

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 28th June 2016 at 7.30 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, Margaret Holmes, Tina Kiddell, Patricia Warwick.

Officers Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk

Eastern Daily Press reporter also in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

Margaret Holmes declared an interest in item 7. as a Trustee of the Charity.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 14.06.16

The minutes of the meeting held on June 14th 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:

21st June – Town Council minibus delivered to auction

23rd June – Unveiling of “Hero” in the afternoon and meeting with new councillors in the evening.

25th June – Caister Carnival - held tombola which raised £128 for Mayor's Charities.

28th June – Careers Fair Queen's Hall.

The Chairman expressed sympathy on behalf of the Council for residents and businesses who have suffered due to severe flooding experienced in the town and surrounding areas in the past week. It was suggested a meeting should be arranged to bring together agencies who should be assisting to ensure such flooding does not impact on residents or businesses.

All agreed a meeting will be called as soon as possible to bring local groups together to initiate compilation of an Emergency Plan for the future. A further meeting will be arranged for the appropriate agencies to visit Watton to assess the impact of the flooding both currently and as additional dwellings are constructed in the parish.

The Town Council will co-ordinate evidence of flooding if members of the public wish to pass photographs and written accounts to the Town Council Office.

The Chairman reminded those present that the Jubilee Rose Garden will be officially opened at 5.30pm on June 30th and a remembrance for those killed at the Battle of the

Somme is being held by the Royal British Legion at the War Memorial in the town at 7.30am on Friday July 1st.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman gave an update on the plans for a possible firework display to be held in the town later in the year.

Much information been given previously at a Working Party Meeting and in summary it is hopeful that this event will be held at the end of October. Much depends on the availability of a suitable and affordable pyrotechnic firm.

4.3 Police Report

No Police present. Apologies received.

4.4 County Councillor Report

County Councillor not present.

It was agreed by all that if the County Councillor cannot attend Town Council meetings she should be asked to produce a monthly written report for distribution.

4.5 District Councillor Report

Keith Gilbert had attended the Breckland Planning Committee Meeting on June 27th when the applications to modify the Section 106 Agreement relating to the former RAF Radar Site and to erect 80 dwellings at Portal Avenue were considered and accepted, contrary to the opinion of the Town Council.

Flooding issues have been debated at Breckland Council and all parishes are encouraged to compile Emergency Plans.

It was noted Breckland Council voted to reject the recent devolution offer which has been put to Norfolk and Suffolk.

The issue regarding wares displayed on the pavement in the High Street was raised and it was noted that some traders are creating hazards for pedestrians. It was also felt that occupiers of property around Chaston Place should be approached regarding the uneven paving in that area.

4.6 Clerk's Report

A copy of the written report presented is filed.

Verbal update given:

- Notification received of Local Plan Workshop to be held at Watton Sports Centre on July 19th which Councillors are invited to attend.
- Community Action Norfolk Transport Survey (to e-mail to Councillors).
- Norfolk Association of Local Councils Newsletters - notification of Summer Seminar.
- Devolution briefing www.eastangliadevo.co.uk
- Correspondence received from a member of the public and the Site Health, Safety and Environment Manager at Cranswick regarding the need for a pedestrian crossing by Cranswick Country Foods premises.

- Correspondence received from a member of the public regarding whether plans are being considered to extend the Cemetery (to be future agenda item).
- The recent wet weather has identified leaks to the roof both at Wayland Hall and the Youth & Community Centre.
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One of the office computers has been subject to a virus and thus **it was agreed** that £8.00 per month would be added to the current IT contract to include virus protection.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

6. ACCOUNTS

6.1 Payments for June

All agreed approval of payments for June as presented.

6.2 Internal Auditors Report

The Internal Auditor has compiled an Action Plan for consideration by the Council. **The Council agreed** to address the points raised as soon as possible and a response will be made to points in the plan.

6.3 All agreed to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 which was duly signed by the Chairman and RFO.

6.4 All agreed to accept the accounts for the year ending March 31st 2016 and approve the Accounting Statements 2015/16

6.5 Attendance at RTPI Conference

All agreed for Pat Warwick and the Clerk to attend the conference.

7. GRANT APPLICATION FROM STEVENS ALMHOUSE CHARITY

All agreed to grant £500 to the Stevens Almhouse Charity as requested.

8. REMOVAL OF STREET LIGHTING B1108

Norfolk County Council (NCC) has sent notification that it is planned to trial turning off street lights along the B1108 as NCC is committed to achieving a 50% carbon reduction for street lighting in Norfolk by 2020.

The Council is adamantly against this for safety reasons.

9. PLANNING NOTIFICATIONS

Application for consideration:

9.1 3PL/2016/0661/HOU Extension to kitchen and conversion of garage 258 Lovell gardens.

No objections raised

9.2 3PL/2016/07360/O – Erection of dwelling 31 Merton Road

No objections raised