

Minutes of the virtual meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday September 8th 2020 at 7.00pm

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

Others present: District Councillor Claire Bowes

Officers present: Michelle Thompson Deputy Clerk.

1. **NO APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED**

2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

3. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meetings held on 25th August 2020 were accepted as a true record. The minutes will be physically signed by the Chairman as soon as possible.

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended The Watton Society Watton in Bloom competition 2020 and was pleased to accept, on behalf of Watton Town Council an award for "the excellent display of shrubs and flowers in the High Street"

4.2 Vice Chairman's Report

The Vice Chairman had nothing to report.

4.3 Clerk's Report

Written report submitted in agenda pack.

District Councillor Claire Bowes was in attendance after submitting a written report regarding the current COVID-19 position at Banham Poultry. Report to be filed.

5. **HR**

5.1 HR Minutes

HR minutes from the meeting held on 27th August 2020 were noted.

5.2 Lone Working Policy

The Lone Working Policy was adopted as presented

5.3 Service Level Agreement – CHT

It was agreed that The Town Council formally approaches Swaffham Town Council with a view to requesting an extra 1 day per week Service Level Agreement time for the PEPSO which would be allocated to the Charlotte Harvey Trust. (Cost to be met by the CHT).

6. **PLANNING WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION**

It was agreed that the Planning White Paper Consultation will be an item on the next Town Council meeting agenda once the Breckland District Council Zoom meeting with Susan Heinrich on Wednesday 16th September at 2pm has been held, which is specifically looking at the White Paper in terms of Neighbourhood Planning.

7. **BRIDLE ROAD**

7.1 **Official Opening of New Play Equipment**

It was agreed that the official opening of Bridle Road new play area equipment will take place on September 24th at 2pm. The opening will coincide with Help Clean up our parks – National Litter Picking event. It was suggested to invite the Eastern Daily Press, the Wayland News and also the new play area equipment installers, Hags.

It was suggested that the office purchase face shields for all councillors in light of the litter picking event and also thinking forward to possibly meeting physically again.

7.2 **WILD FLOWER AREA**

Following receipt of correspondence from a resident a possible project could be created at Bridle Road to include a wild flower area and the planting for bee's project who are offering free planting seeds, other areas of suggestion included the bank at Memorial Gardens and land at the Youth and Community Centre. It was suggested that a group similar to the drainage group consisting of residents and councillors be set up to identify areas of planting to be explored and to execute any plans.

8. **LAND AT SOUTH ROAD**

Breckland District Council has consulted the Town Council regarding plans for the proposed sale of two parcels of land at South Road, Watton. It was felt it was a shame for the land to be auctioned off as the area seems to be an asset for the community.

9. **PLANNING**

9.1 3PL/2020/0899/F – Proposed two bay warehouse – WATTON: Drome Garage, Norwich Road

In principle the Town Council supports this application as it believes that it is a reasonable development required to support the viability of the business on the site. The concerns raised were that the development appears to have already been carried out but the application is for a proposal and not retrospective, no information is supplied regarding either sewage and waste water disposal or of the disposal of water runoff from the development. Given that Watton does have issues relating to foul drainage and that the adjacent properties in Bluebell close already have water retention problems in the gardens, the council would ask that these details are addressed. It is also noted that a fence over one metre in height has been erected on the

boundary of the property facing Norwich Road. It is understood that this requires planning permission, however it does not appear to form part of this application.

10. To pass a resolution to exclude the press and public to consider:-

10.1 Update on Watton Charities and possible further action

It is the decision of Watton Town Council to notify the Office of the Charities Commissioner in writing regarding our concerns of a "Serious Reportable Incident" in relation to the Watton Sports Club and the potential detriment this could bring to the Council" It was also decided that Watton Town Council shall write to the Watton Sports Club regarding the Annual General Meeting they have announced for 28th September to request a copy of their COVID Risk Assessment and to establish how and where they intend to host a meeting that is open to the entire community within the area of Benefit (A radius of 10 miles of Watton in the County of Norfolk) and to ensure that the relevant Authorities are informed.