

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 24th January 2017 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors Present: Beryl Bunning – Chairman, Patrick Alzetto, Peter Bishop, Gavin Bulmer, Janet Carr, Jane Fountain, Keith Gilbert, Margaret Holmes, Tina Kiddell, Maureen Roy, Patricia Warwick.

District Councillor Michael Wassell

Officers Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk

1 member of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Gavin Bulmer, Daniel Fishlock, Jennie Fishlock, Sue Hebborn and Stan Hebborn.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

No Declarations of Interest made.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 10.01.17

The minutes of the meeting held on January 10th 2017 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Mayor has attended the following:

12th Jan. met Internal Auditor Stephen Christopher.

12th Jan. Civic Service for Bill Borrett, leader of Breckland Council.

18th Jan. Meeting at Wayland House with Vice-Chairman, Clerk and Jan Godfrey. The Wayland Partnership is asking for support from the Town Council for their lottery grant funding application to boost tourism within the Wayland area. Councillors were all happy to offer backing for the application.

19th Jan. Policing in Breckland presentation given at Watton Sports Centre.

20th Jan. Meeting with other councillors attended by George Freeman MP. County Councillor Claire Bowes was also present. The positive meeting focused on the advantages of drafting a Neighbourhood Plan and Mr Freeman offered his support should the Town Council decide to compile a plan. This matter will be an agenda item again at a future Town Council meeting (other interested parties will be invited to attend the meeting) with a provisional date of March 10th set for Mr Freeman to visit Watton to meet with councillors again.

21st Jan. Watton Acorn Fair.

21st Jan. evening reception for Mayor of Swaffham and President of Swaffham Lions.

It was noted that a Twinning Association social event is to take place on Jan. 29th to which all councillors are invited.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report – no report as Vice-Chairman absent.

4.3 Police Report – no Police present.

4.4 County Councillor Report – no County Councillor present

4.5 District Councillor Report

District Councillor Michael Wassell reported that up to March 1st applications can be made for a share of the pot held by Breckland Council for outdoor play equipment.

Breckland Council now has one main telephone contact: 01362 656870.

Breckland Council budget is being considered with a need to make savings of £2.68 million. It is expected there will be a 2% rise in Breckland Council tax.

District Councillor Keith Gilbert reported that Breckland Council is looking to support market towns.

He also stated that it is possible consideration of unitary status for Norfolk may be resurrected.

Breckland Council Scrutiny Committee is looking into the street naming process as current thinking is not to use the names of people for street names. It was noted that developers have the choice regarding street names.

Breckland Council is looking at how unsightly areas in the district might be enhanced.

4.6 Clerk's Report

Verbal update given:

- Flood and Water Team are to be visiting Watton 25.01.17 in relation to the expected Norfolk County Council Flood Report.
- Date to meet with the Police Inspector to be arranged.
- Meeting arranged with owner of Thetford Road allotment land to discuss future lease.
- Terms of Engagement received from solicitor to be appointed to compile lease of part of Wayland Hall to the Museum for Watton Group.
- The Clerk has attended a War Memorial information morning and will be attending an insurance seminar on 25.01.17 and a use of volunteers information session organised by Norfolk Community Transport Association on 26.01.17.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of the public present congratulated the Council for the positive work which has been undertaken recently.

6. ACCOUNTS

6.1 Payments for January were accepted as presented.

7. MAINTENANCE WORK FOR WAYLAND HALL ROOF

One quote has been received to clear moss from part of Wayland Hall roof and undertake some minor maintenance work. It was agreed by all however that at least three quotes should be obtained to clear all the roof before this matter is considered

again. The Council is reliant on its neighbour for access to the roof of Wayland Hall unless the whole roof can be accessed from the three street facing sides.

8. FOOD FESTIVAL

Report previously presented by Cllr. Gilbert was considered with a verbal update given regarding the possible costs of staging the event. With no allowance having been made in the 17/18 budget for any large scale such event it was felt a small scale food festival only could be held in 2017 and all agreed a working party should be established to consider this further. Initial meeting will take place at 6pm on February 14th prior to the Town Council meeting.

9. DONATION TO MID-NORFOLK CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (CAB)

It was agreed by all that no decision to financially support the CAB would be made by the Town Council until confirmation has been received that the CAB has vacated the Charlotte Harvey Trust site.

10. PLANNING NOTIFICATIONS

10.1 3PL/2017/0017/A Erect 1 internally illuminated fascia sign and removal of canopy (Re-positioning of sign refused under 3PL/2016/0594/A) 42 High Street, Watton Stores
No objections

10.2 3PL/2016/1522/F Install commercial ground source heat pump and enclose it in shed/plant room 31 Orchard Close, Watton
No objections

10.3 3PL/2016/1546/HOU Single storey extension to existing dwelling 55 Thetford Road, Watton
No objections

10.4 Erection of one dwelling 115 Norwich Road, Watton 3PL/2017/0040/O
Overall objection due to general feeling that the proposed back land development is not a suitable location.

11. Resolution to exclude the Press and Public In the view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

The Business Plan received from Watton Sports & Social Club has been initially considered and it is felt further liaison should be taking place with the Sports Centre.

Agreement was made to engage a consultant to look at undertaking a feasibility study to explore ways Watton Town Council and Watton Sports Centre might work together for the benefit of the people of Watton.

It was proposed and agreed by all that £3000 would be allocated to this project.

A further possible donation to Watton Sports Centre in light of the receipt of the Sports Centre Business Plan will be an agenda item for a future Town Council meeting.