

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday 8th November 2016 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors Present: Beryl Bunning –Chairman, Stan Hebborn – Vice-Chairman, Patrick Alzetto, Peter Bishop, Jane Fountain, Keith Gilbert, Sue Hebborn, Margaret Holmes, Tina Kiddell, Maureen Roy, Patricia Warwick.

5 members of the public.

Officers Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk, Michelle Craigie Admin. Assistant.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Gavin Bulmer, Daniel Fishlock, Jennie Fishlock and Janet Carr.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

Margaret Holmes and Tina Kiddell declared an interest in item 7. as members of Watton Sports Centre and Stan Hebborn declared an interest in item 4.3 as a recipient of payment.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 25.10.16

The minutes of the meeting held on October 25th 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:

- October 26th Visited Conservation Volunteers while they were working to clear the area to the north of the Bridle Road Paly Area.
- October 29th Council Firework Event. Congratulations were voiced from all to Stan Hebborn who had taken the lead in organisation of an extremely successful evening. £1140 worth of glow sticks were sold of which the profit will go to the Mayor's Charities.
- November 1st Working Party Budget meeting.
- November 2nd Watton Society Quiz.
- November 7th Event to celebrate 30 + 1 years of Shearing Methodist Church and St. Mary's Church working together.

Councillors were reminded that a two minutes silence will be led from Chaston Place in the town on 11.11.16, a service will be held at the War Graves at noon on 12.11.16 and the Remembrance Day Service for Watton will be held on 13.11.16 starting with a gathering at the War Memorial at 2.00pm.

Festive Market Update

The Chairman went through the plans for the Festive market to be held on 27.11.16 and copies of the “to do” list will be forwarded to Councillors.

4.2 Vice-Chairman’s Report

The Vice-Chairman thanked those who had helped with the Firework Event, including Maureen Roy for counsel relating to Health & Safety.

4.3 Payments relating to Firework Event 29.10.16

Accounts for the Firework event were circulated and agreed by all as presented.

4.4 Clerk’s Report

Clerk’s Report and Cemetery Report submitted to Councillors prior to meeting is filed.

Verbal update given:

- Invitation received to Wayland Academy Achievement evening. Proposal made to give donation of £30.00 to support the event accepted by all.
- Rural Services Network seminar Wednesday 14th December 2016.
- Analysis report for Vehicle Activated Sign which has been located on the Dereham Road is available.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public were present to speak relating to planning consultations on the agenda.

Concern was voiced that the extension at 71 Dereham Road was not a domestic extension but to be used for business and therefore a change of use application should be made.

Applicant for development of 9 bungalows along Griston Road spoke of his plans and the need for such a development.

6. Accounts

6.1 Payments for November

Two options have been received from the contractor engaged to erect the 2016 Christmas lights to extend the lights further along the High Street this year. It was **agreed by all** to accept the quote to extend lighting to Clarence House, Belvoir, Watton Kebab Shop and the Christian Community Centre in 2016 with the possibility that the lighting will be extended further next year to Lings Motorcycles.

A payment of £1460 was agreed by all to purchase the extra lights needed.

Stan Hebborn declared an interest as a neighbour of the contractor.

6.2 Merger of the Town Council bank accounts as suggested by Internal Auditor

It was agreed by all that the bank accounts held by the Town Council should be merged so that one current account and one reserve fund account are held. Future consideration will be given to a deposit account which might give a more favourable interest rate.

6.3 Budget Revision

The budget revision was accepted by all as presented.

6.4 Budget for 2017/18 and precept request

A working party has considered the budget proposals for 2017/18 and the recommendation presented to the council was accepted by all.

Due to misinformation on the 16/17 Council tax bill it is likely to appear the Town Council expenditure is to rise greatly in 17/18. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Breckland Council regarding this 'error'.

7. To consider allocation of £10000 to Watton Sports Centre as requested
Representatives from the Sports Centre had been present prior to the start of the Council meeting to present their request for funding to the Council. Much discussion had taken place and options were considered as to how the Council could support the Sports Centre.

It was eventually proposed, and agreed by a large majority, that £5000 should be donated to the Sports Centre as soon as possible and that when an appropriate Sports Centre Business Plan is received which is acceptable to the Town Council another £5000 would be forthcoming.

The Council hopes to work with the Trustees of Watton Sports Centre to help them develop the Centre and it was suggested that a working party can be established. Volunteers to meet with representatives of the Sports Centre: Beryl Bunning, Keith Gilbert, Jane Fountain, Margaret Holmes, Patrick Alzetto, and Tina Kiddell.

8. To consider tenders received for Clock Tower maintenance
Item to be considered at meeting on the 22nd November 2106.

9. To consider play area maintenance and fencing needs.
It was agreed by all that a figure of £350 would be accepted to replace fencing to the rear of the Sports Centre Play Area with a gate to facilitate work already agreed for the play area.

10. Pension Policy accepted by all as presented.

11. To consider grant application for Watton Senior Citizens Party.
It was agreed by all to grant £250 towards the Watton Senior Citizens 2016 Christmas Party.

12. Planning Applications for comment:

12.1 3PL/2016/1216/VAR Removal of condition 7 on pp 3PL/2015/0534/F
redevelopment at 3 and 3a Dereham Road, Watton

Recommended support

12.2 3PL/2016/0741/F Demolition of bungalow & garage and replacement with 2 detached dwellings with garages at 43 Thetford Road, Watton

Concern raised regarding

possible over-development of the site

12.3 3PL/2016/1291/O Proposed residential development for 9 bungalows site south of Griston Road, Watton

The Town Council does not object to small scale development but this proposal is outside the settlement boundary. A request will be made for a condition to be added that permitted development rights be withdrawn to ensure the development remains as bungalows.

12.4 3PL/2016/1287/HOU Extension at 71 Dereham Road, Watton

Concern raised that the development is possibly for business use.

12.5 3PL/2016/1278/O Erection of one dwelling at 115 Norwich Road, Watton

Inadequate information to pass comment.