

Minutes of the virtual meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday April 13th 2021 at 7.00pm

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

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

The Town Council voiced condolences for the death of The Duke of Edinburgh, black armbands were worn and a minutes silence held.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM

Tina Kiddell, Tina Cruz

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

Pat Warwick and Jane Fountain declared nonpecuniary interest in item 7.

3. MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2021 were accepted as a true record. The minutes will be physically signed by the Chairman as soon as possible.

3.2 Report updating on matters raised at the previous meeting was presented with verbal update given:

- Water connection has been installed at the Thetford Road Allotment site and arrangements now need to be made as to how allotment holders are to access the water.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

- Richard Hindley has resigned as a Town Councillor. Breckland District Council has been notified.
- The Chairman has attended PPG and Wayland Chamber of Trade meetings.
- Noted that the Watton Surgery is carrying out more home visits and face to face consultations than is perhaps realised. The Covid vaccination programme has been rolled out well.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

No report given.

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.

- Breckland District Council has confirmed that s106 funding will be released to help finance the proposed pump track at Bridle Road play area and the contractor has been instructed to proceed with installation.
- Noted that repairs to St. Mary's Churchyard wall, which was damaged by impact from a large vehicle, have been completed. NCC Highways will be approached to review the safety of the corner by the church with a request to be made that large vehicles should not be able to use this route.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present.

6. MARKET GAZEBOS

The decision made at the meeting on 23.03.21 was ratified: Watton Town Council agreed to proceed with an order for 6 market gazebos with new canopies, bags, connectors, tables totalling £3346.90 plus VAT, plus a trailer with hitch lock at £3375 plus VAT.

An even split of the equipment, which is currently jointly owned by Watton and Swaffham Town Council, will be ensured.

7. LOCH NEATON

Before any new grounds maintenance contract for grass cutting at Loch Neaton is agreed by the Town Council it was felt a definitive answer is needed regarding land ownership.

A proposal will be presented at the next Town Council meeting to engage legal advice. Notes from past Town Council minutes are being compiled by Kathryn Stallard, to assist investigation of the land ownership. To help move forward a Working Group will be established with Cllrs Stallard, Bishop and Gilbert volunteering to be part of the group, along with the Clerk and/or Deputy Clerk. The treasurer of the Loch Neaton Charity will also be invited to be a member of the group.

8. VISIT NORFOLK

It was agreed not to invest £10,000 with visit Norfolk to provide local information and Tourism Website.

9. KICK START

It was agreed not to proceed with any application to the Government Kick Start Scheme.

10. BULBS FOR THE THETFORD ROAD ROUNDABOUT

It was agreed to support the Watton Rotary Club in reaching an agreement with NCC Highways to plant bulbs at the new Thetford Road Roundabout.

The Town Council is still to plant bulbs at Church Walk as agreed some time ago and the grounds maintenance contractor will be asked to undertake this at the appropriate time next year.

11. ST JOHNS DAY

It was agreed that for logistical reasons the Town Council cannot participate in St Johns Day plans to floodlight a building on June 24th. St Johns will be invited to take advantage of future plans to offer Charities a free opportunity to have a fund raising stall at the Wednesday Market.

12. PLANNING

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

12.1 3DC/2021/0058/DOC - Discharge of Condition No 10 on 3PL/2020/0986/VAR - Neaton Business Park North Norwich Road Watton IP25 6JB

No comments

12.2 3PL/2021/0032/F - Development of single storey food store (Use Class E - retail) with associated car parking, and landscape works; and 45 dwellings (Class C3) with associated open space and highway infrastructure. - Land North of Norwich Road CONSULTATION AMENDMENTS – FULL

No comments

12.3 3PL/2021/0463/HOU - Proposed Single Storey Side Extensions. - Red Robin House 17 Monkams Drive Watton IP25 6PE

No comments

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