

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 11 February 2014 at 7.00 pm at Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton, Norfolk

Councillors Present: L McCarthy- Chairman
J Rogers – Vice Chairman
K Birch, R Crabtree, K Gilbert, M Holmes, R Ivory, J P McCarthy, A Osborn,
R Turner, M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Members of the Public Present: Two (2)

13/137 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Cooper, P Blackmore and B Bunning

13/138 INTERESTS

Item 13/145 – Town and Parish Support Grant Development – Councillors J Rogers, M Wassell and K Gilbert declared personal interests in this item as Members of Breckland Council.

13/139 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting on Tuesday 28 January 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13/140 TREE REPORT – JUBILEE GARDEN

The Chairman reported that the tree in the Jubilee Garden had been looked at by a professional Arborist as agreed. It had been difficult to make an accurate assessment as the tree was densely covered in ivy.

Due to the trunk of the tree being densely covered in ivy, it was suggested that a two foot section of the ivy be removed at the base of the tree. Further advice could then be given on whether the tree needed to have the ivy removed or the whole tree be removed.

It was proposed by Councillor R Crabtree, seconded by Councillor J Rogers and

RESOLVED

That the Council grounds maintenance contractor be asked to remove the ivy as suggested by the Arborist.

13/141 MARKET RULES CHANGE

Members discussed changes to the market rules.

It was agreed that the following changes be made:

- 1.1 Item 17 - At the end of trading the Stallholder shall cause all goods, empty cartons, crates and boxes, paper and other Market Refuse to be removed from the town and the site be left clean and tidy.
- 1.2 Item 22 - The footings of metal-framed stalls shall be fitted and provided by the Stallholder, with flat metal plate fittings or supported on wooden blocks to prevent damage to pavements.

It was proposed by Councillor M Holmes, seconded by Councillor R Turner and

RESOLVED

That Items 17 and 22 of the Market Rules be changed and a letter be sent with the new rules to the Market Traders pointing out the changes.

13/142 PLAYGROUND DAMAGE – WATTON SPORTS CENTRE

Report from Councillor Paul Cooper ‘APPENDIX A’

Members felt that the fence should be replaced and expressed concerns about the three Leylandii trees and felt that they should be removed.

It was proposed by Councillor M Holmes, seconded by Councillor R Crabtree and

RESOLVED

That quotes be obtained for the replacement of the fence and that the Sports Centre be written to asking that the three Leylandii trees be removed.

13/143 BRECKLAND CORE STRATEGY RESPONSE

Breckland has stated that they are increasingly finding themselves disadvantaged in their handling of planning appeals where there is a requirement for a contribution towards outdoor and children’s play space, and request that individual parishes inform them of any schemes with details of a) what proposals there are/likely to be, b) where the provision/improvements will be made, and c) if possible some indication of when the work would be likely to take place.

It was proposed by Councillor J Rogers, seconded by Councillor K Gilbert and

RESOLVED

That a letter of support be sent to Breckland Council pointing out that there will be substantial support needed for the land included in the 106 agreement for the former RAF Radar site.

13/144 WAYLAND PARTNERSHIP HERITAGE GROUP RESPONSE

The Wayland Partnership Heritage Group is to set up a project to research the impact of WW1 on this rural area and seeks the support of the Council in supporting their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It was agreed that a letter of support be sent to the Wayland Partnership Heritage Group stating that the Council fully supports the project.

13/145 TOWN AND PARISH SUPPORT GRANT DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Gilbert reported that new evidence had come to light regarding the Localised Council Tax Grant confirming that a letter had been sent to the Leaders of all Councils stating that the grant should be passed on to Town and Parishes.

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

RESOLVED

(Voting: seven for with four abstentions)

That having regard to new information recently received, especially the letter from Brandon Lewis MP to Leaders of all Councils, sent by e-mail on 6 January 2013, the Council writes to Breckland Council asking them to reconsider their decision not to pass on to towns and parishes their share of the localised Council tax support grant.

13/146 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

3PL/2013/1212 – Mr & Mrs D Hall, 2 Dowding Road, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6HS – Proposed erection of detached dwelling house with garage, 2 Dowding Road, Watton.

The Council had no objection to the development proving that it was of similar design and that similar materials were used.

3PL/2014/0093/F – Mr & Mrs T Garner, 48 Dereham Road, Watton – Rear side single storey extension, 48 Dereham Road

The Council had no objection

3PL/2010/2009/0122/F – Plaswood Site, 20 Griston Road, Watton – The application has been withdrawn by the applicant.

3PL/2013/1054/F – Lifestyle Living Groups, extension to Mobile Homes Park, Town Green Road, Redhill Lane, Watton – The application had been referred to the Breckland Planning Committee and will be heard on Monday 17 February 2014.

It was agreed that Councillor Roger would speak on behalf of Watton Town Council. Councillor Gilbert also stated that he would speak at the meeting in his role as a District Councillor.

13/147 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor J Rogers, seconded by Councillor M Wassell in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press and

RESOLVED:

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

1.1 Staffing

It was noted that the salary review which had been carried out at the request of members would be accommodated within the current budget.

1.2 Complaint

A letter of complaint received was discussed and the “actions” taken to try to resolve it to date were noted.

It was agreed that further “actions” would now be taken in an attempt to settle the matter. The Council was satisfied that all reasonable efforts had now been made to respond to and answer the complaint.

The Meeting ended 8.05pm
JS