

**Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 26 March 2013 at 7.00 pm
at Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton, Norfolk**

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Rosa McMahon – reporter, Eastern Daily Press

Members of the Public Present: Three (3)

207 INTERESTS

Item 215.2 - Grants – Councillors J P and L McCarthy declared personal interests as Members of the Sports Centre and of the Watton Football Club.

Item 215.4 - Grants – Councillor Crabtree declared a personal interest as a Member of the Carnival Committee.

208 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 12 March 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

209 COMMUNITY REPORTS
209.1 Police

(Crime Figures had previously been circulated)

209.2 District Councillors

209.2.1 Councillor Keith Gilbert

Councillor Gilbert gave an assurance that all efforts had been made by both Breckland and the police to help the homeless person in the town. Accommodation had been offered but had been refused.

209.2.2 Councillor Michael Wassell

Councillor Wassell reminded Members that the Breckland Town and Parish Council Forum would take place at Breckland on Tuesday 21 May 2013, commencing at 6:30pm. Items to be included on the Agenda were Local Plan Update, Training available for Parishes and an Update on Code of Conduct / Standards.

If any elected members had any items of interest they would like included on the Agenda, they should contact the Clerk or himself to see if it could be added to the Agenda.

From April 2014 the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would come into effect. The CIL represents a tax on new developments of over 100sqm and is intended to produce a fairer system for the funding of community infrastructure than the existing use of 106 agreements. 106 agreements will still exist, but only for onsite developments. It is a very complex issue and it is important that town and parish councillors understand the full ramifications of CIL. A briefing session will be held at Dereham Memorial Hall on 23 April 2013 for elected members.

The Grant Application process was being streamlined in order to shorten the time between applications being received and a decision being made. Starting in the new financial year, there will be just one application form, which can be either downloaded from the web site and completed by hand or filled in directly on line, hard copies would also be available. Members of the grants panel will then be notified of the application and we will be able to comment on it directly on line with the approval will also being done electronically.

Breckland submitted a proposal to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England that recommended a reduction from 54 to 50 in the number of elected members on Breckland. The LGBCE has accepted the recommendation as the basis for consultation. They will now consult with parish councils and other interested parties commencing 26 March and lasting until 7 May. Once the consultation is over, the LGBCE will decide on a figure. Breckland will then go through the process of redefining the ward boundaries, submit that to the Boundary commission and once they are happy will again go out to consultation.

The closing date for the Breckland Switch and Save scheme, which is designed to save people money on their utility bills, is Monday 8 April.

209.3 County Councillor

Councillor Rogers informed Members that he had sponsored the Methodist Church who had received a £9,300 grant from Norfolk County Council. He had also sponsored the CAB but unfortunately they had not been awarded a grant.

He expressed concern that with 1000 new houses which had either been built or were to be built in the Watton area there would be no land for light industrial units and therefore no work for local people.

The only area which had been designated as industrial land was behind the spar shop in Carbrooke, but this could he believed, end up having houses built on it. He would like to see the land purchased by Breckland so that it remained as industrial land.

Councillor J P McCarthy pointed out that the Council should look ahead and think about where land could be found as industrial land to attract industry to the Watton area.

210 URGENT ITEMS

210.1 Footpath – Ovington to Watton

The Chairman explained that Ovington Parish Council had made a request to Norfolk County Council Highways for a trod from Ovington to Watton.

He introduced Councillor Karen Weir who gave a presentation of what they wanted to achieve. A meeting had been held with Highways who had raised concerns. The footpath would have to be on the Saham side of the B1075 as this was the only part wide enough. Pedestrians would have to cross the road at the Crossroads and the bridge which would need to be put across the river.

It was suggested that the footpath be combined with a cycle path and would possibly need barriers

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes, seconded by Councillor Blackmore and

RESOLVED
(Unanimously)

That the Council support Ovington Parish Council for their project to have a trod from Ovington to Watton.

211 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 8 March Carbrooke School Official - opening of new classrooms.
- 13 March Twinning AGM Margaret Devine was re-elected as Chair.
- 23 March Watton Town Team 'Wedding Day' Exhibition.
- 25 March Christmas Card competition presentation Watton Junior School

The Chairman announced that Rev Geoff Garrett would be leaving Watton for pastures new in June. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Rev Garrett and his wife thanking them for their work in Watton.

It was also agreed to send a letter to the Wayland Academy congratulating them on their very good Ofsted Report. They were one of the top ten Academies in the Country.

212 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 8 March Carbrooke School Official - opening of new classrooms.
- 20 March Junior School to meet year 6 and talk about jobs.
- 20 March Watton Relief in Need Meeting.
- 23 March Watton Town Team 'Wedding Day' Exhibition.

213 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk was in receipt of the information relating to the Town Mural and would begin the process of applying for planning permission and the necessary other permissions.

The Brandon Road re-surfacing work from the roundabout to the Junior School had been re-scheduled for 3 June for five days.

214 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for March be approved

215 GRANTS

215.1 A Grant application had been received from Norfolk Accident Rescue Services

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Holmes and

RESOLVED

(Voting: 13 for with 1 Abstention)

That a grant for the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service be declined.

215.2 A Grant application had been received from Watton United Football Club

It was reported that the bad language which the Council had highlighted previously as grounds for declining an application had now been identified and was being dealt with.

Councillors J P and L McCarthy left the meeting at this point due to interests.

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes, seconded by Councillor Gilbert and

RESOLVED
(Unanimous)

That a grant of £242.00 be awarded to the Watton United Football Club.

215.3 A Grant application had been received from Watton Hockey Club

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes, seconded by Councillor Gilbert and

RESOLVED
(Unanimous)

That a grant of £200.00 be awarded to the Watton Hockey Club

215.4 A Grant application had been received from Carnival Committee

This was deferred to 2113/14

216 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

216.1 3OB/2013/0001/OB – Mr & Mrs Shearer, 14 Regal Court, Watton, IP25 6UT, Modify or remove the over 55's restriction on the property in line with properties 1, 2, and 3.

It was proposed by Councillor J P McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Turner and

RESOLVED
(Voting: 13 for with 1 Abstention)

That there be no Objection to the application.

217 OUTSTANDING/ONGOING ITEMS

Noted.

The Meeting ended 8.10pm
JS