

Minutes of the virtual meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday July 28th 2020 at 7.00pm

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

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM

Tina Cruz, Tina Kiddell, Keith Gilbert.

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

3. FINANCE

Listed payments for July were approved.

Councillors presented with budget update and bank reconciliation dated 30.06.2020.

As it is now a quarter of the way through the financial year consideration will be given to holding a meeting of the Finance Committee.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had no reports to make.

4.2 Clerk's Report.

Written report submitted in agenda pack with update also presented at meeting:

- A virtual meeting had been held led by George Freeman MP to consider aspects relating to regeneration in Watton. Notes from the meeting are to be compiled and distributed to Councillors. It was felt the notes should be discussed at a meeting of the Charlotte Harvey Trust prior to the next scheduled meeting with George Freeman.

5. COVID-19 Community Support

5.1 Loch Neaton

WTC notes that the Trustees of Loch Neaton have been undertaking litter clearance around the Sports Centre in addition to the Loch Neaton site. This has been due to the current closure of the Sports Centre and littering of the grounds by unauthorised users. WTC acknowledges the Trustees of Loch Neaton have been carrying out a public service in ensuring that both the Loch Neaton site and grounds abutting this are kept safe and clean.

In acknowledgement of this service and in recognition that this is likely to continue in the short term, it was agreed that Watton Town Council will transfer £400 from the Council's CIF Budget to the Loch Neaton Committee for the purpose of covering the extra costs of rubbish disposal.

1. 2. Charlotte Harvey Trust (C HT)

WTC notes that Watton has recently lost its Children's Centre, and due to COVID-19 factors the Benjamin Foundation has found it necessary to withdraw from the planned joint project with the CHT. Although there are discussions ongoing in relation to the long term planning for Watton Charities and facilities, there is still a need for short and medium term plans for the individual Charities.

WTC acknowledges that as the Sole Trustee of the CHT, the Council, on behalf of the residents of Watton, has specific legal obligations in regard to the CHT, and that the CHT building should provide a valuable service to the Watton Community.

To ensure the successful re-opening and use of the building, and to support the remit of the Charlotte Harvey Trust Charity, WTC agrees the following:

- a. The sum of £8091.78 returned by the Benjamin Foundation, which was the remainder of the donation made by WTC, will be transferred to the CHT to support the building re-opening post Covid and to help to develop Community activities at the CHT Building. Funds will be transferred on production of a schedule from CHT showing how the money will be spent.
- b. As a short term measure, WTC agrees that, with her agreement, the work of the PEPSO should be extended to include a role in supporting the re-opening and development of Community activities at the CHT Building.
- c. As a medium term measure, WTC agrees to consider how additional support could be arranged/financed to continue the development of Community activities at the CHT Building.

6. COVID SUPPORT

It was agreed that the helpline the Town Council has been overseeing to undertake shopping and prescription collection for those shielding as a result of Covid 19 will run until August 31st 2020. Should the need arise the service can be re-activated and it is hoped a volunteer base can be established to include some of those who have assisted during the pandemic.

7. LOVELL GARDENS PLAY EQUIPMENT

It was agreed to commission a second clean of the play equipment at Lovell Gardens.

8. THETFORD ROAD DEVELOPMENT

It was agreed to support the suggested street names given for the development site off Thetford Road 3PL/2019/1554/D. The proposed names are: Hugh, Crabtree, Grey, Wissen and Thornhill.

9. TOWN PLAN/REGENERATION

Discussion took place regarding meetings that have been led by George Freeman MP on possible future regeneration for Watton. The Clerk has been tasked to convene the next regeneration meeting and will liaise with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as to who should be included within the invitations to the next meeting to be held on August 13th.

A suggestion has been made that a planner could be commissioned to complete the Neighbourhood Plan but consensus is that the current consultant should look to finishing the plan rather than be focused on the regeneration/business plans being put together.

Aspects from the Neighbourhood Plan should feed into the regeneration plans but the NP Steering Group needs to meet to give feedback to the Town Council and Breckland District Council.

It was agreed to instruct the NP consultant to work on with the NP rather than the “bigger picture” and to elect Don Saunders to join discussions with David Dent (Watton Chamber of Commerce) and Rob Walker (BDC Exec. Director of Place) regarding regeneration. DS would be expected to report back to the Town Council at each Town Council meeting.

10. ITEM WITHDRAWN

11. It was agreed to defer item 11. Until the next Town Council meeting when further information may have been received confirming the cost of a litter bin to be shared with

Carbrooke Parish Council. The Town Council is also looking for assurance that any bin would be emptied once in place.

12. The Town Council agreed to support the re-opening, post Covid, of the Museum4Watton scheduled from August 1st 2020.

13. The Town Council agreed to send a letter to congratulate the Editor of the Wayland News for the recent article, "Lockdown Easing and Local Business Information". It was informative and of great benefit to local residents, serving as a great example of local journalism which the regional paper could do well to imitate.

14. PLANNING: To consider consultation response to planning applications received since the last Full Council meeting.

14.1 3PL/2020/0570/HOU - Single storey side extension for kitchen and alterations to provide bi-fold doors and glazed panel. - WATTON: 17 Byfords Way

No objections

14.2 3PL/2019/0793/HOU - Proposed rear and side extensions - WATTON: 83 Norwich Road Watton

Application already approved

14.3 3PL/2020/0737/O Outline application for a dwelling with all matters reserved
WATTON: 101 Brandon Road

No objections

14.4 3PL/2020/0525/HOU Revised design. Amendment – 2 storey domestic extension to side and rear 31 Watton Green

No objections

14.5 3PL/2020/0716/HOU Replacement of existing 1.53m fence with proposed 1.83m fence on boundary with Walnut Grove, WATTON 28 Dereham Road

No objections