

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 12th July 2016 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors Present: Beryl Bunning –Chairman, Stan Hebborn – Vice-Chairman, Peter Bishop, Janet Carr, Daniel Fishlock, Jane Fountain, Jennie Fishlock, Keith Gilbert, Sue Hebborn, Tina Kiddell, Patricia Warwick.

County Councillor Claire Bowes present for part of the meeting.

Officers Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Margaret Holmes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

Tina Kiddell declared an interest in item 7. as a member of the Sports Association and Beryl Bunning declared a personal interest in item 7.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 28.06.16

The minutes of the meeting held on June 28th 2016 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following:

30th June Opening of Jubilee Rose Garden

1st July Whistle for the Somme remembrance event

7th July Emergency Planning Meeting

9th July Opening of Exhibition at Dragonfly Gallery

The Council has received a request for use of part of Wayland Hall to house a temporary exhibition in September. This request from the Museum4Watton was approved in principle earlier in the year but it was felt more detail as to what would be required and a comprehensive risk assessment would need to be undertaken. It was **agreed by all** that the use of part of Wayland Hall would be permitted subject to the Clerk and Maureen Roy obtaining assurance that all would be compliant with safety issues as appropriate.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

- The Vice-Chairman attended the events on June 30th, July 1st and July 7th along with the Mayor.
- The Mayor, Clerk and Vice-Chairman, with the grounds maintenance contractor, also recently looked around the areas in the town that the Council has responsibility for and several issues will be for future Council discussion.
- E-mail accounts are being established for all members of the Council.

- Plans for the proposed Firework Display are progressing well.

4.3 Clerk's Report

Verbal update given:

- The Council has been invited to submit full applications for DC11 funding for an extra piece of play equipment at Lovell Gardens Play Area to the value of £3374 and outdoor fitness equipment at Bridle Road to the value of £6720. The application must be submitted by August 8th 2016.
- The Council is now in the position to be able to co-opt another two new members to the Council. Four applicants have volunteered so far.
- The Mid-Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau has enquired about use of the Chamber for their 2016 AGM on 7th Sept.
- The Sports Centre Play Area Inspection has taken place with recommendation made that the bark surface needs to be topped up.
- An Appeal has been made to the Sec. of State to reduce the provision of affordable housing at the Radar Site, Norwich Road. A hearing date is yet to be set

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present but County Councillor Claire Bowes was invited to give a report:

Residents are being asked for their views on a proposed devolution deal for Norfolk and Suffolk and associated governance arrangements for the two counties.

Devolution would see the transfer of certain decision-making powers and funding down from Central Government to a local area.

The majority of councils across Norfolk and Suffolk, along with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, supported the deal and agreed to ask the public for their views. Consultation will run for seven weeks, until 23 August.

As part of the consultation, people are being asked for their views on more decisions being taken locally, rather than at central government. They will be asked if they support the creation of a combined authority chaired by a mayor for the two counties, how decisions should be taken and how a combined authority and mayor should be held to account for the decisions they take.

People can have their say by visiting www.eastangliadevo.co.uk and completing the online survey or the hard copy version. The website also includes further information about the proposed deal and the role of the proposed Combined Authority and Mayor.

It was noted that Breckland District Council has not supported the deal.

Cllr Bowes acknowledged that she has informed Norfolk County Council (NCC) that she is supportive of the Town Council's position that street lights should not be removed from Brandon Road as has been proposed by NCC.

Cllr Bowes stated that she is to meet with George Freeman MP regarding the recent flooding experienced in the town and she will report back to the Town Council. *It was noted that Norfolk County Council became the local lead flood authority in April 2015.*

6. GRANT APPLICATION FROM WATTON CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

It is a condition of grant applications that accounts of the body requesting a grant be submitted with any application. Accounts have not been submitted in this instance therefore the Council decided the application could not be accepted. However, **it was agreed by all** that a donation of £500 would be given to Watton Carnival Committee but any future support would need to be through grant application submitted with supporting accounts.

7. JUBILEE GARDEN UPDATE

Volunteers who have worked extremely hard to improve the appearance of Jubilee Garden were acknowledged.

Suggestions, including purchase of bulbs, a planter or a picnic bench, were made as to how the £200 received from the Eastern Daily Press Community Chest Fund should be spent.

It was noted a £30 donation in garden centre vouchers has also been received.

It was agreed by all voting to purchase a name sign for Jubilee Garden at a cost of £65.00. It had been agreed by all voting that Financial Regulation 11h be waived in this instance as the price obtained for the sign was deemed to be the best value achievable. Beryl Bunning declared a personal interest in this item and did not vote.

8. REPS. TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Reps. to outside bodies were agreed:

Janet Carr to attend the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings (meetings are open to the public)

Twinning Association Rep. – Pat Warwick

Wayland Partnership - Beryl Bunning

Watton Sports Centre – Tina Kiddell

Wayland Chamber of Commerce – Pat Warwick

It was noted that the Council nominates Trustees both for the Stevens Almshouses Charity (Margaret Holmes) and the Watton Relief in Need Charity (current Council trustees Beryl Bunning and Margaret Holmes).

No volunteer came forward to act as the Citizens Advice Bureau Rep.

Discussion took place regarding formalising the Events Committee Working Group.

It was agreed the following will form the basis of the group but that all Councillors are welcome to attend any Events meetings if they wish to.

Members volunteering to attend Events Working Group Meetings:

Beryl Bunning, Stan Hebborn, Maureen Roy, Pat Warwick, Keith Gilbert, Jane Fountain, Janet Carr and Tina Kiddell.

Meetings are likely to be held before the start of Town Council meetings to assist members' availability.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT:

9.1 3PL/2016/0652/HOU, Extension to attached garage forming new single garage at Porterian, 11 Loch Lane, Watton

No objections raised.

9.2 3PL/2016/0761/F, Replacement shop front with roller shutter and canopy (retrospective), Watton Stores 42 High Street.

It was noted that a previous application at this location for a shop front advertisement was refused as it detracts from the visual character and appearance of the street scene. The sign does not preserve or enhance the appearance of Watton Conservation Area.

The Town Council felt that refusal should be recommended for the replacement shop front on the same grounds as the previous sign application.

10. WATTON SPORTS CENTRE

Discussion took place regarding the proposals put forward by Watton Sports Association for the possible long term future of the Sports Centre.

The Council would want to see the Sports Centre and the recreational spaces remaining in the centre of the town and this message will be conveyed to the Sports Association.