

Minutes of the virtual meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday March 23rd 2021 at 7.00pm

Councillors Present: Pat Warwick - Chairman, Peter Bishop, Beryl Bunning, Jane Fountain, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Tina Kiddell, Don Saunders, Kathryn Stallard, Les Waller, James Wooler

Officers present: Michelle Thompson Deputy Clerk.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM:**

Keith Prince, Keith Gilbert, Richard Hindley, Tina Cruz

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

Les Waller – Item 7.2i, Jane Fountain – Item 7.2i, Pat Warwick – Item 7.2i

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2021 were accepted as a true record. The minutes will be physically signed by the Chairman as soon as possible.

It was asked that an item be added to all agendas moving forward which will be to receive update on matters arising from the previous minutes not already on the agenda.

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has virtually attended:

- Breckland District Council Five Towns Meeting 10.03.21
- Watton Relief in Need Charity Meeting on 11.03.21
- Finance Committee Meeting on 12.03.21
- Wayland Chamber of Commerce AGM on 17.03.21
- Watton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting on 19.03.21
- Community Fridge Volunteers meeting on 22.03.21
- Market Town Initiative Tree Planting Meeting with Breckland District Council on 22.03.21

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice Chairman has virtually attended:

- Breckland District Council Five Towns Meeting 10.03.21
- Watton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting on 19.03.21
- Market Town Initiative Tree Planting Meeting with Breckland District Council on 22.03.21

4.3 District Councillors Report

Tina Kiddell submitted a written report. Report to be filed.

Tina was asked to investigate why Watton Town Council has not been able to influence design of housing.

4.4 County Councillors Report

County Councillor not present

4.5 Police Report

No Police attending the meeting, but regular newsletters and other e-mail updates are received and passed to Councillors.

4.6 Deputy Clerk's Report

Copy of the written report included within the agenda pack is filed.

Verbal update given:

- It is anticipated that the water connection at the Thetford Road allotment site will be completed on March 24th.
- Swaffham Town Council have asked for confirmation from Watton Town Council to go ahead and order 6 gazebos with new canopy, bag, connectors, tables totalling £3346.90 + vat and Trailer with hitch lock at £3375.00 + vat, this is with no expense to Watton Town Council. It was suggested that spare canopies are also purchased to replace any worn ones. As this item was not an agenda item the confirmation was agreed in principle with the decision to be ratified at the next Town Council meeting. It was also asked that both towns receive 5 old and 3 new gazebos.
- A letter was sent to a local business regarding the inaccuracy on their business website. This has since been removed and replaced with renewed content.

5. **WORKS IN PROGRESS LIST**

The Works in progress list was received as presented.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public present.

7. **FINANCE**

7.1 Payments for March 2021 were approved for payment as presented.

7.2 The draft minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting held on 12th March 2021 were received with the following recommendation from the Committee agreed:

- Due to Covid 19 restrictions there has been no opportunity for money to be raised for the Mayors Charities: Loch Neaton and the Men's Shed.

It was resolved that the 20/21 Civic Budget of £4000, which has not been spent due to Covid, be donated in equal proportion to Loch Neaton and the Watton Men's Shed.

8. **BENJAMIN FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION**

It was resolved to award the grant of £200.00 to the Benjamin Foundation also to ask Sue Dent to have a discussion with the Young Carers as to whether the Town Council can financially support them in any other way over the next 12 months.

9. **HIGH STREET BENCHES**

It was resolved to accept quote 1 to re-furbish the 5 benches in the high street at a cost of £680.00 (plus vat)

It was resolved to purchase 3 new additional recycled plastic benches from Earth Anchors at a cost of £383.00 excluding VAT per bench plus fitting which can be sited at the top end of Church Walk which will face overlooking the fields. It was asked that this subject is publicised as assets for the community to enjoy.

10. **UPDATE ON HIGH STREET PLANTED TREES**

Some discussion took place that the trees were not what the Town Council had discussed and the lack of consultation with the town council before the trees were planted was inadequate. A

meeting was called by Breckland District Council on March 22nd to rectify the issues and the following points were confirmed in writing from BDC:-

- The Cherry Trees to remain in place.
- There are plans in place for 3-5 years' time (should it be necessary as the trees have outgrown the space) for them to be re-sited elsewhere in the town this being Breckland District Council's responsibility.
- Breckland DC to pick up any issues should they be caused by the trees but standard maintenance to be done by the Town Council.

The Town Council felt this was a compromise. It was asked to get Breckland District Council to confirm that if the trees became a problem between now and the 3-5 years that BDC would remove them as well as being responsible for replanting the trees at an agreed location when they are removed and that they will be offered to Loch Neaton.

11. PLANNING

11.1 3PL/2021/0315/HOU - Single Storey Front Extension To form Annex. - WATTON: Sunnymead 12 Loch Lane

The Town Council requests that consideration be given to the inclusion of a condition relating to the use of the annex remaining ancillary to the dwelling on the site be imposed on any permission granted. This would allow for the annex to be controlled under the ten year rule applicable to conditions as opposed to the four year rule relating to the occupation of a building as a separate dwelling house.

11.2 3PL/2021/0167/HOU - Erection for 1.8m high fencing to front garden. - 9 Brandon Road - AMENDMENT: Height of proposed fence reduced to 1.2m

No Objections

11.3 3PL/2021/0069/F - External alterations to include replacement of vertical cladding and resheeting of roof. Relocation of cantilver racking, 2x new containers, 2x new pallet racking & new lintel rack. - Jewson Builders Merchant Norwich Road Industrial Estate, Watton
AMENDMENT: Updated plans received, including elevations to show a stepped approach to cantilever racking

The TC is unable to support the further amendments to this application and it wishes to reiterate its comments as previously submitted.

11.4 3PL/2021/0347/HOU - Proposed rear conservatory - WATTON: 50 Brandon Road

No Objections

11.5 3PL/2021/0361/HOU - Demolition of conservatory and construction of single storey sun room. - WATTON: 7 Wick Farm Close Watton

No Objections

Jane Fountain reported back on application 3B/2020/0038/OB Land North of Akrotiri Square, Green Space Obligation, S106 agreement to remove the requirement referring to application 3PL/2005/0763/F which is a document is not shown to the BDC website. This matter has been raised numerous times with Breckland District Council. The Town Council was due to be given open space due to the development at Tom Turley Close. Under Section 8 of the Limitations Act 1980 if the 106 agreement is not enforced it then expires therefore it is not a planning consideration but a legal consideration meaning the Town Council will never see the open space

land. As the Town is short of open space it was ask that this be a future agenda item and request that a member of Breckland District Council planning department attends to discuss the lack of action on this matter.

12. Resolution passed to exclude the public and press to consider correspondence received.

12.1 The Correspondence received was noted and that the resident was asked to contact the Care Quality Commission directly as the Town Council is unable to comment.