

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 24th May 2016 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors Present: Beryl Bunning –Chairman, Peter Bishop, Daniel Fishlock, Keith Gilbert, Stan Hebborn – Vice-Chairman, Sue Hebborn, Margaret Holmes, Maureen Roy.

Officer Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk

District Councillor Michael Wassell

3 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jennifer Fishlock.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Stan and Sue Hebborn declared an interest in item 12.1 as they live adjacent to the land under consideration.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 10.05.16

The minutes of the meeting held on May 10th 2016 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

4. CO-OPTION

As there are now four vacancies on the Council it was agreed that the one co-option that could take place now will be held over until other vacancies can also be filled.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following:

May 14th – Twinning Reception at Wayland Hall

May 16th – Twinning Social Evening

May 17th – Met with Keith Gilbert and volunteers from the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society at Jubilee Garden

The Chairman requested support for her to attend a Chairmanship Training course at a cost of £70. Unanimous support given.

It was noted that the Royal British Legion for will holding a "Whistle for the Somme" event at the War Memorial on July 1st at 7.30am

5.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman gave an update regarding ongoing enquiries which have arisen from concerns raised by past members of the Council.

The Vice-Chairman is leading to ensure matters raised are clarified and any misunderstandings cleared. The Council is pro-actively investigating the accounts to ensure that moving forward legitimate balance sheets are regularly produced.

Financial Regulations state that at least once a quarter an appointed Councillor should verify bank reconciliations and a volunteer was requested.

The Town Council manned a stall at Watton Market on May 11th and points raised by members of the public included concerns regarding graffiti within the town.

The Council will continue current practise of contacting owners of any property which is subjected to a graffiti attack but will also look to provide information which would hopefully be useful in dealing with this issue.

It was noted the new Police & Crime Commissioner, Lorne Green, has aspirations to tackle graffiti and a request will be made for him to visit Watton.

5.3 Police Report

No Police present.

Noted that a Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) meeting is to take place on May 25th at Watton Fire Station. Anyone can attend these meetings to raise concerns.

5.4 County Councillor Report

County Councillor not present.

5.5 District Councillor Report

Michael Wassell gave a verbal report, a copy of which is attached and will be available on the Town Council website.

Keith Gilbert reported that he had attended a meeting with George Freeman MP and representatives from What Watton Wants and Watton Medical Practice to discuss issues around development within the parish. As Breckland District Council has not had an identified five year housing supply the total number of houses to be developed in the area has seems to have been taken out of local hands [in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework]. It appears planning rules are continually changing.

5.6 Clerk's Report

A copy of the written report presented is filed.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman made note that members of the public may ask questions about items on the agenda but they also have the opportunity to put questions in writing to the Office to obtain a written response regarding matters not on the agenda.

Members of the public present were in attendance to hear what was decided at item 8.

7. ACCOUNTS

Payments for May

All agreed approval of payments for May as presented.

7.1 PURCHASE OF BRACKETS FOR SAM2

It was agreed by all to purchase another set of brackets for the SAM2 sign to enable easy re-location to all five chosen sites.

8. MUSEUM4WATTON

The Museum4Watton Group had submitted both a report regarding possible accommodation of a museum at Wayland Hall and a letter about one off use of the Garnett Mitchell room at the Hall for an official unveiling of 'Hero'.

It was agreed with one against that in principal the Museum4Watton Group will be supported in its plans to establish a museum at Wayland Hall. Negotiations will be needed before any formal agreement is entered into and this matter will be an agenda item again at a future Town Council meeting.

It was agreed with one against that the Garnett Mitchell room could be used for the unveiling of 'Hero'.

9. DISPOSAL OF TOWN COUNCIL MINIBUS

All were in favour of the Town Council minibus being sold at auction.

10. BANK MANDATE

Replacement bank signatories are needed. **All agreed** that volunteers Keith Gilbert, Danial Fishlock and Stan Hebborn will become cheque signatories and a new bank mandate will be completed accordingly.

Peter Bishop offered (accepted by all) to act as the appointed Councillor ('Accounts Overseer') to verify bank reconciliations.

11. MARKET TOWN INITIATIVE PLAN

Councillors were presented with a copy of the draft action plan for the Market Town Initiative and asked to pass comments or further suggestions to the Clerk. A meeting regarding the initiative will take place on June 7th, 9.30am at the Council Office.

12. PLANNING NOTIFICATIONS

12.1 BRECKLAND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING 31ST MAY

District Councillor Michael Wassell was invited to speak to help explain the planning applications which are to be considered at the Breckland Council Planning Committee meeting on May 31st:

3PL/2014/1378/F Residential development for 80 dwellings with associated servicing and infrastructure, Portal Avenue
and

3OB/2015/0007/O Modification of S106 of 3PL/2007/0262/O WATTON: Former RAF Radar Site

After discussion it was **agreed by all** that comments to be made on behalf of the Town Council at the Planning Committee meeting should be:

1. The Community land offered in the original 106 agreement should be handed over. A time extension should not be agreed.
2. The planning application 3PL/2014/1378/F is a separate matter and should be considered as such. The original 106 agreement should not be tied in to this proposal.

It was agreed Peter Bishop will speak at the meeting on the 31st to give the Town Council's view.

Application for consideration:

12.2 3PL/2016/0573/F Erection of new building to house a new Butina system in addition to raising of roof of adjacent existing building – Abattoir, Brandon Road, Watton
No objections raised

12.2 3PL/2016/0525/HOU– Extension to porch at 5 Princess Close, Watton
No objections raised

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, concerning staff and contracts, a resolution was passed to exclude the Public and Press at this point.

13.1 PENSION SCHEME

It was agreed by all that the Town Council will make an application to join the Norfolk Local Government Pension Scheme.