

Minutes of the Full Council Business Meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG.

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk
Keith Bell

Members of the Public Present: One

59 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Blackmore, Ivory and Wassell

60 INTERESTS

Councillor J P and L McCarthy declared pecuniary interests in Item 72 as Directors of Weco Engineering who had been awarded the contract for the new fire escape.

Councillors Bunning and Crabtree declared personal interests in Items 70 and 71 as members of the Town Team.

61 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 56 (Part 2) to include Councillor Holmes.

62 URGENT BUSINESS

The Clerk informed members that the new legislation relating to the recording of meetings did not include Town and Parish Councils.

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes and Seconded by Councillor Rogers and unanimously agreed that this be discussed at the next meeting.

63 CEMETERY ROAD SURFACE

The Chairman reported that the condition of the cemetery pathways was in need of maintenance. The cost had been estimated at £1056.00.

Members discussed the resurfacing and unanimously agreed that two options should be put out to tender.

Option 1 – to replace the shingle

Option 2 – to scrape off the top soil and put a felt membrane down, to prevent weed growth.

64 HEDGE MAINTENANCE OLD/NEW CEMETERY

Members discussed the hedge separating the old and new cemetery as a part of it had been removed, prior to a burial, for which the Council had received an invoice for.

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbert and seconded by Councillor J P McCarthy and unanimously agreed that as payment had not been previously agreed, that the invoice should not be paid.

The Clerk informed Council that the mapping of the old Cemetery was very difficult and had caused many problems due to the old row markers having been removed and left in a heap, when work was carried out in the old Cemetery.

65 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE/GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT TENDER SPECIFICATION

The Chairman informed Council that the Grass cutting contract was due for renewal and suggested that the grass cutting be put together with grounds maintenance.

It was proposed by Councillor Turner and seconded by Councillor Birch and unanimously agreed, that the tender specification combine grass cutting and grounds maintenance and agreed by Council prior to tender.

66 MAYORS INVITATION POLICY

Members discussed the area which the Mayors invitations should cover.

It was agreed that acceptance of invitations should be at the discretion of the Mayor.

67 PAST MAYORS BADGES

It was proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Birch and unanimously agreed, that five new Past Chairman badges be purchased in next year's budget.

68 BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL STREET TRADING RESPONSE

Members did not understand the contents of the letter and agreed that clarification be sought from Breckland District Council.

The Chairman pointed out that the letter had been received during recess which many Councils held during August.

69 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FUNDING

The Clerk had been informed by Councillor Gilbert that questions had been raised on various matters concerning the play equipment for Lovell Garden and Bridle Road play areas. Councillor Gilbert could

not understand why officers at Breckland and the three Watton District Members had been sent the information but not the Clerk, as it was the Clerk who had applied for the funding on behalf of the Council. He suggested and was agreed that the Chairman write a letter of complaint to Breckland.

Members discussed the remaining funding and unanimously agreed that the money be vied from the ambulance fund, the Festive Christmas Market and the VAS speed sign.

It was further unanimously agreed that the remainder be vied from the Public Toilet commuted sum.

This would allow both Lovell Gardens and Bridle Way play areas project to be completed.

70 TOWN TEAM CLOCK TOWER USAGE

The Town Team had requested and was agreed with three abstentions, the use of the Clock Tower for a Father Christmas Grotto, for the entrepreneurs Christmas Market.

Councillor Bunning informed Members that the Town team now had their own Public Liability Insurance Cover.

71 CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTS RESPONSIBILITY

Councillor Crabtree informed members that he had secured a Christmas tree for the town free of charge.

It was proposed by Councillor J P McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Birch and unanimously agreed, that the Council would cover all costs relating to the erection and removal of the tree, and that a qualified electrician would put the lights on the tree.

The Council would insure the Tree.

72 FIRE ESCAPE REPORT

The Chairman explained was and unanimously agreed that the Council would need to apply for listed building permission to remove and refit the Fire Escape and also planning permission for the new Fire Escape.

The Clerk was instructed to apply for the planning permission.

The Meeting ended 8.51pm
JS