

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7.00 pm

at Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AG in the Council Chamber

Councillors Present: Ken Birch Chairman, Beryl Bunning – Vice-Chairman, Kevin Abbott, Peter Bishop, Richard Crabtree, Daniel Fishlock, Jennie Fishlock, Keith Gilbert, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Margaret Holmes, John Rogers, Maureen Roy.

Officers Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk, Michelle Craigie Administration Assistant.

1. APOLOGIES

No specific apologies received for this meeting.

2. INTERESTS

Jennie Fishlock declared an interest in item 4.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 05.01.16

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th January 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

Daniel Fishlock and Maureen Roy were unanimously co-opted as members of the Town Council.

Declaration of Interest forms were duly signed and Cllr Fishlock and Cllr Roy were welcomed to the table.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following:

3rd December – Achievement Evening Wayland Academy

4th December – Mildenhall Christmas Reception

5th December – Thursday Club Christmas Lunch

13th December – Good Companions Christmas Lunch and Town Carol Service

15th December – Council Christmas Meal

25th December – Collected people for lunch at Lime Tree Walk

5.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman thanked all Councillors and their family members who gave time to assist at the successful Festive Market on November 29th.

The Vice-Chairman has attended:

13th December – Town Carol Service

15th December – Council Christmas Meal

5.3 Clerk's Report

A copy of the written report presented is filed. Correspondence update also given and copy filed.

Points raised:

- A request was made for the Museum 4 Watton Groups application to possibly use a room at Wayland Hall to house an Eighth Army Touring Exhibition to be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- Watton Post Office is to become a main style branch and will be closed from January 22nd to February 9th for refurbishment work to be undertaken. Enquiries will be made to ascertain what alternative arrangements will be in place to accommodate the temporary closure.
- Breckland Council is consulting on the Preferred Directions for the emerging Local Plan. Councillors were presented with copies of the proposed development site options relevant to Watton.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present but, in her capacity as a resident of Saham Toney, Cllr. Roy informed Councillors of a Public Meeting regarding the proposed Richmond Hall development to be held at the Well's Cole Community Centre, Saham Toney on the 19th January at 6.30pm.

7. **ACCOUNTS**

7.1 **December payments for approval were unanimously accepted** as presented with slight amendment to Councillor expenses (£10.80 to be deducted). Approval included the agreement to offer those High Street traders which supplied electricity to run the Christmas lights £10 to cover the cost of the electricity. A vote of thanks was also given to the Chairman who acted as driver of the Town Ambulance on Christmas Day to ferry attendees for Christmas Lunch at Lime Tree Walk. **It was agreed by all that no charge would be made for the cost of the diesel used in the bus on Christmas Day.**

A suggestion was made that it could be cheaper to provide a mobile phone for use by the Community Car Scheme team rather than continue to finance the provision of a home phone. Costs will be monitored.

7.2 To consider rate demand for the Clock Tower

A rate demand of £76.00 for the period 01.12.15 to 31.03.16 for the Clock Tower has been received. Previously the bill has been zero as the building has been classed as empty premises. Breckland Council will be approached to determine whether the demand can be relaxed.

8. **ANTIQUA STREET MARKET**

A verbal request has been made for the Council to consider an antique market being held in the High Street. This matter has been passed to other bodies for consideration.

9. TOWN AMBULANCE

It was felt a definitive report should be compiled outlining all aspects of the operation of the ambulance with a view to making a decision regarding the future of the bus. This matter will be a future agenda item once a report has been compiled.

10. CLOCK TOWER SURVEY

It was unanimously agreed that provider 3 of the list presented would be engaged to undertake a building survey of the Clock Tower.

11. TOWN COUNCIL STORAGE

A suggestion has been made that the Town Council should investigate the possibility of permission being granted for a garage to be erected on the land managed by the Charlotte Harvey Trust. Discussion will be opened with the Charlotte Harvey Trust with the view that the Trust considers negotiation of a lease with the Town Council.

12. PURCHASE OF HAND WASHING UNIT

Unanimous agreement to purchase a portable hand washing unit at a cost of £177.60 (includes VAT) to replace that borrowed from Breckland Council. The borrowed unit was stolen from the Festive Market.

13. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR 2016

It is felt by all that a very good job was exercised by the contractor who erected the 2015 lights and a letter of thanks will be sent accordingly. The Town Handyman was instrumental in assisting the contractor and thanks will be passed to him also.

It was noted that a new set of lights had been purchased as those initially erected on the Christmas tree failed.

It was unanimously agreed the 2015 contractor will be the preferred contractor for 2016.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

14.1 3PL/2015/1468 Proposed extension and alterations at Lancaster House, 2 Portal Avenue, Watton

Refusal Recommended

Concern voiced regarding drainage as it is reported that a ditch to the rear of the property has been filled in.

14.2 3PL/2015/0976 Outline application for residential development of up to 65 dwellings, a community medical centre, open space and associated works – Richmond Hall, Saham Toney

This development is not within Watton. The general consensus was that the Town Council would support the opinion made by Saham Toney Parish Council.

14.3 3PL/2015/1477 Proposed extension to dwelling 4 East Road, Watton

No objections

Other applications not on the agenda:

- 3PL/2015/1367/A
Install ATM through glazed shop front, replace glazing with laminate security panel including fascia sign and install acrylic sign - Co-op, Watton.
- Watton Infant & Nursery School: Variation of condition 3 of PP Y/3/2014/3008 to extend timescale for submission of scheme for provision of footway link.

Decision notices received:

- 3PL/2015/0681/F proposed replacement dwelling at Meadow View, Watton Green – permission refused
- 3PL/2015/1354/F – two storey side extension at 19 Henrys Court, Watton.
- 3PL/2015/1360/F – single storey porch extension at 10 South Road, Watton.

Notification received that an appeal has been made to the Secretary of State in respect of the refusal of planning permission for application no. 3PL/2015/0219/F - 73 dwellings together with open space at land west of Saham Road, Watton.
Appeal Ref. No: APP/F2065/W/15/3140922.

Cllr. Gilbert informed the Council that the Hearing for the appeal relating to the proposed Thetford Road development will take place on March 8th at the Queen's Hall, Watton.

15. Exclusion of the Press and Public: In the view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, concerning staff and contracts, the Press and Public will be excluded from the meeting at this point.

Investigation needs to be undertaken regarding the electricity supply for the Clock Tower.