

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 31 May 2011 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton

Councillors Present: P Blackmore J P McCarthy
B Bunning L McCarthy
P Cooper – Vice Chairman A Osborn
R Crabtree J Rogers
K Gilbert R Rudling
A Harvey R Turner
R Ivory M Wassell - Chairman

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Sergeant Amie Abbs, PC Cobon and PCSO Jermy - Norfolk Police

Members of the Public Present: two (2)

7 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Holmes and District Councillor Claire Bowes

8 INTERESTS

Councillor Cooper declared a personal interest in Item 20.4 Watton Football Club grant as the Chairman of the Watton Sports Centre.

Councillor J P McCarthy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 20.4 Watton Football Club grant as President of the club.

Councillor L McCarthy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 20.4 Watton Football Club grant as Vice President of the club.

Councillor Turner, Rudling, Cooper, JP McCarthy and L McCarthy declared personal interests in Item 16 as customers.

Councillors Gilbert and Ivory declared personal interests in Item 20.3 Watton Festival grant as they are part of the Festival organisation.

Councillors Crabtree and Harvey declared personal interests in Item 20.3 as Members of the Watton Festival

Councillor Crabtree declared a personal interest in Item 20.4 Watton Football Club grant as a Trustee of the Watton Sports Centre.

Councillors JP McCarthy and Crabtree declared personal interests in Item 23 as Members of the Chamber of Commerce.

9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was agreed by Members that the Minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

10 COMMUNITY REPORTS

10.1 Police

PCSO Jermy presented the crime figure report (previously circulated).

The Chairman explained to Members that there had recently been problems of anti social behaviour at the Total Health Pharmacy.

Sergeant Abbs reported that the police had commenced engagement with the four youths involved. Police patrols had been increased and the situation was now under control. The owner of Total Health complimented the police on their action but expressed concern that it had taken seventeen minutes to respond.

Councillors were concerned about the amount of litter which groups committing anti social behaviour were generating in various areas around the town, drinking in areas which were restricted, the lack of police action, and problems with youths entering the former plaswood where the security fencing had been flattened.

There were also concerns that although the High School had been contacted on various occasions, no response had been forthcoming.

Sergeant Abbs informed the Council that in January 2012 there would be more police in Watton, based at the police station, and that the response team would be based out of Thetford and not Dereham.

10.2 District Councillors

10.2.1 Councillor Keith Gilbert

Councillor Gilbert reported that he had attended a public meeting at Carbrooke, to listen to the concerns about future development in the area.

After his election as a Breckland Councillor, he was now a Member of Overview and Scrutiny and Member Development Committees.

The Wayland News would now publish a column which all three Ward Councillor would take turns to put forward their views.

10.2.2 Councillor Michael Wassell

Councillor Wassell reported that he had also attended the public meeting at Carbrooke.

Since being elected as a Breckland Councillor, he had attended various meetings, and was now a Member of the Audit, Appeals and Licensing Committees.

He and the Clerk had attended a meeting at Breckland regarding the Community Car scheme, and had spent time at both the Contact Centre in Dereham, and the Presence Office in Watton.

He had forwarded documents relating to Pride in Breckland 'Be a Spring Detective' and information on Street naming.

10.3 County Councillors

Councillor Rogers informed Members that the new roundabout on the Norwich Road would be finished in a few weeks, and that the road would then be re-surfaced.

He had received complaints relating to Gilman's Drift, and confirmed that 'no access' signs for motor vehicles would be put up. He was also looking into the sequencing of the traffic lights.

11 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that Item 5, re-pointing work on Wayland Hall, would not now be carried out, due to the softness of the brick, and the advice of the Historic Buildings Officer at Breckland.

12 URGENT BUSINESS

12.1 Planning and Forward Development Committee

Councillor Rudling presented the committee report of Tuesday 3 May 2011, which approved.

He reminded Members that the appeal hearing for the 91 houses was at, 10am on Wednesday 1 June 2011, at Breckland Council.

12.2 Tesco entrance

Concerns had been expressed relating to the new car park area for Tesco, which had a vehicle entrance onto the Norwich Road. The Clerk was in contact with Breckland and would report back.

12.3 Cycle Way

The Griston Parish Clerk had contacted the Council, to seek support for the transfer of land for the cycle way.

It was agreed that a letter of support be sent to the MOD and the MOJ in support of their request.

13 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

26 May Attended the Business Breakfast

28 May Opened the Junkit Event at the Surge.

14 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk informed Members that the following documents were in the office for their perusal:

- Norfolk health, heritage and biodiversity walks
- Wider discussion on Norfolk County Council's commissioning intentions to support local communities to meet young people's needs.

15 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for May be approved

16 INTERNAL AUDITOR

It was proposed by Councillor Ivory and seconded by Councillor Crabtree and

RESOLVED

That Arden Kendal be appointed as the Council's internal auditor for the year 2011/2012.

17 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Chairman suggested that as there were only three Members who wished to serve on the Buildings and Assets Committee that it be combined with the Recreation and Environment Committee.

Councillor Harvey felt that rather than combine committees, there should be two Full Council meetings per month, where all Members would be able to discuss and vote, and that decisions would be made, thus speeding up the work of the Council. He also highlighted that this would eliminate the cancellations of meetings due to not being quorate.

Councillors Rudling and Gilbert disagreed and felt that the Committee structure should stay, with Councillor Rudling wanting Policy and Resources to meet bi-monthly, as he felt that finances needed to be looked at.

The Chairman reminded Councillor Rudling that the existing committees already had delegated power to spend their budgets.

It was proposed by Councillor Harvey and seconded by Councillor J P McCarthy and

RESOLVED

Voting: 9 for with 3 against and 1 abstention.

That the two Committees Buildings and Assets and Recreation and Environment would be replaced by two Full Council meetings per month, where all Members would be able to discuss and vote, and that decisions would be made, thus speeding up the work of the Council for a trial period of six months.

18 MEETING DATES

The Clerk was asked to submit a new table of draft meeting dates.

19 CHARITY COMMISSION RESPONSE

Report previously circulated.

The Chairman suggested and was agreed, that appointments to outside bodies be deferred, until reply's had been received from the organisations.

It was proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor JP McCarthy and

RESOLVED

That all organisations be written to and asked if they wished to have a Council representative on their committee, explaining the instructions of the Charity Commission.

20 GRANTS

20.1 East Anglia's Children's Hospice

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbert and seconded by Councillor JP McCarthy and

RESOLVED

Voting: 13 for with 1 abstention

That East Anglia's Children's Hospice application for a grant be declined.

20.2 Watton Family Support (Group)

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling and seconded by Councillor Crabtree and

RESOLVED

That Watton Family Support (Group) be given a grant of £100

20.3 Watton Festival

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling and seconded by Councillor Rogers and

RESOLVED

Voting: 8 for

That Watton Festival be given a grant of up to £360 to cover loses

Councillor JP and L McCarthy declared interests and left the room.

20.4 Watton United Football FC

Some Members expressed their concerns that when games were being played, that there is a lot of bad language used, and felt that this was unnecessary, and should not be given a grant until discipline had been restored.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the club, explaining why the grant had been deferred.

It was proposed by Councillor Turner and seconded by Councillor Blackmore and

Resolved

Voting: 10 for with 1 abstention

That a grant be deferred until an improvement in behaviour be reported.

21 MEMBERS TRAINING

The Chairman reported that Breckland offered training courses, at £30 per person and suggested that the Council take advantage of this.

It was proposed by Councillor JP McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Rogers and

RESOLVED

That the three new Councillor attend one course each and report back

22 WEB SITE

The Chairman reported that Members now had e-mail addresses set up on the web site, and should contact the Clerk, who had all the details and necessary information, on how to set the link up.

He also asked Members to submit a photograph, with 150 words about themselves so that this could be added to the web site, and would also be put on the town notice boards.

It was made clear to all Members that when replying to individual e-mails, they were not acting on behalf of the Council, and that the Council would not be held responsible.

23 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

A letter had been received from the Chamber of Commerce stating clearly, that they did not hold responsibility for the Christmas lights, and that the lights had been transferred to the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling and seconded by Councillor JP McCarthy and

RESOLVED

That the Chamber of Commerce be asked to clarify that they would still continue to pay for the electricity supply to the shops, and supply the Christmas tree at no cost to the Council.

The Meeting ended 9.18pm

JS