

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30 October 2012 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

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

Members of the Public Present: One (1)

95 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Birch, Blackmore and Osborn

96 INTERESTS

Item Councillors L McCarthy, J P McCarthy and Crabtree declared disclosable pecuniary interest as Trustees of the Sports Centre.

Item Councillor Crabtree declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as a committee Member of the Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

Item Councillor Cooper declared a personal interest as an employee of the Sports Centre.

97 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was agreed by Members that the Minutes OF Tuesday 9 October 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

98 COMMUNITY REPORTS

98.1 Police

Crime figures previously circulated

98.2 District Councillors

Councillor Gilbert had attended the Breckland ‘Have Your Say’ meeting and felt that it had been a very good meeting. He hoped that Breckland would take notice of the public’s views.

He had also attended the meeting in Ovington concerning the planning application for a Travellers site. It had been well attended and good points had been made.

Councillor Wassell stated that the response from the 'Have Your Say' meeting had surprised Breckland with 80% suggesting increasing the Council Tax to the maximum and a 50/50 response to car parking charges.

One Member felt that the turn out across the district to the 'Have your say' on the budget had been appalling and showed sheer apathy.

He had also attended the meeting in Ovington which he described as lively.

Boundary review

A working group had been set up to establish what size the council should follow up by the determination of Ward boundaries to ensure equalisation of representation across the district.

The Parish Precept was not now required until January.

He had instructed Breckland to supply 60 warm packs to Watton Town Council to be handed out to the elderly.

Police Elections would take place soon.

98.3 County Councillors

County Councillor Rogers informed Members that he had arranged for Baroness Gillian Shepherd to open the sustrans cycleway.

He had also attended the Ovington meeting but had not been impressed by the police liaison officer.

A resident in Caston had discovered a burglar in their home, called the police only to be told that they don't send cars to burglaries. He would be taking up the issue with the police.

The ruling party at County Hall had agreed to freeze the Council Tax for next year although unions were asking for a pay increase.

The sequencing of the Traffic Lights was mentioned and the Clerk reported that the police were dealing with problems with the pedestrian crossing lights being deliberately jammed.

98.4 Members of the Public

A Member of the public suggested that the Council look at other ways used by other countries where the lights are on red from 6am – 11pm and operate only when a car approaches.

99 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

26 September visited Watton Junior School
28 September invited to 864 ATC Presentation evening
2 October attended Breckland Councils Budget presentation
4 October Opened Watton Art Group annual exhibition
7 October Norwich Cathedral for the Justice Service
17 October Watton Society AGM

100 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

October - 'Have your say' meeting at Breckland District Council Dereham
2 October attended Breckland Councils Budget presentation

101 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that Audit Commission had approved the 2011-2012 Annual Accounts noting that the Council is to review the Asset Register, Risk Assessment, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

The Breckland Courier service will cease collecting from Watton Town Council from 5 November to 7 December as a trial period. We can still use the Wayland House post box.

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor Gilbert that the decision be reversed and that the collection box be situated at Watton Town Council. Councillor Wassell said he would investigate at Breckland.

Highways Rangers would be visiting the town soon, suggestions to the Clerk.

The Watton Society 2012 awarded the Council a Highly Commended Certificate for the communal displays in the town. A copy has been sent to the council's contractor TTSR.

Public Toilets locked due to anti social behaviour.

102 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that the Clerk did not need further approval for the £25.00 donation to the Royal British Legion or the Academy.

It was agreed that payments for October be approved

103 GRANTS

The following Grants had been previously circulated:

103.1 WATTON SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor Bunning and agreed that a grant of £250.00 be given to the Watton Senior Citizens Christmas Party

103.2 WATTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

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

RESOLVED

Voting: 7 for with 1 against

That a grant of £300.00 be given to the Watton Table Tennis Club for the use of Watton Schools only.

103.3 WATTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor Rogers and agreed that a grant of £500.00 be given to the Watton Sports and Social Club

Members were not happy with the comments in section E stating that the Sports Centre had received no help from the Council or Breckland and agreed that a letter be sent to express the councils concerns at the comments.

One Member was disgusted with the comments as both Councils had given support and grants previously.

104 OUTSTANDING/ON-GOING ITEMS

Previously circulated

The repair of the Town Clock was mentioned and the Clerk informed Council that Councillor Osborn had not come back to her with any report on his friend's inspection findings.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact a clock specialist.

There had been no response from the Academy regarding the designing of the Christmas cards, so the Chairman proposed and was agreed that the Junior School be approached.

As Flagship had not responded to the cutting of the hedge on Church walk, it was agreed that a letter be sent stating that if they did not maintain the hedge within the next 14 days that the Councils Contractor, would cut the hedge and the Council would invoice the cost to Flagship.

The Clerk was also asked to contact Bennett's to ask that they cut the hedge on Norwich Road.

106 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

106.1 Planning Application 3PL/2012/1037 – Mr & Mrs W D Abram

Proposed sing storey front extension to 32 Wayland Avenue

No Objection

106.2 Planning Application 3PL/2012/1098 – Cranswick Country Foods

To erect a single skin steel framed building to house trailers containing animal waste (by product) material to improve control management of the waste materials

No Objection

107 PLANNING RESULTS

3PL/2012/0906/F – Mrs G Jones - Rear and side extension to dwelling 41 Griston Road .

Breckland District Council permission granted

No Objection from Watton Town Council

3PL/2012/0980/F – T-Mobile (UK) Limited - Installation of 1600mm microwave dish, Watton Water Tower Lovell Gardens

Breckland District Council permission granted

3PL/2012/0892/F – Mr & Mrs E Poole – Demolish garage and link and erect single storey dwelling 67 Dereham Road, Watton

Breckland District Council permission granted

108 BUDGET 2013-14

The Chairman presented the budget.

Members discussed the Christmas Lights and felt that in the past, the town had been lucky that the lights had been put up by volunteers, at such a low cost, and felt that if the town wanted lights they would need to be paid for.

It was agreed that the Clerk obtain costs from the contractor to light the high street, so that the amount could be put into the budget.

The Meeting ended 8:10pm
JS