

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 10 June 2014 at 7.00 pm at Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton, Norfolk

Councillors Present: J Rogers - Chairman
K Birch - Vice Chairman
B Bunning, P Cooper, R Crabtree, K Gilbert, M Holmes, R Ivory,
R Turner and M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Rosa McMahon – Reporter, Eastern Daily Press

Members Failed to Attend: Alan Osborn

14/1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors P Blackmore, L McCarthy and JP McCarthy

14/2 INTERESTS

Item 14/8 – LABV Report – Councillor M Wassell declared a Personal interest in this item as the Leader of Breckland Council.

14/3 MINUTES

The Chairman pointed out that the minutes of Tuesday 27 May 2014 had been re-issued with apologies given by Councillors M Holmes and R Ivory. Both P Blackmore and A Osborn did not attend.

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 May 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was proposed by Councillor P Cooper and seconded by Councillor M Wassell and

RESOLVED
(Unanimous)

That in future Councillors who did not give their apologies be marked as ‘Members Failed to Attend’.

Councillor Gilbert also asked and it was agreed that reasons for apologies be noted.

14/4 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members discussed the switching on of the Christmas Lights and whether there should be an event held to include the switching on of the lights and who should be responsible for organising it.

It was agreed that the Council would organise the event and invite the Town Team to help.

A working Party of Councillors, B Bunning, M Holmes, K Birch, M Wassell, R Crabtree, P Cooper and R Ivory would arrange the event. They would meet sometime in September.

It was agreed that Festivalite be awarded the contract for the lights so that the outstanding work needed could continue.

The lights would be switched on at the event on Sunday 30 November 2014.

14/5 TREE JUBILEE GARDEN

The contractor was still waiting for a response from Breckland Council regarding permission due to the tree having a TPO on it.

Councillor Wassell was asked to chase this at Breckland.

14/6 TOWN CLOCK REPORT

The annual service report highlighted the following:-

- a) A water leak around the bell.
- b) Electrics for lighting need fixing.
- c) Piece of floorboard needs repairing as it is rotten.

The Town Handyman would repair the floor and the roof and the electrician would repair the electrics in July.

Members discussed the repair/replacement of the weathervane and the missing (N) north part.

A Member reminded Members that Councillor J P McCarthy had in the past indicated that he would have it made.

It was agreed that costs be sought for a replacement weathervane.

14/7 COUNCIL WEB SITE

In a review of the Council Website Councillor P Cooper reported that it was the most up to date site of the local towns. There were some areas that needed tidying up but otherwise the Council was satisfied with the site.

The Clerk was asked to work with Councils Contractor and make the adjustments.

14/8 LABV REPORT

Some Councillors had been to look at the sites and a report of their views had been previously circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor K Gilbert and seconded by Councillor R Crabtree and

RESOLVED
(Unanimous)

That the views on the report be agreed as the Councils decisions and sent to Breckland Council.

14/9 STREET LIGHTS

It had been reported that a street light in Garden Close (LO546) had been damaged and had been removed.

Members agreed that if the cost to replace it could be claimed from the accident it should be replaced.

14/10 CLERKS REPORT

1. Mr Halliwell had asked that the Clerk inform the Council that a Community Speed Watch was now up and running and that training would commence shortly. Six people had volunteered.

The Clerk reported that she had asked Mr Halliwell if he could keep the Council updated with the speeding issues on the Dereham Road as this would support the intended speed sign which he agreed to do.

2. The office had received enquiries relating to the issuing of Dog poo bags. Breckland Council no longer issued them to the parishes but they could be collected from the Dereham office.

14/11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3PL/2014/0511/F – Mr & Mrs Draycott, 44 Brandon Road, Watton – Two Story Rear Addition and demolition of existing outbuildings.

The Council had No Objection to the application

3PL/2014/0532/F – Mr & Mrs Bell, 115 Brandon Road, Watton – New dwelling and garage.

The Council had no objection to the site being developed, but asked that Breckland look at the design as Members felt that it was not in keeping with the other property designs. The house was positioned behind the garage.

14/12 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was Proposed by Councillor J Rogers, seconded by Councillor R Ivory in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and

RESOLVED:

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted relating to Tenders, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

1 Playground Fence Tender

It was agreed that a meeting be held with the Sports Centre before any decisions be made, on the Tenders for the fence.

2 Watton Sports Centre

It was agreed that the Council take legal advice on the request from the Sports Centre for security of tenure for the Memorial Sports Field and that a meeting be arranged with the Sports Centre to clarify matters.

The Meeting ended 8.28pm
JS