

Minutes of the virtual meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday March 9th 2021 at 7.00pm

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

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

1 member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM

Richard Hindley

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

Keith Gilbert declared an interest in item 7 as a member of WASFAG.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2021 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 a meeting on 02.03.21 to discuss the Officer's Mess site s106 land and a PPG meeting on 08.03.21.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman attended the HR meeting on 04.03.21.

4.3 Clerk's Report

A copy of the Clerk's Report was included in the agenda pack for the meeting with a verbal update also given.

- The Council has been asked if it would support and attend the Wayland Show being planned for August 21. It was felt the Town Council would be willing to attend the Show and have a presence with the Town Council gazebo. No plans will be made to participate further. It was felt plans to include local food outlets as was being organised for the 2020 show could not be pulled together in time this year and traders may not be in a position to assist as we come out of lockdown.
The Council would be willing to be involved more in 2022.
- An Events Meeting will be arranged to start planning for the remainder of the year.
- It was noted how good the Council Chamber looks with its "new" tables and chairs.
- Also recognised that the Loch Neaton trustees should be congratulated for improvements implemented at Loch Neaton.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Liz Whitcher Chairman of the Watton & Saham Flood Action Group (WASFAG) was present to speak on items 7 and 13.2.

6. HR

6.1 The minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on 04.03.21 were received.

7. DONATION TO WATTON & SAHAM FLOOD ACTION GROUP

It was agreed to donate £1000 to the Watton & Saham Flood Action Group (WASFAG) as applied for. This will be undertaken by the Town Council paying £576 to establish a web page for WASFAG with the remaining donation to be used to pay hosting and maintenance costs for the page.

8. PROTOCOL FOR MARKING THE DEATH OF A SENIOR NATIONAL FIGURE

It was resolved that the Town Council would adopt the protocol as presented.

9. MARKET TOWN INITIATIVE

Breckland District Council (BDC) is looking to spend the majority of the Market Town Initiative money destined for Watton on progressing plans to retain the market in Middle Street.

However, there will be an estimated £10000 which will be put towards general High Street improvements. From talks with BDC Officers this is likely to be spent on re-planting trees in the flower tubs to the west end of the High Street and possibly investigating flag poles for the High Street.

The cost of planting trees is quoted at more than was anticipated and BDC has asked if Watton Town Council would be willing to contribute to this project. The Town Council would not contribute to the tree planting but is looking to brighten the High Street by arranging for the benches in the High Street to be repainted. Quotes for options as to what work might be undertaken to the benches will be presented at the next meeting of the Full Council.

10. ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD WALL

St. Mary's Churchyard wall has been hit by a vehicle and damaged. As the Churchyard is closed the responsibility for maintenance of the wall lies with the Town Council. The Town Council insurance company has been contacted and a claim will be submitted.

Contact has been made with St. Mary's and the Diocese, with builders on the Diocese approved list plus one local builder approached to quote for repair of the wall. Only one has responded with a price.

It was resolved to accept the one quote received for repair of the wall as it was felt the work should be undertaken as soon as possible.

Highways will also be approached to request kerbing to keep vehicles at a distance from the wall.

11. **WATTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)**

The draft of the Neighbourhood Plan from Places4People has been received and passed to Councillors. It will be shared with members of the NP Group and a meeting will be called to consider how to proceed. Once the Group has met a further meeting will be arranged with the Places4People consultant.

Kathryn Stallard offered to join the NP Group to replace a member who has left and Keith Gilbert was thanked for offering to take any photographs that might be wanted for inclusion in the NP.

It was resolved that a subscription to Parish Online will be made as images of maps will be needed for the NP.

12. **OFFICER'S MESS SITE**

Councillors Warwick, Hebborn, Hebborn and Gilbert have met with Breckland District Council Officers and Adam Bell from Bennetts Homes to discuss the transfer of the s106 community land and Open Space land at the Norwich Road Officer's Mess development site. A formal proposal relating to transfer of the land to Watton Town Council is awaited.

13. **PLANNING**

Noted that, as a member of Breckland District Council Planning Committee, Keith Gilbert took no part in deciding any planning recommendations

13.1 3PL/2021/0243/F - Erection of dwelling and associated works (following demolition of existing garage and subdivision of residential unit). - WATTON: 7 Loch Lane

It was noted that upper floor rooms of the new build could overlook habitable ground floor rooms of neighbouring properties.

13.2 3PL/2019/0991/D Reserved matters application for residential development of 177 dwellings following outline permission 3PL/2015/0254/O Development Site Mallard Road Watton

The Town Council had no comments to make on the layout of dwellings but would support any comments submitted by WASFAG relating to drainage issues.

14. **A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

14.1 **UPDATE FROM SOLICITOR**

Concern regarding inaccuracies on a local business website have been raised and a letter will be sent to the business concerned asking if the wording of the website can be rectified. Costs for a solicitor to compile a letter have been sought and the Wayland Chamber of Commerce will also be made aware of the content of the website.

14.2 **CO-OPTION**

It was resolved to invite Mr James Wooler to fill the one casual vacancy on the Town Council.