

Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton

B Bunning

J Rogers

R Crabtree

R Rudling

M Holmes

R Turner

J P McCarthy

M Wassell - Chairman

L McCarthy

J Seal - Town Clerk

Sergeant Lance Ogbourne-Norfolk Police

(2) Two

APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Cooper, Ivory and Gilbert

INTERESTS

Councillors Holmes, J P McCarthy, L McCarthy and Crabtree declared personal interests in Item 89 as members of the Twinning Association.

Councillors J P McCarthy, L McCarthy and Crabtree declared personal interests in Item 78.4 as Members and Trustees of the Watton Sports Centre.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was agreed by Members that the Minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record, with the amendment to Item 66 to read:

The Chairman explained that the Skateboard Park issue would be discussed, at the Watton Sport Centre Annual General Meeting. He would be attending the meeting to state the Councils position, that they support the project and that a committee be formed by the supporters of the Skateboard project.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Police

Crime figures previously circulated.

Sergeant Ogbourne reported that the Safer Neighbourhood Team were supporting a youth project involving, coaching young riders of motorcycles and cycles road safety, to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The police are also working closely with Tesco who are adhering to the licensing rules and have passed all of the spot check that have been made. He also reported that the Manager of Tesco is now attending the Youth Focus Meetings.

The next SNAP meeting held at the Fire Station will take place on Wednesday 12 October 2011 at 2pm.

78.2 District Councillors

Councillor Wassell reported that it had been rather quiet. He had attended the Breckland district council one stop bus, in both August and September. He also joined George Freeman MP at the farmers market, where they both had their blood pressure checked, as part of the “know your number” promotion being run by Total Health Pharmacy.

Changes are to be made to the constituency boundary which is intended to reduce the number of MP’s from 650 to 600. The affects on this area will change the existing South West Norfolk and mid-Norfolk constituencies to new ones, that are called Broadland & Dereham and Thetford and Swaffham, which is the one that Watton will be in. What concerned him was that there would be a constituency that includes 5 towns, Thetford, Swaffham, Attleborough, Wymondham and of course Watton.

Councillor Wassell did not agree with the suggestion to name the constituency after just 2 Towns. He also thought it important to maintain the name of the county in the constituencies, in order to maintain some form of county identity nationally. A facility exists on the Boundary Commission website to comment on any aspects of the draft proposals. A copy of the details and maps for the new Thetford and Swaffham constituency is available from the Clerk.

78.3 County Councillors

County Councillor Rogers reported that Norfolk County Council had started a campaign against the 4.5 million pound government cut from bus passes, and asked all Members to support it by signing the petition.

He stated that the County’s part of the Council Tax would be frozen for two years, and that Gilman’s Drift had been cleaned.

78.4 Members of the Public

A resident, whose garden is adjacent to the Children’s Play Area at the Watton Sports Centre, reported that a branch from a tree in his garden had been damaged by strong winds. He had informed the Sports Centre who took action and locked the gate to the Children’s Play Area. The resident was also concerned about the anti-social behaviour.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to both the resident and the Sports Centre Staff, for their prompt action, and inform the Sports Centre that the play area would remain unlocked for a period of three months.

The Chairman advised the resident that should anti-social behaviour occur at the Children’s Play Area, that the police should be called.

79 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The chairman reminded Members that they had received a copy of the email from NALC concerning the need for a consumer champion.

He reported that some of the residents opposed to the planning application for the 69 house on Saham Road would be collecting signatures opposing the application in Chaston Place on the forthcoming Wednesday and Saturday morning.

Events attended:

Breckland District Council Chairman's Reception

Mayor of Attleborough's Civic Service

Wayland Agricultural Show

Watton in Bloom presentation

Stanta Training Area – briefing

100th birthday presentation

Riversdale celebration

High Sheriff of Norfolk at home

Total Health Pharmacy – know your numbers

Battle of Britain service

Councillors Harvey's funeral

Wayland High School – Breckland Youth Council promotion

Opening of the Talking Shop exhibition

80 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Vice Chairman had conducted a survey of the shops in the town, for viability of wheelchair access.

Report tabled

81 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported the following:

- 1 She attended The Code of Conduct Training at Breckland on Monday 19th September 2011 with Councillors Bunning and Turner. During the session we were showed a DVD of a Planning meeting, followed by a quiz. It was extremely satisfying to see both of our new Councillors score such high points with only one question wrong, which was borderline.
- 2 The Watton Society were holding their annual quiz night on Wednesday 23 November 2011. There are four people per team.
- 3 The Watton Society had awarded the Council a Watton in Bloom certificate for the planters and hanging baskets. A copy of the certificate had been passed to the contractor, TTSR.
- 4 Remembrance Sunday 13 November 2011 – Parade assembles at the car park at 2.20pm for a service at the War Memorial at 2.30pm. This year the march will be from the car park to The Methodist Chapel on the High Street for the full Remembrance Sunday Service at 3pm.

There will be a planting of Poppy Crosses on the War Graves at St Mary's Churchyard at 12 noon on Saturday 12 November 2011.

82 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for September be approved

It was agreed that signatories for signing cheques on behalf of the Council would be:

Councillor Bunning
Councillor Cooper
Councillor Holmes
Councillor Ivory
Councillor L McCarthy
Councillor Rudling
Councillor Wassell

83 COMMITTEE REPORTS

83.1 Planning and Forward Development

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 20 September 2011 be adopted with the Amendment that Councillors Wassell and Sophie Wyllie – Reporter Eastern Daily Press were in attendance.

84 REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

The following groups and organisations had requested a Council Representative:

Breckland Watch Committee
Breckland CCTV
Carnival Committee
CCTV Group
Citizens Advice Bureau
Wayland Luncheon Club
Project Rainbow
Twinning Association
Stanta Liaison Committee
Stevens Alms Houses
Watton Relief in Need
Watton Sports Centre
Youth Council
Youth Focus Group

It was agreed that the Clerk would send all Members a Representative Form, which would be agreed at the next Full Council in October.

85 VACANCY

The Chairman reported that the Notice of Vacancy would be posted on 1st October 2011.

He explained the election process and suggested that the Council could if it wished start the process of reducing the number of Members, which would come into effect at the next election period in May 2015.

It was proposed by Councillor J P McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Rogers and agreed that there be no change to the numbers.

86 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Members discussed the options of looking at ways in which to help the Royal British Legion celebrate their 90th Anniversary.

The Chairman stated that he supported the Clerks suggestion, that the proceeds of both last year and this year's proceeds, from the Tombola Stall at the "Festive Christmas Market" be donated, to the Royal British Legion.

It was agreed by all Members.

87 STREET NAMES LIST

A request had been received from S & J Jones Development Ltd to name the estate for the planning application for 119 Norwich Road, Forman Close, in memory of Tom Forman, who had been involved in a recent fatal accident.

A list of Street Names was agreed by Members, to be submitted to Breckland Council for future use by developers.

88 MP MEETING

It was agreed that Members hold an informal meeting with George Freeman MP to discuss their concerns for the future of Watton's development.

The Chairman asked that Members put their questions to the Clerk, by Friday 14 October 2011 so that an agenda can be put forward.

89 TWINNING ASSOCIATION 25 ANNIVERSARY

The Chairman explained the interests as given by the Monitoring Officer.

There was confusion between Members as to what the Twinning Charter stated, and what involvement the Town Council had, other than to sign the Charter as a legal agreement.

The Clerks understanding of Twinning was that it was a cross border cultural interest, promoting friendship, and to encourage groups to hold exchange visits.

Councillor J P McCarthy volunteered to explore the legality and meaning of Twinning. The Clerk was asked to do the same and report back to Council.

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

RESOLVED

That the sole involvement of the Council in the arrangements for the Twinning Associations 25th Anniversary in May 2012 was to grant the use of the Council Chamber for the organisers to hold a Welcome Buffet.

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes, seconded by Councillor Rudling

in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and

RESOLVED

That in view of the confidential nature of the business concerning Tenders to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw

90 WEB SITE/IT

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling and seconded by Councillor J P McCarthy and

RESOLVED

That Julian Horn be awarded the contract for the website and IT Maintenance.

The Meeting ended 8.55pm

JS