

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors Present: Ken Birch Chairman, Beryl Bunning – Vice-Chairman, Kevin Abbott, Peter Bishop, Janet Brown, Richard Crabtree, Jennie Fishlock, Keith Gilbert, Sue Hebborn, John Rogers.

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

Press: Doug Falkner

6 members of the public were in attendance (the Chairman welcomed the Manager and Deputy Manager of Watton Tesco's).

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman requested a minutes silence in a gesture of condolence to the two local families who have recently lost loved ones in tragic circumstances.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Stan Hebborn, Margaret Holmes, Giselle Nind and Emma Parker.

**2. INTERESTS**

No Declarations of Interest declared.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 19.05.15**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORM – G NIND**

It was unanimously **resolved** that Giselle Nind would be given until the end of July 2015 to complete her Acceptance of Office form. She is unable to attend a meeting in the near future as she is away at university.

**5. DISPENSATION**

It was **resolved** that all Councillors should be granted a dispensation for their four year term to allow discussion of items relating to the Charlotte Harvey Trust. All Councillors are Trustees of the Charlotte Harvey Trust and thus the Council would have no one able to discuss matters relating to the Charity without dispensations being granted.

**6. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

The Chairman has attended the following:

23<sup>rd</sup> May – Affiliation event at Watton Sports Centre

26<sup>th</sup> May – 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for resident of Lime Tree Walk

1<sup>st</sup> June - Art exhibition Wayland Prison

3<sup>rd</sup> June – carpet bowls session

6<sup>th</sup> June – Dragonfly Coffee Morning

The Chairman suggested the Council should re-consider removal of moss from Wayland Hall and requested that Councillors personally inform the Town Clerk prior to Council meetings if they are unable to attend.

A plea was made for volunteers to assist with the Council tombola stall at Watton Carnival on June 14<sup>th</sup> and for any would be marshalls for the Car Rally on June 21<sup>st</sup> to contact Chris Edwards.

The Council will consider the provision of a water butt at the Thetford Road allotments and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

It was noted that rubbish collects in the pathway between Priory Road and Norwich Road. This will be monitored with consideration being given to siting a litter bin in the area.

## **7. 'WHAT WATTON WANTS' – PRESENTATION GIVEN BY PAUL ADCOCK**

Paul Adcock explained that 'What Watton Wants' has been organised as a group following the obvious local concern regarding the proposed large amount of development for the town. 63 members of the public attended an initial meeting. In the short term the group hopes to raise awareness to planning applications which are to be considered by Breckland Council on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. 5000 leaflets are being printed to encourage residents to submit comments regarding the developments. The group feels sustainable development should be promoted but would object to inappropriate large scale developments which do not fit in to the proposed locations. Looking forward the group would like to consider either compiling a Neighbourhood Plan or working more closely with Breckland Council to have input in the emerging Local Plan.

A website has been launched – [www.whatwattonwants.co.uk](http://www.whatwattonwants.co.uk) and leaflets promoting 'What Watton Wants' will be distributed at the carnival. Fact finding is also being undertaken to gauge how any development may impact Watton. The group may approach the Town Council to ask for a grant to assist with compilation of a Neighbourhood Plan if it is decided to follow this course.

## **8. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND FESTIVE MARKET**

It was **resolved** that Christmas lights would be provided in the town once again in 2015 and tenders will be sought.

It was also **resolved** that a Festive Market will be organised for November 29<sup>th</sup> when the Christmas lights will be switched on. Beryl Bunning offered to organise a working party to manage the event. Richard Crabtree, Jennie Fishlock, Janet Brown and Emma Parker volunteered to assist and a working party initial meeting will be held prior to the next Town Council meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **9. RELOCATION OF EXISTING 30MPH/NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT ON THE A1075**

All were in favour of the proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit in conjunction with the adjacent development along the Thetford Road but Councillors want the limit extended to beyond the end of the Barn Ruche premises and for a 40mph limit to be implemented from Barn Ruche to the straight at the end of Wayland Wood. This request will be passed to Norfolk County Council Highways Department.

## **10. TOWN TRIP 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**10.1** Following the trip around the town, held to show new councillors the town assets, it was agreed that there is no suitable location for two horse chestnut trees generously offered by a resident.

**10.2** No annual inspection of the play area at the Sports Centre appears to have been undertaken recently and it was **resolved** this should be rectified as soon as possible.

## **11. ACCOUNTS**

**11.1** Councillors were presented with a breakdown against the budget for 2014/15 and for the first months of 15/16. Some budget revision is suggested following analysis of last years expenditure and a meeting will be held on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to consider this.

**11.2** The 2015 Annual Return will be completed at the meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**11.3** It was **resolved** that a skip should be hired at a cost of £174 to enable rubbish at the Council storage unit to be disposed of.

**11.4** Consideration will be made at the meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding the purchase of hi-viz jackets and cones.

**11.5** It was unanimously **resolved** to purchase the publications "Local Councils Explained" and 'Local Council Administration'.

**11.6** It was **resolved** that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman should attend Chairmanship Training to be organised by Breckland Council on June 11<sup>th</sup>. It was also agreed a course for allotment management should be attended by a member of staff.

**12.** Consideration will be given at the meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to Councillors conducting a "weekly walk - about".

## **13. USE OF THE FORMER COUNCIL CHAMBER**

The Council is willing to consider the use of the former Council Chamber for a possible museum for the Town. However much would be needed to be taken into consideration before a final decision could be made. Those interested in establishing a museum will be approached again to discuss whether the room would be suitable for their plans.

#### **14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

14.1 Councillors were presented with a screening opinion relating to Loch Lane, Watton.