

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 29 July 2014 at 7.00 pm at Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton, Norfolk

Councillors Present: J Rogers Chairman
K Birch Vice Chairman
P Blackmore, B Bunning, P Cooper, R Crabtree, K Gilbert, M Holmes and R Turner

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: County Councillor Stan Hebborn

Members Failed to Attend: A Osborn

Members of the Public Present: Six (6)

14/44 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors R Ivory, J P McCarthy, L McCarthy and M Wassell

14/45 INTERESTS

Item 14/45 - 1.2 - Councillor R Crabtree declared a personal interest in this item as he is a Trustee of the Watton Sports Association.

14/46 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on Tuesday 15 July 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/47 PRESENTATION – REDHILL PARK

3PL/2014/0672/F – Lifestyle Living Group – Extension to Mobile Home Park – Redhill Park, Redhill Lane

Andrew Campbell of Andrew S Campbell Associates gave a presentation on behalf of the Lifestyle Living Group of the revised plan for the Redhill Park development which had previously been refused by Breckland Council.

He stated that previous highways objections had been addressed and that 106 agreements for open space had been increased from £40,000 to £50,000 and that £60,000 would be used for affordable housing elsewhere in the Town.

He also stated that the Southern side of the proposed footway had now been moved to the Northern side allowing this to meet with Church Walk with no loss of highway.

Some Members expresses concerns that there would be an increase in traffic on Church Road with the addition of a further 54 Park Homes.

It was proposed by Councillor J Rogers, seconded by Councillor P Blackmore and

RESOLVED

(Voting 8 for with Councillor K Gilbert voting against)

That the Council support the application for the benefit of the Town.

14/48 COMMUNITY REPORTS

1.1 Police

Crime Figures previously circulated.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Chief Constable Simon Bailey requesting that the police attend Council meetings.

1.2 District Councillor Keith Gilbert

Councillor Gilbert had attended three sessions of the scrutiny Task and Finish Group which had been set up by Breckland Council to look into the Watton Medical Practice problems. He said that it had been very interesting and felt that all Members should read the report when it was published.

Councillor Holmes requested that all Members were given a copy of the report.

1.3 County Councillor Stan Hebborn

Councillor Hebborn expressed his concern that the statement from Watton Town Council in response to Watton Medical Practice (WMP) - Press and Social Media coverage had included UKIP especially after he had spent some time explaining how he had met with NHS England, condemned the BNP for their statement, appeared on Look East and Radio Norfolk to try to resolve the WMP issue.

He asked that the Council decide if they were indeed accusing him of racism and if so either present evidence or withdraw the resolution in its current form so that trust and confidence could be restored for the two parties to work together for the good of the benefit of the Community.

He also stated that he was working with local businesses in Watton to obtain Grants, and had set up "Proactive Watton" in the wake of recent negativity.

14/49 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had attended the following:-

18 July – Norfolk County Council Chairman's Summer Reception
21 July – Change of Command Ceremony at RAF Lakenheath
26 July – Redhill Park Garden Competition
27 July – Mayor of Attleborough Civic Service

14/50 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Vice Chairman had attended the following:-

3 July – Wisbech 'At Home'
13 July – Twinning Association Cream Tea
26 July – Redhill Park Garden Competition

14/51 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for July 2014 be approved

14/52 SAHAM TONEY TROD REQUEST

Saham Toney Parish Council had requested the Council's support for a Trod on Cley Lane for which they had applied to Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme.

It was proposed by Councillor J Rogers, seconded by Councillor K Birch and agreed that Watton Town Council support the application up to the Watton Boundary but no further.

14/53 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3PL/2014/0703 – Mr & Mrs Poole, Dereham Road, Watton – Rear single storey extension. Replacement of existing roof tiles.

The Council had no objection to the application.

STREET NAMES FOR FORMER RAF RADAR SITE

Breckland had rejected two of the Street names put forward by the Council for the former RAF site development and asked Council to submit further names.

It was agreed that the following Road Names be Submitted:-

Lincoln
Dye
Hastings

14/54 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was Proposed by Councillor J Rogers, seconded by Councillor R Turner in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and

RESOLVED:

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted relating to Security Issues, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

1.1 Security Issues – Wayland Hall

It was proposed by Councillor K Birch, seconded by Councillor R Crabtree and agreed that Council take the advice of the Police Crime Prevention Officer to implement the recommended security equipment into Wayland Hall to protect the staff.

1.2 Sports Centre Land

At the discretion of the Chairman the extension of a piece of land to the existing play area at the Watton Sports Centre was discussed.

It was proposed by Councillor J Rogers, seconded by Councillor R Turner and

RESOLVED

(Voting: 7 for with 2 Abstentions)

That use of the piece of land adjacent to the Children's play area which had been offered by the Sports Centre be accepted once the Lleylandi trees had been removed at no cost to the council.

The Meeting ended 8.26pm

JS