

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on

Tuesday June 8th 2021 at 7.00pm

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott

1 member of the public present

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM

Tina Kiddell, Tina Cruz

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

Kathryn Stallard declared an interest in item 13.

3. MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2021 were accepted as a true record.

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

- Officer's Mess site visit arranged for 17.06.21 with Breckland District Council Officers, Bennetts and members of the Town Council to consider land transfer.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended the Breckland District Council (BDC) Five Towns meeting held on June 2nd and noted that the promised Town Plans will start with Dereham, followed by towns 2 and 3, and then 4 and 5. It is not known how towns are numbered!

The Chairman also took place in the litter pick organised by the Town Council on June 3rd.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman also attended the Five Towns meeting. Noted that Thetford Town Council is offering to take a lead on possible group purchase of litter bins across the Five Towns.

The Vice-Chairman observed the litter pick at Portal Avenue and has since received several complaints from residents because the rubbish had not been collected.

Unfortunately a mix up on the date of the litter pick has led to the bags of rubbish not collected when expected and large items will not be picked up by BDC from private land.

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.

It was noted that there has not been any great response to the “wish list” the Town Council submitted to BDC in August 2020 but Officers have informed the Clerk that investigation is progressing relating the possible locations for digital signage within the towns. Chaston Place looks to be a favoured location for a sign in Watton. Location depends on obtaining landowners consent, access to power and if necessary, agreement from Highways.

Keith Gilbert, in his role as District Councillor, was asked to enquire about the provision of electric vehicle charging points for Watton.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of the public spoke on item 14. Watton Rotary Club is proposing to plant crocus bulbs on the new roundabout on Thetford Road.

It was agreed to move item 13 up the agenda as item 5a:

It was resolved to support the aspirations of the Rotary Club to plant bulbs at the roundabout.

6. ACCOUNTS

6.1 The Internal Auditors Report had previously been circulated and contents were accepted.

6.2 Section 1 of the AGAR Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 was approved and signed.

6.3 Section 2 of the AGAR Accounting Statement 2020/21 was approved and signed.

7. STREAMING POLICY

The Streaming Policy was accepted as presented.

8. PARKING IN WATTON HIGH STREET

Parking in Watton High Street has been raised as a concern, especially that vehicles park on the pavement. Clarity regarding responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions is needed and County Councillor Claire Bowes and the Police will be approached for assistance.

It was resolved, in the first instance, to contact Parking Operations to understand their remit and then write to the Police and Norfolk County Council to raise concerns regarding safety in Watton High Street relating to parking issues.

9. ALLOTMENTS

It was resolved not to permit chickens to be kept at the allotments.

10. LAND OWNERSHIP

It was resolved to accept the proposal from Birketts solicitors to provide advice relating to ownership of land at Watton Sports Centre and Loch Neaton.

11. WAYLAND HALL BUILDING CONDITION SURVEY

It was resolved to commission NPS Property Consultants Limited to undertake a Condition Survey of Wayland Hall as outlined in their proposal.

12. MUSEUM 4 WATTON PROPOSAL

Chris Hutchins from the Museum 4 Watton gave a presentation to the Town Council prior to the meeting regarding the Museums plans to rent the Council Chamber to allow the Museum to expand and provide more display and storage capability. The Council supports the proposals in principle, but it was felt the Wayland Hall Building Condition Survey Report should be received before a decision is made.

It was agreed that the Finance Committee will be tasked with putting a cost proposal and benefits analysis together for the Council relating to the Museums proposal but that work on the project should not begin until the Building Report has been received.

13. THETFORD ROAD ROUNDABOUT

Item moved to 5a.

14. PLANNING

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

The Town Council has received a request from the applicant's agent to provide more information on why the Council feels there is not sufficient grounds to modify the 106 agreement for 3PL/2000/1132/F to allow occupation as permanent dwellings - No. 3-6 Fairway Drive Saham Road IP25 6DT. The Chairman's offer to draft a letter of explanation was accepted

The Council has also received notification of an amendment to application 3PL/2021/0494/F application for Change of Use of premises to Indian takeaway including installation of ducting vent, 110 High Street Watton. The Town Council felt there is no change to the first submission and comments originally made will be resubmitted.

The Chairman informed Councillors of a consultation paper seeking views on proposed changes to permitted development rights for the installation, alteration and replacement of electronic communications infrastructure. This consultation looks at how to implement proposals to support the deployment of 5G.

14.1 3PL/2021/0758/F - Subdivision of garden to form a new dwelling (including garaging, driveway and access). - 31 Merton Road IP25 6BA WATTON

No comments

14.2 3DC/2021/0139/DOC - Discharge of Conditions No10 on 3PL/2020/0986/VAR - Neaton Business Park North Norwich Road Watton IP25 6JB

No comments

14.3 3PL/2021/0796/D - Application for reserved matters for erection of dwelling following outline permission 3PL/2018/0490/O - Development Plot At 8 Saham Road IP25 6EA WATTON

For notification rather than comment