

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 31 July 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  
J P McCarthy  
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, PCSO Joe Jermy -Norfolk Police

Members of the Public Present: Two

**44 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Holmes and District Councillor Claire Bowes

**45 INTERESTS**

Councillors J P and L McCarthy both declared Disclosable Pecuniary interest in item 58, as Weco Engineering of which they are directors, had been awarded the contract for steel work for the Council.

The Clerk had received a letter of declaration which would be added to their Declaration of Interest information and had been passed to the Monitoring Officer at Breckland District Council.

**46 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was agreed by Members that the Minutes of Tuesday 17 July 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**47 COMMUNITY REPORTS**

**47.1 Police**

Crime report previously circulated.

PCSO Jeremy reported that police high priority was, off road vehicles on the airfield and confirmed that two section 59 had been issued. The other priority was West Road by Westfield Infant School.

The Police would be holding street briefings in August and September.

## **47.2 District Councillors**

### **47.2.1 Councillor Gilbert**

Councillor Gilbert reported that a new independent group had been formed but was unsure what would happen as one of the independent Councillors had resigned.

Breckland District Council would be discussing with Serco regarding equipment to collect grass after complaints about loose grass not being collected and the mess that it created.

### **47.2.2 Councillor Wassell**

Councillor Wassell reported that the Breckland CCTV would cease at 10 am on 31 July 2012. Swift action has been taken by Breckland Council to ensure that its 63-camera system stays switched on despite the previous operation, Advanced Monitoring Solutions, going into administration.

Breckland was still awaiting some clarification on the new standards regime. Most Town/Parish Councils had adopted the Breckland Code of Conduct.

He gave a brief explanation about the new spending regime. The Government announced that it would localise support for Council tax from 2013-14; reducing expenditure by 10%.

Breckland will be holding 5 open meetings in September/October this year to seek residents views on budget priorities. The use of this information would inform budget setting and re-shaping the Council in the long term. One will be held in Watton on Tues 2 October at 7pm in the Queens Hall.

## **47.3 County Councillors**

County Councillor Rogers reported that he had been with the area engineer and manager, looking at road conditions at Lovell Garden, which were in a poor condition. The work would be carried out this year.

The Rangers were coming to town and asked Members to give suggestions to the Clerk.

The Sustrans Route footpath/Cycleway had been agreed but would not be completed until after the bird season had finished.

## **47.4 Members of the Public**

A Member of the public gave thanks to the Council for its new Website, the hanging baskets and Containers.

## **48 URGENT BUSINESS**

### **48.1 PLAYGROUNG EQUIPMENT**

The Chairman informed Members that the total cost of the playground equipment for both Bridle Way and Lovell Gardens would be approx £107,000 and that the Clerk was looking to match fund approximately £41,000

## **48.2 COMMUNITY AMBULANCE**

The Clerk reported that other clubs had enquired about the use of the Community Ambulance.

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

RESOLVED

Voting: 12 for with 1 Abstention

That the Council continues to retain the Community Ambulance after the Luncheon Club closed.

## **48.3 TOWN CLOCK**

It was agreed that a clock specialist inspect the clock in the Clock Tower to ascertain what needs to be done to repair its intermittent stoppage problem.

## **48.4 PARTY WALL SURVEYOR**

It was agreed that nps Property Services be appointed as the Councils Party Wall Surveyor, to deal with any issues relating to the Kings Arms refurbishment.

## **49 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman asked that Councillors refrain from visiting the office in the mornings unless urgent as this was the busiest time for staff dealing with the public.

An e-mail had been sent to Eastern Daily Press who had reported that Washington Drive was in Watton as opposed to Carbrooke. This concerned a very serious court case. To date, no reply or apology had appeared in the paper.

Minute 248 dated 15 May 2012, Code of Conduct. Councillors are again reminded that when attending meetings, unless they are the officially appointed Council Representative, they should not comment on Council matters, as a Member had recently done. Members should make clear that they are not speaking on behalf of the council. This is to safeguard both the Councillor and Council from being misquoted and also potentially leading to the Council being accused of acting Ultra Viries.

The Mayor and Mayoress attended the following:-

SSAFA (his chosen charity)

SNAP Meeting

Dereham Mayor's Civic Service

South West Norfolk's Scout AGM

Attleborough Mayor's Civic Service

## **50 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Deputy Mayors Diary

Evening of songs at St Peters Church Wisbech

Wisbech Mayors Civic Service at Wisbech

## **51 CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerks report was taken in Part II as it was confidential

## **52 PAYMENTS**

It was agreed that payments for July be approved

## **53 CAB update**

The Chairman reported that the previous information requested had now been received and circulated to Members. He suggested that the £2,000 in the budget be given.

At the recent meeting he felt that the CAB did not understand the responsibilities and powers of a Town/Parish Council. They stated that if they were not based in Watton, the Council would have to employ an extra member of staff to deal with their client's problem, which of course the Council would have no power to do, other than re-direct to the appropriate authorities.

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbert and seconded by Councillor Osborn that the £2000 grant in the budget allocated to the CAB be given.

## **54 LUNCHEON CLUB REQUEST – CLOCK AND WALL HANGING**

On its closure The Luncheon Club they had requested that Council accept as a donation, the Millennium Wall-hanging. It is registered with 'The National Needlework Record' which was established to archive and centralize information about needlework in the community, throughout the British Isles. The Trustees would be happy to arrange the framing of it if it was considered appropriate.

The Trustees would further like to donate a clock that had been donated by 3<sup>rd</sup> Watton Brownies, Christmas 1979.

It was agreed that the council accept the donation of the Millennium Wall-hanging and the Clock.

## **55 OUTSTANDING/ON-GOING ITEMS**

Noted.

It was proposed by Councillor Rogers, seconded by Councillor J P McCarthy

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

The public and press were excluded.

Councillor Osborn Left the Meeting.

## **56 FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET**

It was agreed that a press release be given, reporting the cancellation of the Festive Christmas Market and Christmas Lights for the year 2012.

**57 STAFFING**

Staffing matters were discussed by Members.

**58 LAND PURCHASE**

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

RESOLVED

That the Council purchase the land that the fire escape is sited on excluding, the condition of sale of access by the Kings Arms at the cost of £1,000 plus reasonable legal cost.

The Meeting ended 8:40pm  
JS