

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Environment Committee of Watton Town Council  
held on Tuesday 8 March 2011 at 7.00 pm at Wayland Hall, Watton.**

Members Present:      Councillor Anderson                                      Councillor Ivory  
                                 Councillor Crabtree                                      Councillor Osborn  
                                 Councillor Harvey – Chairman                                      Councillor Rudling  
                                 Councillor Holmes – Vice Chairman

Officers Present:      Town Clerk - J Seal

Others Present:      Councillor L McCarthy

Members of the public: (1) One

**69                      APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J P McCarthy and Wykes

**70                      CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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

**71                      MATTERS ARISING**

Item 64 (item 59 minutes 4 January 2011), Norfolk County Council confirmed that if the washing of vehicles to the rear of Lings Motorcycles, did not cause an obstruction to the highway, there is little action that they would take. However, should the process of washing vehicles create a hazard on the highway, such as black ice, then they would be prepared to assist with action, to prevent this from exacerbating existing conditions?

**72                      URGENT BUSINESS**

Concerns were raised about the regularity of emptying dog bins, which was causing problems in East Road and various other areas. The office had also received a request for a dog bin at Goat Willow Close, off Griston Road.

It was agreed that the dog bin on the green on George Trollop Road be moved to East Road to help alleviate the problem in this area.

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

RESOLVED

That a new dog bin be purchased and placed in the vicinity of Goat Willow Close.

**73                      CORRESPONDENCE**

**73.1**              e-mail from Serruys informing Council that the fence at the old Plaswood site, which had blown down in the recent bad weather, had been re-instated. They also stated that in their opinion

that, some of the fencing panels were not affected by the weather, but seemed to have been knocked down by operations associated with the factory on Wood Lane.

Serruys thanked the Council for taking a keen interest in the site, but asked that in doing so; they investigate the workings and operations of the factory on Wood Lane, particularly its constant disregard to access and free use of the public footpath and road known as Wood Lane.

It was agreed that a letter of acknowledgement be sent to Serums that the Council would monitor their request.

**73.2** Letter of complaint from a member of the public:

- a. Street name plate for, Heron Way and Goldfinch Way, which are on the same name plate. This confuses visitors and the emergency services that have gone to the incorrect addresses.

Breckland have been informed.

- b. Request for a look right sign to be mounted on the approach to the roundabout on the main road into Watton.

Norfolk County Council Highways stated that there are no cautionary signs available that request drivers to 'look right' when approaching a roundabout, and advised that all drivers should be aware that they must look right when approaching a roundabout, as stated in the Highway Code.

- c. Concern was raised that the zebra crossing by the police station did not have a light above it.

Norfolk County Council is of the opinion that the flashing beacons should be adequate but points out that the Council could request street lighting at this location if they so wished.

It was agreed that the Council request that the crossing is lit the same as the other two crossings, with lights on both posts.

It was also agreed that Highways be made aware that a garden bench is positioned on the access to the crossing during the summer months.

**73.3** Complaint from a member of the public that the occupant of 15a High Street is tampering with the pigeon loft and releasing pigeons back into the town.

It was agreed that the occupant of 15a High Street be contacted stating that they should cease tampering with Council property with immediate effect.

**73.4** Response to letter sent to member of the public (previously circulated), relating to the pollarding of the lime trees in Church Walk.

It was agreed that a letter of acknowledgement be sent stating that the comments had been noted.

## **74 CEMETERY COMPLAINT**

A letter of complaint had been received from Salena Dawson & Co Solicitors on behalf of a member of the public (who had previously complained), with a petition regarding the grass cuttings over the headstones at the cemetery. The member of the public has requested that the Council furnish them with more details, as to how the addition of a collecting box to the lawnmower would add a considerable cost to the contract.

Members discussed the issues raised and took into account the petition, but felt that the contractor was doing a very good job, and that the Council was doing its best to look after the cemetery. The Members also highlighted that the Council also received numerous compliments, on the appearance of the cemetery compared to other cemeteries.

It was also pointed out that when a plot is purchased it is the responsibility of the family to maintain both the plot and the headstone.

## **75 FOOTPATH REVIEW**

Councillor Osborn requested that a review of footpaths be carried out by Norfolk County Council.

Members discussed the issues relating to Griston Road, and the lack of a footpath on the south west side of the road. It was pointed out that the road was very busy with pedestrians and buggies, which had to walk in the road.

It was agreed that Norfolk County Council Highways be asked to carry out a footpath review from Wood Lane to the Norwich Road, and that Breckland Council be asked to look at compulsory purchase of land if necessary.

## **76 PLANTER REPAIR**

Members agreed that the Litter Bins and Planters be looked at and re-planted if possible.

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

**RESOLVED**

That the contract to repair the brick and metal planter in the High Street be awarded to T.T.S.R. and that the cost of £325 be claimed through the Councils insurance.

## **77 DITCHES – LOCAL LANDOWNERS**

Concerns had been expressed by some Councillors that ditches had been filled in and not properly piped, which caused flooding.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact Breckland Council Environment to ask them to investigate the ditch at the Youth and Community Centre in Harvey Street.

78      **CEMETERY LAND – 106 INCLUSION**

It was agreed that Breckland Council Planning be asked to include funding for cemetery land to be included in future 106 agreements.

The Meeting ended at 8.04pm  
JS