

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 28th February 2017 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors Present: Beryl Bunning – Chairman, Peter Bishop, Janet Carr, Jane Fountain, Daniel Fishlock, Jennie Fishlock, Stan Hebborn, Margaret Holmes, Tina Kiddell, Maureen Roy, Patricia Warwick.

Officers Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Gavin Bulmer, Keith Gilbert and Sue Hebborn.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

Declarations of Interest made: Tina Kiddell item 13. Margaret Holmes and Pat Warwick in item 8. Although personally funding their visit Beryl Bunning and Stan Hebborn declared an interest in item 8. as they will be joining the 2017 trip to the twinning town of Weeze.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 14.02.17

The minutes of the meeting held on February 14th 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 Chairman reported that she was sorry Patrick Alzetto has resigned from the Council. He was thanked for his contribution to the Council. A notice of the vacancy has been displayed.

The Mayor has attended the following:

- 15th Feb. Youth Conference at Dereham. Peter Wilkinson and Anita Beckett would like to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to speak about the work of the Breckland Youth Advisory Board.
- Feb 18th Council training held at Wayland Hall was praised by those who attended. The large computer in the Council Chamber, which is on trial, was felt to aid delivery of the presentation and may be something the Council could invest in.
- Feb. 25th Watton Twinning Association dinner.

Concern was raised that Watton High Street is losing more traders. Budgens and the Dutch Flower Parade are to close, Charlies Pet Foods has already ceased trading and the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society is to shut its Watton branch later in the year.

It was agreed that a letter will be compiled to be sent to high street 'giants' in an attempt to encourage businesses to the town. George Freeman MP will be approached for

assistance and a press release will be issued to inform of the action the Town Council is taking.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

- The Vice-Chairman has written to George Freeman MP - letter to be e-mailed to Councillors.
- The Vice-Chairman, Tina Kiddell and the Clerk have visited Dereham Town Council to hear about Neighbourhood Planning and have also spoken to Breckland Council Planner Phil Mileham regarding whether Watton Town Council should undertake a Plan. Jane Fountain and Pat Warwick have attended Neighbourhood Plan meetings at Swaffham and Saham Toney respectively. It was agreed Breckland Council Neighbourhood Planning Officer Susan Heinrich will be invited to attend a Town Council meeting to advise the Council before any further decision is made regarding the Town Council compiling a Plan.

4.3 Police Report – no Police present.

4.4 County Councillor Report – no County Councillor present

4.5 District Councillor Report – no District Councillor present.

4.6 Clerk's Report

Report previously circulated to Councillors, together with a 'to do' list of outstanding items from previous decisions made. Copy of Clerk's Report filed.

It was noted that George Freeman is now scheduled to visit the Town Council on April 14th which is a later date than originally set.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – *No members of the public present*

6. ACCOUNTS

6.1 Payments for February were accepted as presented. Bank balance provided to Councillors.

6.2 The list of regular payments made by Standing Order or Direct Debit were accepted as presented.

6.3 Market Fees

Market Fees currently stand at £9.00 for the first 10 feet and 90p per foot thereafter. It was agreed fees will remain unchanged at this time.

6.4 Cemetery Fees

Cemetery fees will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Council when the Cemetery Report recently commissioned is considered. It was agreed by all payment of the invoice submitted for the report will be made.

6.5 Budget Revision

Councillors were presented with up to date budget notes and suggested minor budget revisions. Virements were accepted as suggested.

7. EVENTS WORKING PARTY MEETINGS

Terms of Reference for Events Working Party meetings were accepted as presented.

Notes from meetings held on 14.02.17 and 28.02.17 and subsequent Action Plans were also accepted.

It was agreed that the Smoke House Blues Band will be booked to attend the 2017 Festive Market at an estimated cost of £600.

8. GRANT APPLICATION FROM WATTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

It was agreed by all voting that £500 will be donated to the Watton Twinning Association as requested.

9. GRANT APPLICATION FROM WAYLAND FESTIVAL GROUP

It was agreed by all voting that £500 will be donated to the Wayland Festival Group as requested.

10. GRANT APPLICATION FROM WATTON U3A

As no grant application has been received to date this request will be an agenda item again for the March 28th meeting of the Full Council.

11. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed to continue with the current schedule of dates for Town Council meetings: Second and fourth Tuesday evening of each month except August and December when no meetings are planned.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

12.1 3PL/2016/1505/F – Erection of pair of semi-detached dwellings between Watton Road and Akrotiri Square, Watton

Objection recommended due to small size of site, the need to remove a tree which has a TPO, amenity space will be decreased and the street scene will be diminished rather than enhanced.

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

Donation to Watton Sports & Social Club

It was agreed a letter will be sent to the Trustees of Watton Sports and Social Club outlining recent concerns which have arisen relating to whether the Town Council will be able to grant any further donation to the Sports Centre.