

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26 June 2012 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Sophie Willey – reporter, Eastern Daily Press

Members of the Public Present: One (1)

14 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Holmes, J P McCarthy and District Councillor Claire Bowes

15 INTERESTS

Item 27 – Councillors Lorraine McCarthy and Richard Crabtree declared personal interests as member and trustee respectively of the Watton Sports Centre,

Item 29 - Councillors Bunning, Crabtree, L McCarthy and Cooper declared personal interest as Arden Kendal was their accountant.

Item 18 - Councillor Wassell, Gilbert and Rogers declared personal interests as members of Breckland District Council.

16 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

17 COMMUNITY REPORTS

17.1 District Councillors

17.2.1 Councillor Keith Gilbert

Councillor Gilbert reported that he had attended a meeting relating to the localism Bill and admitted that there was a lot to understand and didn't know what to expect.

He was very pleased that Breckland District Council were taking member Development training seriously and held the Charter Plus status.

17.2.2 Councillor Michael Wassell

Councillor Wassell being the Executive Member Democratic Services gave the following update on the new Standards code:- An explanation of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest had now been issued, all members had been sent a copy and the Breckland arrangements. Many Parish Councils had agreed to adopt the Breckland code which would go before Breckland Council on 5 July for adoption.

The present Standards Committee would cease to exist from 1 July. Many Parish Councillors had indicated that they supported the new code, hoping that the vindictive, petty, trivial and small minded complaints that had clogged up the previous system would now cease and that Councillors would be able to get on and serve the people who elected them, and that Breckland officers who had had to deal with these complaints would be able to do more useful work.

A resident had expressed concern regarding the Saham Road development, which was refused permission by Breckland, went to appeal which the inspector did not uphold so no permission was granted. The time for appeal on that decision had now lapsed.

Breckland Council adopted its LDF Site Specifics Document and Proposals Map on 19th January 2012. The period for legal challenge to the adoption of the document had lapsed. The housing allocations in Watton include those on Griston Road, Norwich Road and Thetford Road opposite the Wayland Garage. He had been approached by residents from Griston Rd re the former Plaswood site development, who were hopeful that the development goes ahead and, had indicated to the residents that he would be willing to speak on their behalf.

He also a Member of the Grants Panel and would encourage the council and organisations within the town to apply to Breckland for funding.

17.3 County Councillors

County Councillor Rogers reported that the Sustrans cycle route should go ahead as soon as the bird season finishes. He felt that it would be a big benefit for people coming to and from Watton from Griston and Caston, and would avoid the dangerous bends at Wayland Wood.

18 URGENT BUSINESS

18.1 Code of Conduct

The Chairman explained that the new code had to be adopted by 1 July 2012 and suggested that the Council adopt the Breckland code for a period of six months until there was more clarity from the Localism Minister.

It was proposed by Councillor Ivory and seconded by Councillor Turner and unanimously agreed that the Breckland Code of Conduct be adopted for a period of six months.

18.2 Citizens Advice Bureau

The Chairman informed Members that the information which had been requested from the CAB had still not been received and suggested that the budgeted funding be withheld.

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

RESOLVED

Voting 11 for with 1 against

That the funding for the CAB be withheld

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

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

19 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman asked Member that if they found clerical errors or discrepancies on matters generated by the office in their envelope contents, to please inform the Clerk prior to the Tuesday meeting and not wait until the meeting.

He thanked Councillors Turner, Bunning and her husband in assisting him in removing the HERRIS Fencing from the front of the Youth and Community Centre field and informed Members that the grass would now be cut.

He had attended the following during the month:

Official opening of Watton Radio

I visited the W.I. Craft Market

BBQ at RAF Lakenheath

Civic Service - He thanked everyone who had attended his Civic Service, which he had thoroughly enjoyed.

He said that he would be attending the Farmers Market which would be closing on 7 July

20 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Vice Chairman had attended the following:-

Opening of the Watton Carnival

Armed Forces Day Raising of the Flag

21 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that the Council solicitors W F Smith had become a part of Ward Gethin Archer.

22 PAYMENTS

The Chairman asked that in future, if members had any queries with payments, to contact the Clerk prior to the meeting so that she could answer any questions.

It was agreed that payments for June be approved

23 CAR PARKING COMMITTEE

A request from Steve James, who was dealing with the issues relating to car park charges for Breckland District Council, that he meets with Councillors to listen to their views on car park charging.

It was agreed that Councillors Ivory, Blackmore, Crabtree, Turner, Birch and Bunning should attend the meeting. The Chairman reminded the members that they should seek the view of the people in the town prior to the meeting.

24 OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVES

Due to the uncertainty and clarity of the new code of conduct this item was deferred until a later date.

It was agreed that outside organisations who had previously requested a representative from the council be asked to submit a report, which could be circulated to all Councillors.

25 GRASS CUTTING

Councillor Gilbert had previously reported the poor state of the recent grass cutting within the town. The Chairman asked if he had taken this up as a district Councillor with Breckland, of which he stated that he had.

He stated that the Breckland's contract with Serco did not allow for grass collection, and asked and was agreed that Breckland be asked to add this to the Contract when it came up for renewal.

26 OUTSTANDING/ON-GOING ITEMS

Members were pleased that the list was reducing well.

27 WATTON SPORTS CENTRE DEEDS

The problem with the deeds had now been completed and the land registered by Watton Town Council to hold as the Custodian Trustees.

The Chairman said that as had previously been agreed, no copies of any deeds would be made or issued, and that should anyone wishing to view them, would need to make an appointment with the clerk who had the authority to remove them from the solicitor.

The Chairman suggested and was agreed that all original deeds should be lodged with the solicitor as and when they were up to date.

28 WAYLAND LUNCHEON CLUB RESPONSE

When the Luncheon Club vacated the premises, it was agreed that Norfolk County Council be asked to remove the kitchen equipment, return the kitchen to office space as it had been previously, or to give a commuted sum so that the Council could carry out the work.

29 INTERNAL AUDITOR

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

RESOLVED

Voting 7 for with 4 abstentions

That Arden Kendall be appointed as the Councils internal Auditor for the year 2012/2013.

30 EXTERNAL AUDITOR

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

RESOLVED

That Mazars LLP be appointed as the Councils external Auditor for the year 2012/2013.

31 ACCOUNTS 2011-2012

It was proposed by Councillor Wassell and seconded by Councillor Birch and unanimously agreed that the account for the year 2011/2012 be approved.

32 INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

It was proposed by Councillor Wassell and seconded by Councillor Ivory and agreed that the internal Auditors report for 2011/2012 be approved.

33 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

It was proposed by Councillor Wassell and seconded by Councillor Ivory and agreed that the annual governance statement for 2011/2012 be approved.

The Meeting ended 8.37pm

JS