

Minutes of the virtual meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday November 10th 2020 at 7.00pm

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

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM

Tina Cruz, Sue Hebborn, Tina Kiddell and Les Waller

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

Pat Warwick declared an interest in item 7.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 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 has attended:

- Watton Relief in Need Charity meeting. Noted that a small amount of money may be available to support the planned holiday kitchen to be run from the Charlotte Harvey Trust building.
- PPG meeting on Nov. 2nd.

The Mayor laid a wreath on behalf of the Town Council on Remembrance Sunday.

4.3 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman attended Breckland Council Market Towns virtual meeting. Briefing notes from the meeting have been passed to Councillors.

The Vice-Chairman will be booked to attend the NALC event Strategic Planning for larger Projects taking place on Jan. 26th 2021.

4.4 Clerk's Report

A copy of the Clerk's Report, including updates from the meeting held on 27.10.20 was included in the agenda pack for the meeting with a verbal update also given:

Update from previous meeting 27.10.20

Item 4.1

Debbie Wildridge will speak to the Town Council re. regeneration at a virtual meeting to be held on Monday 16th November @ 7pm.

Breckland Five Market Town Catch-Up led by Sam Chapman-Allen was held on 4th November (notes have been passed to Councillors).

Item 4.6

Tim O'Riordan has offered to attend the TC meeting on Dec. 8th to speak about carbon footprints and sustainability.

Item 11

The Norfolk Children's Book Centre (NCBC) is researching books the Town Council might like to purchase as Christmas gifts for year 6 and under children in the town. Organisation will be needed to wrap the books and deliver them to the school and nurseries. Father Christmas is planned to visit the school on December 16th.

It was agreed to go ahead and order the books as recommended by NCBC plus purchase of 1000 stickers for the books at a cost of £75.

Christmas lights

Noted that the town Christmas tree and lights are to be erected this week. Due to the inability to connect to all usual electrical points in Watton High Street it is planned to focus the lights on Chaston Place and the Clock Tower this year.

To bring some festive cheer it was agreed Santa will be invited to take a trip around Watton before Christmas.

Good Neighbour Scheme

Don Saunders volunteered to be the Town Council liaison with the newly formed Watton Good Neighbour Scheme.

It was agreed that £500 of funds still remaining from the Covid Support Grant received by the Town Council will be passed to the Good Neighbourhood Scheme to support residents in need as a result of the pandemic.

5. FINANCE

5.1 The draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on October 20th were noted.

5.2 The following recommendations from the Finance Committee were accepted:

5.2i The Finance Committee recommends that, whilst welcoming and accepting the agreement with Swaffham Town Council to increase the PEPSO weekly hours (SLA), Watton Town Council should not agree to take over the employment contract which ends in June 2021. Further consideration will be given to the PEPSO position during the next six months

Market Report presented to Councillors in agenda pack

5.2ii Market Charges

a) To introduce a new schedule of charges from April 2021:

Small Pitch (up to 10sq metres) £10

Medium Pitch (up to 30sq metres) £20

Large Pitch (up to 60sq metres) £30

Charity Traders - One off pitch - free

Charity Traders Regular pitch - 50% of pitch charge

b) To continue to offer the loyalty saving as outlined in the report.

c) To continue to press for the pedestrianisation and development of the Market area in Middle Street/Old Dereham Road.

5.2iii To continue to support programmes which focus on maintaining and developing the Market as an integral element in the character and USP of the town.

5.2iv To support improvement to equipment for older children age group at Bridle Road Play Area up to a cost of £20000 part funded by a s106 funding allocation but with the Town Council to allocate money from the youth provision budget if necessary

6. GATE AT JUBILEE GARDEN

It was agreed that a gate will be fitted to close the gap made in the fence between Jubilee Garden and the Thetford Road allotments, at a cost of £350 plus VAT.

7. DONATION REQUEST FROM WAYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

It was agreed to make a donation of £5000, as requested, to Wayland Chamber of Commerce.

8. PLANNING

Noted that, as a member of Breckland District Planning Committee Keith Gilbert made no comment on the application consultation at the Town Council meeting.

8.1 3PL/2020/0899/F Proposed two bay warehouse, Drome Garage Norwich Road Watton

Application has been approved

8.2 3PL/2020/1153/HOU Proposed pitched roof over existing flat roof & erection of new carport.

39 Sharman Avenue Amended plans - changed garage to carport

No comments

9. Resolution passed to exclude the public and press to consider staffing matters.

9.1 Draft minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on October 22nd 2020 were noted

9.2 The recommendations from the HR Committee, as in the draft minutes, relating to increasing the hours of the Market Supervisor to 6.5 per week were agreed.