

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25 September 2012 at 7.00 pm at 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 R Turner
M Holmes M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Sophie Willey – reporter, Eastern Daily Press.

Members of the Public Present: One (1)

73 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Blackmore, Gilbert, Ivory and Rogers.

74 INTERESTS

Councillor Crabtree declared a personal interest in Item 77.2 as he was arranging the Christmas tree.

75 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

With the deletion of Item 70 paragraph two as the Council had been informed that the town team did not have public liability as yet.

76 COMMUNITY REPORTS

76.1 District Councillors

Councillor Wassell reminded Members that the date for the forthcoming Could We/Should We Town meeting for Watton would be held on Thursday 2 October 2012 at the Queens Hall at 7pm. Meetings had already been held at Thetford, Dereham and Attleborough. Swaffham was Thursday 27 September.

A very positive response had been received, with attendees appreciating being informed. Many supported Car Park Charges and Council Tax raises, the survey is also available on the Breckland web site.

Boundary Commission Changes review had been caused by an electoral imbalance in two wards in Breckland. The idea being that elected members should represent the same number of electors as their colleagues. At present the average in Breckland is 1830. Watton = 1940, Templar = 2416, 33% over, trigger is 30% one of the Dereham wards is 35% over. All ward boundaries will be re-drawn as part of this exercise.

The review does **not** look at parish matters, focusing only on the Electoral arrangements at district ward level; therefore the Commission will not be looking at parish boundaries or any parish Council

related issues. Parishes will be consulted. A briefing for Town & Parish councils will be held on 25 October - 2 sessions starting at 2pm or 3:30pm.

The Current Council Tax Benefit Scheme will cease next year and be replaced on 1 April by Council Tax Support Scheme with 10% less funding!

Local Authorities will be allowed to develop their own scheme. The scheme will protect pensioners and the vulnerable. Consultation will take place before it is implemented which can be found on the Breckland website.

77 URGENT BUSINESS

77.1 The Chairman asked those members who had attended the car parking meeting with Steve James the Breckland Representative for a report on the meeting.

All members who attended felt that the presentation was impressive and was explained very well.

77.2 The Chairman informed and was agreed that the costs for the Christmas tree and lights would be approximately £1000.00 which was within the budgeted amount. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the person who was donating the tree.

78 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman asked again that Members keep visits to the office to the afternoon unless the matter is urgent as this is when the office is open to the public.

He pointed out a forthcoming proposed planning application 3PL/2012/0820/CU at Otterwood Kennels, Watton Road, Saham Toney. While he appreciated it was outside the Watton boundary, the implications of this planning application could have an impact on the area. The Agent Stuart Carruthers is the representative for Dale Farm, Basildon, Essex.

The following functions had been attended:-

11 September	Total Health, to promote Blood Pressure checks.
12 September	Battle of Britain service at St Marys. There were more ATC than congregation.
20 September	Youth Focus Group.
22 September	Royal British Legion Cream Tea.

79 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The following functions had been attended:-

August 31 st – September 3 rd	Represented the mayor on a visit to Weeze.
September 12 th	Attended the battle of Britain service at St Mary's Church.

80 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that Breckland Council had agreed to release the £66781.18 106 money for the two play areas equipment.

Councillor Wassell informed members that there was a further £5000.00 that could be applied for from the community fund.

Members thanked the Clerk for all the work that she had put into secure the money for the equipment.

The Clerk also thanked Councillors Paul Cooper, L McCarthy and Michael Wassell for all their help and support in bringing the project to fruition.

81 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for September be approved

82 OUTSTANDING/ON-GOING ITEMS

Members noted that the list had been significantly reduced and proved that the two meeting structure was working very well.

83 COUNCIL MEETING RECORDING

Members discussed the new legislation relating to recording of Council meetings.

The Clerk pointed out that information received from NALC confirmed that the new legislation did not cover Town & Parish local Councils.

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

RESOLVED

Voting: nine for with Councillor JP McCarthy voting against.

That the Council would continue its policy of not allowing any visual or audio recording of any Council meeting without Councils permission.

It was proposed by Councillor Richard Crabtree, seconded by Councillor Michael Wassell

in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and

RESOLVED

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

84 STAFFING

The Clerk informed Members that the Staffing matter had been resolved as agreed.

The Meeting ended 8:45 pm
JS