

Minutes of the virtual meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday August 11th 2020 at 7.00pm

Councillors Present: Pat Warwick - Chairman, Peter Bishop, Beryl Bunning, John Chocqueel-Mangan, Jane Fountain, Keith Gilbert, Richard Hindley, Keith Prince, Don Saunders, Kathryn Stallard.

Officers present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk and Michelle Thompson Deputy Clerk.

Extraordinary meeting called to consider the "bigger picture" for post-Covid regeneration in Watton.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM

Tina Cruz, Tina Kiddell, Les Waller.

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the meetings held on 23rd June 2020 and 28th July 2020 were accepted as a true record. The minutes will be physically signed by the Chairman as soon as possible.

4. RESOLUTION PASSED TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS to allow confidential discussion relating to Watton Regeneration Project.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Presentation given by David Dent, Chairman of Wayland Chamber of Trade regarding Watton Regeneration and proposals for Wayland House. A copy of the confidential report is filed.

5.2 Verbal report from Wayland Partnership given by Bronwen Tyler in support of the previous presentation.

5.3 Presentation given by Neil Featherstone relating to Watton Neighbourhood Plan and Watton Regeneration. A copy of the confidential report is filed.

A report "Watton and Wayland: Post Covid Regeneration" written by George Freeman MP was also received. A copy of the confidential report is filed.

6. WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 11.08.2020

A Working Group meeting had been held to consider aspects of Watton Regeneration and from that Councillors were asked to submit a wish lists of wants for Watton which, as requested, will be passed to Sam Chapman-Allen Leader of Breckland District Council.

7. MARKET TOWN INITIATIVE

7.1 Middle Street Road Closure

The emergency closure of Middle Street has been reviewed and Middle Street is to be re-opened but closed to vehicles from midnight on a Tuesday night to 16.00 the following Wednesday to allow the market to continue to be held in Middle Street. The parking bays outside Wayland Hall are to be suspended (not the disabled bay) with 2 picnic benches to be sited in the bays.

7.2 Market Gazebos

Very similar quotes have been received by contractors to continue to erect the gazebos for the market each Wednesday. Points on the quotes will be confirmed but **it was agreed** that the contract should remain as it stands until March 2021.

7.3 Market Charges

It was agreed to re-introduce charges for market traders as from Sept. 1st [suspended during the Covid pandemic] and to review market charges at a future meeting in September.

Noted that Standing Orders were suspended to allow the meeting to continue past 9.00pm.

8. WATTON REGENERATION

8.1 It was agreed that Watton Town Council will continue to support the Wayland Partnership and Chamber of Commerce plans for a digital hub and regeneration in the town, as linked to the emerging Watton Neighbourhood Plan.

8.2 Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

It was felt that the Watton Neighbourhood Plan should be stalled at present until further information is known as to how Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans may be effected by a recently announced planning white paper [the new Planning White Paper puts forward a vision to radically overhaul England's current planning system and replace it with zonal planning]. A period of consolidation was suggested and the NP Steering Group will meet to decide what is needed.

All consultation for the NP to date should be collated and advice will be sought relating to the white paper.

9. WATTON CHARITIES WORKING TOGETHER

It was felt that current discussion around the possibility of charities within the town working more closely together should not be confused with the regeneration plans for the town and that a meeting of local charities should be called. **It was agreed** that Trustees of the Charlotte Harvey Trust would be asked to facilitate a meeting with other local charity trustees with the view to establishing some open discussion.