

**Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 7.00 pm at Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG in the Council Chamber**

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Doug Faulkner -Reporter, Eastern Daily Press

Members of the Public Present: Four (4)

**14/206 APOLOGIES**

An apology for Absence were received from Councillor P Cooper

**14/207 INTERESTS**

Item 14/215 – Councillors J P McCarthy and L McCarthy declared personal interests in this item as Members of the Watton Sports Centre.

Item 14/251 – Councillor R Crabtree declared a personal interest in this item as a Trustee of the Watton Sports Centre.

**14/208 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council Meetings on Tuesday 21 and 28 October 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to an amendment to the minutes of 28 October 2014 Item 14/193 1.2 read Councillor Holmes not Councillor Wassell.

Councillor Gilbert asked the Chairman if he could read out Appendix ‘A’ in response to his report item 14/193 1.2

**14/209 VAS SIGN REPORT**

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had been in contact with Norfolk County Council regarding the cost for 2 x moveable SAM2 VAS signs which would be £4000 each. A Highways engineer would arrange a meeting to advise on areas where the signs could be positioned.

**14/210 RECORDING, MICROPHONE AND HEARING LOOP SYSTEMS**

Members were given the option of either a wired system or an infra-red system for both recording equipment and an induction loop for budgetary purposes.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Wassell, seconded by Councillor Turner and unanimously agreed that the preferred choice was the wired system and that £10,000 be put in the budget for 2015/16.

#### **14/211 CEMETERY SEAT**

The Chairman explained that the request for the donation of the seat had been accepted and that the position of the seat would be to the rear of the Cemetery by the hedge at an angle adjacent to the hedge bordering the allotments. This would allow full view of the Cemetery.

It was proposed by Councillor Turner, seconded by Councillor Crabtree and unanimously agreed that the seat be sited where explained.

#### **14/213 WASTE BIN – HARVEY STREET/NELSON COURT**

A request had been made from Breckland Council that the litter bin at the corner of Harvey Street/Nelson Court be changed to a lockable one, to prevent litter being blown onto the footways and highway.

It was unanimously agreed that the litter bin be changed.

The Chairman informed Members that two lockable litter bins had been donated to the Council by the now disbanded Project Rainbow.

#### **14/214 LITTER BIN – EAST ROAD**

Requests had been received to site a litter bin by the seat on East Road.

It was unanimously agreed that a bin be positioned in the vicinity of the seat in East road.

#### **14/215 PLAY AREA – WATTON SPORTS CENTRE BARK**

The Chairman reported that the bark chippings had been removed from the playground area. He was not happy that the tree stumps were still protruding and felt that the Council should not consider taking responsibility for the extra piece of land until they had been removed.

#### **14/216 LIME TREES – CHURCH WALK**

The lime trees had previously been pollarded four years ago and Members did not feel that they needed to be done this year. The saplings had been removed but some of the branches needed to be cut back.

The Chairman offered to inspect the trees the next day and was agreed that the Town Handyman prune the branches back away from the footway as soon as possible.

#### **14/217 BENNETT HOMES 106 MONEY**

The Chairman asked that a letter be sent to Breckland Council and Bennett Homes to ask that the 10.5 acres of land which was part of the 106 agreement for the former RADAR site to be fenced off.

It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with Breckland planners to confirm that nothing has changed from the original 106 agreement.

## **14/218 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1.1 Y/3/2014/3008 - Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 2DL – Westfield Infant School – Expansion of existing school to three form entry school: works to include removal of temporary modular classrooms and erection of new teaching block; extensions and alterations to existing school; additional car parking spaces and associated works.

The Council had no objection

### **1.2 Hopkins Homes development off Thetford Road**

Breckland Council had informed the Council that Hopkins Homes were looking at who would take over the green open spaces on their new development.

Members discussed the pieces of open spaces and agreed that the only piece the Council would be interested in was area one as this could be used as a play area. The other areas were too small.

## **14/219 FESTIVE MARKET AND LIGHTS UPDATE**

Councillor Bunning gave an update of the forthcoming Festive Market on Sunday 30 November 2014.

The erection of the Christmas lights would begin on Sunday 16 November through to Tuesday 18 November.

## **14/220 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was Proposed by Councillor K Birch, seconded by Councillor R Turner 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 staffing matters, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

### **1 Staffing Matters**

The Chairman informed Members that the Town Clerk had given notice of her retirement from the Council in December 2014 and that a press release would be issued by the council.

The Meeting ended 8.45pm  
JS