd, Arkitech House, 35 Whiffler Road, Norwich NR3 2AW – Proposed new bungalow to the rear amenity space of No.50 Norwich Road, Watton.

Members recommended refusal as it was out of keeping with the surrounding properties and no amenity land for the other properties.

3PL/2014/0846/F – Mr Kathirithamby Manickavasagar – The Post Office, 52 High Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AA – Proposed Single storey Rear Extension.

The Council had no objection

3PL/2014/0861 – Clayland Estate Ltd, The Glass House, Lynford Gardens, Lynford Road, Mundford, Norfolk IP26 5HW – Conversion of existing office into HMO at 1 Clayland House, Norwich Road, Watton IP25 6DA

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbert, Seconded by Councillor Turner and

**RESOLVED**

(Voting 5 for with 4 Against)

That refusal be recommended.

3PL/2014/0778/CU – Ms Salena Dawson, Dawsons Law, 20 Thetford Road, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6BS – Conversion of Non residential floor space to the rear of 18 Thetford Road into a 1 bedroom flat.

The Council had no objection

3PL/2014/0923/F – Miss T Goodings, 4 Malthouse Close, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6XH – Front Single storey extension to dwelling.

The Council had no objection

3PL/2014/0958 – Mr and Mrs E Poole, 67 Dereham Road, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6EZ – Erection of garage, change of roof tiles on existing bungalow and change of external wall finish on existing bungalow.

The Council had no objection

3PL/2014/0924/F – Abel Properties, Neaton Business Park, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6JB – Installation of A 225 KWD ground mount solar PV System.

The Council had no objection

3PL/2014/0968 – Mr Gary Wicks C/o Agellus Projects, Pound House, Garboldisham, East Harling, Norfolk NR16 2PR – Timber framed first floor extension to ground floor studio flat.

The Council had no objection

#### **14/172          DATE FOR INFORMAL MEETING – HOPKIN HOMES DEVELOPMENT**

The Clerk was asked to arrange a date for the Meeting.

#### **14/173          GRANTS**

##### **1.1          A Grant application has been received from Queen's Hall Carpet Bowls Club**

It was proposed by Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor Wassell and

RESOLVED

That a grant of £500.00 be awarded to Queen's Hall Carpet Bowls Club

#### **14/174          EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was Proposed by Councillor Rogers, seconded by Councillor Birch in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and

RESOLVED:

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted relating to Legal and contractual matters, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

##### **1.1          Watton Sports Centre**

Members agreed that the £10,000 grant be used solely for grounds maintenance work on the land and that the Sports Centre would need to inform the Council what work would be funded by the grant.

##### **1.2          Christmas Lights**

Members agreed to the breakdown of costs of the Christmas Lights and the on-loan protruding lights.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm

JS