

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29 January 2013 at 7.00 pm at Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk in the former Dining Room of the Wayland Hall Luncheon Club

Councillors Present: K Birch
B Bunning
P Cooper – Chairman
R Crabtree
K Gilbert
M Holmes

J P McCarthy
L McCarthy –Vice Chairman
A Osborn
J Rogers
R Turner
M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Sergeant Marie Reavey-Norfolk Police

Members of the Public Present: Two (2)

154 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Blackmore, Ivory and District Councillor Claire Bowes.

155 INTERESTS

Item 163.3 – Councillors Crabtree, Wassell and Bunning declared personal interests as members of the Town Team.

Item 163.3 – Councillors Turner, Cooper, L McCarthy and J P McCarthy declared personal interests as Arden Kendal are their accountants.

156 MINUTES

It was agreed by Members that the Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 15 January 2013 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record with the following amendments: Item 144 to read 144.2 not 114.2 and that one member of the public attended the meeting.

Further discussion took place regarding the content of Minute 174 and although it was explained that it was a true record of the meeting, it was proposed by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Birch and

RESOLVED

Voting 10 for with 2 abstentions

That the Minutes be accepted with the exception of item 147.

Councillor Holmes asked that the ownership of the piece of cut hedge be clarified.

157 COMMUNITY REPORTS

157.1 Police

Sergeant Reavey gave out the crime figures for the month (previously circulated). She informed Members that PCSO Rob Coote would be replacing PCSO Joe Jeremy.

A Member was concerned that there were many cars on the road that did not have tax discs. Sgt Reavey confirmed that if caught without a valid MOT certificate, road tax disc or insurance the driver would be dealt with.

A Member asked how crime figures in Watton compared to elsewhere. She said it was difficult to say and recommended that if anyone saw a crime being committed, they call 101 to report it. It was difficult to deal with crimes without hard evidence.

157.2 District Councillors

157.2.1 Councillor Wassell reported that the Enterprise Norfolk in Breckland Project would be holding events and meetings in the five market towns, with the first being held in Watton commencing this week of which he would be attending.

Breckland's budget was in the process of being worked on for recommendations to Full Council, where the final decision would be taken.

He had attended a number of meetings in Westminster with Ministers from the Department of Communities and Local Government. Breckland had been held as an example of an innovative Council in terms of their property portfolios, shared services and activities such as the Anglia Revenue Partnership. Discussions were also about changes to the standards regimes and a relaxation in the requirement to hold a referendum regarding Council Tax levels.

The current Chief Executive Terry Huggins was retiring and former Chief Executive Trevor Holden had been appointed on a three month interim basis to oversee Luton, Breckland and South Holland.

A number of meetings were being held by the Boundary Commission working group to look at the number of District Councillors required for Breckland. This could create a new ward structure across the district. The report will go before Full Council at the end of February for recommendation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. If the recommendation is accepted then the group will move to the second stage, which is redefining the ward boundaries and the number of elected members in each ward.

Being a Member of the Grants Panel at Breckland which allocates match funding, he was surprised that very few applications were made from Watton and he urged Members to make any organisations that knew to apply.

He would be meeting Hopkins Homes to discuss the development on Thetford Road.

157.2.2 Councillor Gilbert reported that Trevor Holden would be the first Chief Executive to oversee three Councils, Luton, Breckland and South Holland.

He stated that the new Council Tax support system would have an effect on people who do not pay anything at the moment and would now pay something.

He had asked that the plans for the Bull Hotel be called into Committee. This was refused and it had been agreed that the plans be decided under delegated powers.

157.3 County Councillors

County Councillor Rogers reminded Members that the Opening of the Sustrans Footway/Cycleway would be officially opened on Saturday 23 February 2013.

The improvement to the lights on Thetford Road, were scheduled for July 2013 with funding coming from 106 monies from the Tesco expansion. This would improve the control of the lights at the junction.

He said that the Lovell Gardens play area was being well used and that the Lovell Gardens footpaths were due to be re- surfaced.

The dual carriageway of the A11 from Five Ways to Thetford was due to be completed by Christmas of 2014.

157.4 Members of the Public

A member of the public made a statement to Members relating to accusations that had been made against them by two Councillors.

158 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Members agreed that when presentations were being made that as the Chairman had stated, only relevant questions should be asked.

Mayor's attendances for December:

1st Thursday Club Christmas Party

4th Norwich Cathedral Lights to Remember Service

7th RAF Lakenheath Winter Yuletide Reception

14th Watton Sports Centre opening of new boiler by George Freeman MP

15th Senior Citizens Party at the Academy

19th Watton Junior School Assembly, Presentations and Christmas card competition.

19th Watton Market Walk round

159 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice Chairman's attendances in December:

14th Sports Centre with the Mayor opening of new boiler by George Freeman MP

15th Victorian Market organised by the Town Team (morning)

15th Christmas Carol Service at the Sports Centre (afternoon)

160 CLERK'S REPORT

A further 50 Winter Warm Packs had been received from Breckland Council for distribution.

A reminder was given to Members that the 'Official Opening' of the Play Areas would take place on Friday 22 February commencing at 9am at Lovell Gardens.

The Town Team had requested and it was agreed that they use the Clock Tower on the day of the car rally.

With reference to recent complaints against Members, it had been found that there was no evidence of a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and the matters were now closed.

161 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for January 2013 be approved.

162 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council had been informed that an appeal had been made to the Secretary of State in respect of planning application 3PL/2012/0676/-1412.

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

RESOLVED

Voting 2 for with 5 against and 5 Abstentions to support the appeal.

As the vote was lost, it was agreed to support Breckland District Council in their refusal of the application and that a letter be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

163 GRANTS

Three Grants were submitted which had been previously circulated to Members.

163.1 Dance Away

It was proposed by Councillor J P McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Wassell and unanimously agreed that a grant of £150.00 be awarded to Dance Away.

163.2 Christian Community Centres

It was proposed by Councillor J P McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Holmes and unanimously agreed that a grant of £500.00 be awarded to the Christian Community Centre.

163.3 Town Team

It was proposed by Councillor Osborn, seconded by Councillor Birch and

RESOLVED

Voting 4 for with 8 Abstention

That £500.00 be awarded to the Town Team.

164 OUTSTANDING/ONGOING ITEMS

Members heard from Councillor J P McCarthy the progress of the fire escape.

Council recognised that decisions had to be made in short time scales which could not necessarily wait for the next meeting and therefore agreed that delegated power be given to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor J P McCarthy, to make decisions that need to be made relating to the fire escape so that there would be no hold up of the work.

165 CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Chairman showed Members the chosen Christmas Cards which had been designed by the pupils of the Junior School.

It was agreed that the Council should check copyright with the school and if there were no problems printing costs should be sought.

It was further agreed that the Chairman should arrange with the school to present the winning children with a gift of £10.00.

The Meeting ended 8.35pm

JS