

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 26 February 2013 at 7.00 pm at Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk in the former Wayland Hall Luncheon Club area

Councillors Present: P Cooper Chairman
L McCarthy Vice Chairman
K Birch, P Blackmore, B Bunning, R Crabtree, K Gilbert, A Osborn, J Rogers, M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Rosa McMahon – reporter, Eastern Daily Press and District Councillor Claire Bowes.

Members of the Public Present: Six (6)

180 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors M Holmes, R Ivory, J P McCarthy and R Turner.

181 INTERESTS

Item 183, Councillor Wassell declared a personal interest as a Member of Breckland Council.

Item 191.1, Councillor Cooper declared a personal interest as an employee of the Sports and Recreation Centre Watton.

Item 191.1, Councillors Crabtree and L McCarthy declared a personal and prejudicial interests as Trustees of the Sports and Recreation Centre Watton.

Item 191.2, Councillor Cooper declared a personal interest as an employee of the Sports and Recreation Centre Watton.

Item 191.2, Councillors Crabtree and L McCarthy declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Trustees of the Sports and Recreation Centre Watton.

182 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 12 February 2013 with the amendment that Councillor Rogers was not present at the meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

183 BRECKLAND ACTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT

Councillor Gilbert addressed Members in favour of asking Breckland Council to transfer at nil expense the land adjacent to the Queens Hall.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

A representative of the Queen Hall explained that if the land was acquired it would allow them to build a single storey extension, housing a carpeted lounge and bar, storage facilities, office space and workshop.

Members advised that the Queens Hall Committee should make representation to Breckland Council.

It was proposed by Councillor L McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Birch and

RESOLVED
(Voting 9 for and 1 abstention)

That Watton Town Council support the application that the land be transferred to the Queens Hall at nil charge.

Members discussed the piece of land at Langmere Road.

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

RESOLVED

(Voting 9 for and 1 abstention)

That the land at Langmere Road remain in the control of Breckland Council and continue to be maintained by them.

Councillor Gilbert left the meeting due to illness.

184 COMMUNITY REPORTS **184.1 Police**

Crime figures previously circulated were noted.

184.2 District Councillors **184.2.1 Councillor Claire Bowes**

Councillor Bowes commended the Council on the quality of the two new play areas at Lovell Gardens and Bridle Road and hoped they would bring lots of enjoyment to the community.

She informed Members that Breckland had now set up Breckland Direct, which the public could access for information.

184.2.2 Councillor Michael Wassell

The Breckland Council Budget and Council Tax proposals had been presented to Cabinet Members and recommended that the Band D council tax for Breckland be increased by £4.98 to £69.03 for 2013-2014. Car parking charges would not be introduced for the remainder of the term of the council. If approved a Band D property in Breckland will pay on average £1483 pa which is an increase of 1.34% from 2012-13. Of all homes in the Breckland area, 69% are in bands A-C and 45% Bands A – B. He congratulated the Officers and Members of Watton Town Council for their prudent financial management.

The final submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England will be presented at the Council meeting including a review of the electoral imbalance that exists in 2 wards. The recommendation is that the number of Breckland Councillors be reduced from 54 to 50 and the working group has produced a report that evidences this. The commission will formulate their own submission which may or may not agree with Breckland's consultation with parishes and residents.

184.3 County Councillor

Councillor Rogers reported that the County was looking at putting a VAS sign in Watton and would pay 75% of the cost.

Members had previously looked at the possibility of a VAS sign on the exit route on Dereham Road from the Watton Sports Centre and agreed to review this possibility again.

He stated that some people were continuing to walk their dogs on the land adjacent to the new Griston to Watton cycleway. He was concerned that there were no notices indicating that there were deep drainage holes either side of the track and asked that the Council put a notice on their notice boards, asking people to stick to the footpath.

He also asked that when the Hopkins Homes development comes before the Council that they support the six acres designated for the Wayland Academy being situated next to the town and that the 30mph limit be extended round to Barn Roche.

185 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

A member of the public asked if they could question the Council Minutes and was informed by the Chairman that this was not possible.

186 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had attended the following:-

19 February Hopkins Homes informal meeting
22 February Official Opening of the playgrounds at Lovell Gardens and Bridle Road
23 February Twinning Association Annual meal

187 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

30 January Watton Pantomime
19 February Hopkins Homes informal meeting
22 February Official Opening of the playgrounds at Lovell Gardens and Bridle Road
23 February Twinning Association Annual meal

188 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that the fire escape was being removed this week. It was hoped that planning permission would be given for the replacement fire escape.

189 PAYMENTS

It was proposed by Councillor Wassell, seconded by Councillor L McCarthy and

RESOLVED
(unanimous)

That payments for February 2013 be approved.

190 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

190.1 3PL/2013/0143, K Huish, Sharman Avenue, Watton, Extension to front porch under new pitched roof and new lounge window.

No Objection

190.2 3PL/2013/0127/F, J Macarthur, 262 Lovell Gardens, Watton, Extension for utility room.

No Objection

191 GRANTS

Grants applications previously circulated to Members:-

191.1 Watton Sports and Recreation Centre

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

RESOLVED
(unanimous)

That a grant of £500.00 be awarded to the Watton Sports and Recreation Centre.

191.2 Watton Netball Club

It was proposed by Councillor Bunning, seconded by Councillor Blackmore and

RESOLVED
(unanimous)

That a grant of £500.00 be awarded to the Watton Netball Club.

192 OUTSTANDING/ONGOING ITEMS

Items to be chased:-

Land at Saham Road, update on 106 money from former radar site and the boundary between the radar site and the footway to be defined.

It was Proposed by Councillor Rogers, seconded by Councillor Wassell 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 tenders and staffing, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

193 CEMETERY SPOIL

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

RESOLVED
(unanimous)

That TTSR be awarded the contract to remove the soil from the cemetery hedge.

194 HEDGE – CHURCH WALK

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

RESOLVED
(unanimous)

That TTSR be awarded the contract to cut back hard the hedge before the end of the bird nesting season.

195 STAFFING

A complaint had been received concerning a member of staff which related to a previous complaint, as referred to in item 179 Chairman's Statement.

It was proposed by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Rogers and

RESOLVED
(voting 8 for with 1 abstention)

That there should be no further discussion or correspondence entered into, relating to this matter by the Council.

The Meeting ended 7.48pm
JS