

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL

held on Tuesday August 10th 2021 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton

Councillors Present: Jane Fountain - Chairman, Peter Bishop, Beryl Bunning, Tina Cruz, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Tina Kiddell, Kris Moore, Keith Prince, Don Saunders, Kathryn Stallard, Pat Warwick, James Wooler.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott

Norfolk County Councillor/Breckland District Councillor Claire Bowes present for part of the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM**

Keith Gilbert and Les Waller

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE:**

Kathryn Stallard declared an interest in matters relating to the Museum 4 Watton.

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2021 were accepted as a true record.

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

- Pat Warwick, Kris Moore and the Clerk attended the virtual Safer Action Panel Meeting (SNAP) on 28.07.21.
- Wayland Hall Building Condition Report Survey received and shared with Councillors and Museum. Finance Committee reviewed report in relation to 3yr budget planning.
- NCC Highways have said that signs to say Church Road is not suitable for HGVs will be put up.
- Correspondence has been received re. 106 update as mentioned in the Clerks Report.
- Questions to be submitted to Sam Chapman-Allen prior to his attendance at the Watton Town Council meeting on Sept. 28th will be collated by the Clerk once received. Councillors asked to submit questions to the Office asap.
- Churchyard/Cemetery Ownership Agreement signed and passed back to St. Mary's.
- Preferred contractor instructed to clear area to the side of the pump track prior to official opening on August 17th.

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had no report to give but would be providing a Neighbourhood Plan Report at item 7.

5.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman attended the Finance Committee meeting on 06.08.21.

5.3 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:

Future Breckland

Information on the project can be found at <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/Future-Breckland> and some dates for meetings with stakeholders, including the Town Council, are being arranged. The Clerk and Mayor have been invited to an initial meeting with consultants on the 19th

S106 monies

Councillors were provided with a recent current list of money held by Breckland District Council.

National Resilience Strategy

The National Association of Local Councils has requested responses to a consultation which will feed into the government's stated aim to develop a National Resilience Strategy. Councillors were asked to pass any comments for inclusion in the response to the Clerk.

Provision of a Skate Park

Initial meeting scheduled for September 1st.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present.

6. FINANCE

6.1 The minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 06.08.21 were received.

6.2 Recommendations from the Finance Committee Meeting 06.08.21:

- **It was resolved** that the Heritage Signs Working Group will look at using the bus shelters in the High Street to accommodate the heritage signs.
- **It was resolved** that Auditing Solutions Ltd. should continue as the Council's Internal Auditor.
- **It was resolved** that The Museum Working Party will compile a suggested schedule of work for Wayland Hall to be presented to Full Council on September 28th.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

7.1 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Consultant Ian Poole has advised that the Government has issued a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Model Design Code. Neighbourhood Plans will need to have regard for both these new documents. The consultant is currently dealing with urgent matters relating to other plans that are more advanced and he has commented that there may be more changes forthcoming at national level. This news has already de-railed the NP timetable and the NP Working Group will be holding a meeting with the consultant later in the month to review the situation.

7.2 NP Leaflet

A first draft of the leaflet to be delivered to households in preparation for the NP referendum was presented to Councillors for comment.

7.3 Delivery of NP Leaflet

It was decided to investigate other options (Royal Mail quote already received) for delivery of the NP leaflet.

7.4 Printing of the Neighbourhood Plan

Quotes for printing the NP have been received and presented to Councillors but it was felt that as changes may be needed to the plan as a result of the new NPPF acceptance of any quote should be postponed.

8. NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL PARISH PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Information about the Parish Partnership Scheme had been provided to Councillors in the agenda pack. County Councillor Claire Bowes was invited to speak on this and encouraged the Council to make use of the Scheme.

The Council has previously felt that safety measures should be financed by NCC and not subsidised through the precept which could be seen as double taxation. However, the Scheme could be used to support provision of works which are not viewed as priorities and therefore might not otherwise be undertaken such as lighting within bus shelters, additional crossing points in the High Street and improvements to Rights of Way.

It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the Highway Engineer to further investigate what improvements the Parish Partnership Scheme might support.

9. FLAGPOLE

The PEPSO had provided Councillors with example costs for flagpoles but there is no agreement as to a location for a flagpole. It was felt this is something which could be further discussed within the Future Breckland initiative and Breckland District Council will be consulted regarding possible locations, including Memorial Car Park.

10. PLANNING

10.1 3PL/2021/1071/HOU - Demolition of existing garage and erection of a single storage side extension. - 2 Jubilee Road IP25 6BH WATTON

No objection

10.2 TRE/2021/0195/TPO - T1 Oak - Tip reduce tree by approx. 1 metre all round & up to 1.5 metre overhanging garden. The works aim to allow more light into the garden/property. - 29 Priory Road Watton Norfolk IP25 6PQ

No objection