

Minutes of the Full Council Business Meeting held on Tuesday 15 May 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG.

Councillors Present: K Birch R Ivory
B Bunning J P McCarthy
P Cooper – Vice Chairman L McCarthy
R Crabtree J Rogers
K Gilbert R Turner
M Holmes M Wassell - Chairman

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Members Non Attendance: Councillor Osborn left the Chamber prior to the meeting

238 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Blackmore

239 INTERESTS

Councillor Holmes declared a personal interest in Item 244 as a Trustee of the Watton Luncheon Club.

Councillor J P McCarthy declared a personal interest in Item 248 as he had previously had problems with Councillor Osborn and did not take part in the discussion or decision.

240 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was agreed by Members that the Minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

241 URGENT BUSINESS

241.1 Twinning

The Chairman reminded members that the Twinning 25th Anniversary event be held on 26/27 June was soon approaching.

It was Proposed by Councillor Rogers and 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, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw

241.2 E-mail correspondence

It was proposed by Councillor Ivory and seconded by Councillor L McCarthy and

RESOLVED

That the Members give their full support to the Town Clerk that they are happy with how she conducts the business of the Council, and acts under the instructions and decisions of the Council, on their behalf in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

242 CLOCK FOR CHAMBER

Councillor Holmes felt that the Council should invest in a clock for the new Council Chamber in memory of the Queens Jubilee.

The type of clock was discussed and decided that the best option was a radio clock. The Clerk offered to purchase a clock and donate it to the council.

243 COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

Report previously circulated.

It was unanimously agreed that the Community Car Scheme funding agreement be adopted.

244 WAYLAND HALL LUNCHEON CLUB

Report previously circulated.

Before adopting the agreement the Chairman informed Members that he had attended the public meeting along with the Vice Chairman, the Clerk and Councillor Birch. Councillor Holmes had also attended in her capacity as Trustee.

He said it was disappointing that in the knowledge that funding would cease from Norfolk County Council in September, that no decision had been made on the future of the club. The existing Trustees were appointed until the end of September.

Norfolk County Council had reported that there could be some interim funding available that could be applied for but this was a temporary measure. It had been made clear that the Council would need to be kept informed as, should the Luncheon Club close, it would have an impact on the Council's budget, one being who would be responsible for the removal of the kitchen equipment and reinstatement of the rooms.

It was agreed that a letter be written to the Trustees requesting that should they remain in the building that they submit a business plan and if not, a three month notice period to vacate the building and reinstatement of the rooms.

245 MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT HEATING SYSTEM

Service agreement previously circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Rogers and seconded by Councillor Ivory and

RESOLVED

That MCL continue to support and service the heating system for Wayland Hall for a further 3 year contract.

246 ALLOTMENT MAINTENANCE

Costs were put forward to Members for maintenance to the Thetford road allotments and the emptying of the compost bin.

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

RESOLVED

That the compost bin should be cleared and dismantled, after consultation with the Thetford Road allotment holders had been contacted, to ask if they wished to contribute extra rent to continue to use it.

247 GUTTERING UPDATE

Councillor Osborn had recently inspected the gutters on Wayland Hall and reported that they needed work to be carried out on them.

The Clerk informed members that the Contractor who had been appointed to clear the gutters had informed her that he had now gained agreed access to carry out the work.

It was agreed that the contractor be asked not to start any work until further notice, due to the ongoing problem with the owners of the adjacent building.

248 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chairman reminded Councillors that all parish councils have the protocol that all communication and actions should be undertaken by the officers of the council, in particular the Town Clerk, and not by individual Members, and that as far as members of the public are concerned, Members are acting as Councillors with regard to any opinions expressed or actions taken, unless of course the matters are personal and unique to the individual.

Despite having been advised of this, one of our Members, Councillor Osborn unfortunately continues not to accept this and persistently contacts Tesco on various matters, some seventy letters, the Town Team, demanding that they fix potholes, tidy up gullies, and various other things that were other people's responsibility and nothing to do with the Town Team. He was identified at the meeting as a Councillor at which the Chairman had to confirm that he was not speaking on behalf of the Council.

As detailed at item 247 above Councillor Osborn took it upon himself to trespass on property adjoining Wayland Hall in order to inspect the guttering.

The Citizens Advice Bureau have been given the impression, by Councillor Osborn that they can move their existing portakabin to another location on the Youth and Community Centre land; he has approached one of the Council's contractors and made clear that the Contractor is not qualified to do some of the work that he is contracted to do; he has in the past directly approached officers at

Breckland District Council on matters that were not personal to him and finally, Norfolk County Council with various matters to the point that they have complained to our local County Councillor John Rogers.

The Chairman felt that such behaviour was not good for the Council and could damage the working relationships which both Members and Officers strive to build between other authorities and groups and organisations in the town.

It was agreed that Councillor Osborne be removed from representing the Council on all outside bodies and that a letter be sent to all organisations in the town, Breckland District Council and Norfolk County Council, stating that should Councillor Osborn contact them, that it is not on behalf of the Council, and that a letter be sent to Councillor Osborn informing him of the Council's decision.

The Meeting ended 8.35 pm
JS