

Minutes of the virtual meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday June 23rd 2020 at 7.00pm

Councillors Present: Pat Warwick - Chairman, Peter Bishop, Beryl Bunning, John Chocqueel-Mangan, Tina Cruz, Jane Fountain, Keith Gilbert, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Richard Hindley, Tina Kiddell, Don Saunders, Kathryn Stallard, Les Waller.

Officers Present: Jane Scarrott Town Clerk and Michelle Thompson Deputy Clerk

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE:

Stan and Sue Hebborn declared an interest in item 6.1.

2. THE INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT, HAVING BEEN PRESENTED TO COUNCILLORS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, WAS ACCEPTED.

The points raised on the Internal Auditor's Action Plan were considered.

Recommendation 1 will be implemented by ensuring the Annual Inspection Reports for the Play Areas are considered as formal agenda items in future.

Recommendation 2 relating to updating and maintaining accurate burial records is historic but the traditional burial ledgers are now up to date. The Administration Clerk has undertaken a lot of the work to update the records while working from home during lockdown.

The third recommendation made is that the Council might consider investment of some funds.

3. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2019/20 (AGAR)

3.1 SECTION 1 OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/20 WAS AGREED AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

(Clerk to sign once AGAR received back from the Chairman as both cannot sign the same paper at a virtual meeting).

3.2 SECTION 2 OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/20 WAS SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

4. REPORT FROM MEETING HELD 19.06.20

Members of the Watton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group took part in a meeting with George Freeman MP who wished to outline his thoughts on how Watton might evolve post-Covid.

From the meeting it was suggested George, David Dent, Chairman of Wayland Chamber of Trade and Neil Featherstone as the Town Council consultant working on the Neighbourhood Plan should work together to produce a Financing Business Plan.

It was resolved that GF, DD and NF should get together to help progress the Business Plan and that costs for the consultants time would be met from the Neighbourhood Plan budget as this specific piece of work is seen as an extension of the Neighbourhood Plan. The project will be monitored to ensure expenditure is reviewed appropriately.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Payments for June were accepted as presented.

5.2 It was agreed that the Watton Society will be granted £500 as applied for.

5.3 It was agreed that hosting of the Watton Town Council website would be transferred to Broadland Digital at an estimated cost of £360. **It was also agreed** to enter into contract with Broadland Digital for .gov.uk e-mail addresses for all councillors and staff.

6. PLANNING: Planning applications received for consultation were considered. Noted that District Councillor Keith Gilbert does not participate in planning agenda items as he is a member of Breckland District Council Planning Committee.

6.1 3OB/2020/0018/OB - Submission of Affordable Housing Scheme prior to commencement of residential development for 80 dwellings with associated servicing and infrastructure approved under 3PL/2014/1378/F - WATTON: Land at Former RAF Officers Mess Site Norwich Road WATTON AND CARBROOKE

No objections

6.2 3PN/2020/0024/UC - Change of use B1(c) building to 4 units C3, WATTON:123 Brandon Road

Support

It was agreed to support the application as it resolves an inappropriate industrial use at the location and provides for a long term solution to a site that has been untidy for some time.

6.3 3PL/2020/0584/HOU - Proposed side extension to form annexe. WATTON: 2 Jubilee Road

No objections

Received after the agenda was circulated:

Consultation:

3PL/2020/0598/F Installation of UV Kiosk and associated pipework.(retrospective), Watton Water Treatment Works, Lovell Gardens

No comments

Decision notification:

Approval of 3PL/2019/1554/D

Reserved matters application for 180 dwellings, provision of open space & recreational facilities with associated highway and infrastructure works, following outline application 3PL/2018/0952/O Land at Thetford Road, Watton

Breckland District Council (BDC) operates a sifting panel for review of planning applications consisting of a Chairman and two members of the Planning Committee. The panel decides if planning applications should be decided by officers under delegated authority rather than being considered by the Planning Committee. Approval of application 3PL/2019/1554/D was given under delegated powers.

Councillors felt that this application was of such significance that it should have been decided by the Planning Committee and that BDC have not listened to residents who wished to have the ability to speak to the Planning Committee on this application.

Decisions made by email from the agenda for May 26th Town Council Meeting were confirmed.

- Item 2 – It was agreed that a Planning Consultant will be engaged to review the draft of the Watton Neighbourhood Plan
- Item 3 – It was agreed that market traders will not be charged a pitch fee until such time as other traders return when the situation will be reviewed.
- Item 4 – It was agreed that a gardener will be engaged to work at Jubilee Garden 2hrs per fortnight at £18 per hour.

DRAFT