

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on  
Tuesday March 8th 2022 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at  
Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton IP25 6AG

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED**

Keith Prince, Charlotte Greenough, Tina Kiddell, Tina Cruz

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE:**

No Declarations of Interest made.

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Report updating on items from the meeting on 22.02.22 was included within the agenda pack with updated verbal report given at the meeting:

- Swaffham Town Council has been approached for clarification regarding its request for Watton Town Council to support an application for tree preservation orders along the old railway line between Swaffham and Watton.

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman has attended:

Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> Emergency Plan Working Group Meeting

Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner of Watton Twinning Association

March 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Lights Working Group Meeting

The Chairman has been informed that the Thursday Club would re-form if volunteers were to come forward.

**4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report**

The Vice-Chairman attended the Christmas Lights Working Group Meeting.

**4.3 Clerk's Report**

Written report issued with the agenda pack: Invitation to a meeting at Watton Sports Centre on March 16<sup>th</sup>. James Wooler and Don Saunders to attend.

Verbal report given:

- Notification received of how Breckland District Council are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will include working with the Woodland Trust to plant trees at Herron Way in Watton as part of the Queen's Green Canopy and if a suitable location can be offered BDC will also donate a tree to the Town Council to recognise the 70<sup>th</sup> day of the year in the 70<sup>th</sup> year of the Queen's reign.
- Progress is being made to register the Church Road allotment land. Estimated cost £813.

- National agreement has been reached on the pay award for local government services ('Green Book') employees, covering the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The overall increase generally is 1.75% and staff will be back paid accordingly.

#### 4.4 Street Furniture Project

Councillor Peter Bishop, who is leading on the project to replace flower tubs and litter bins in the High Street, reported that he has met with the Council's preferred contractor and the local Highway Engineer and that the plan is to replace the 35 planters and all litter bins. A costed plan will be presented to Full Council at a future date with the aim being that new planters will be in place for Spring 2023. Breckland District Councillors will be asked if there can be any Market Town Initiative funding allocated to this project.

For this jubilee year the contractor will remove the current planters and refurbish them before replanting for the summer with red, white and blue flowering plants. It was accepted that the flower tubs will therefore not be present for some time this spring, but will be returned by June. The Town Council will give publicity to what is being done for residents and businesses.

#### 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present.

#### 6. WAYLAND SHOW 2022

Some concern was raised regarding the cost for the Council to have a stall at the 2022 Wayland Show. The Town Council could have a stall under the umbrella of the Charlotte Harvey Trust as this could be an opportunity to promote both organisations.

The Finance Committee was tasked with setting an appropriate budget to purchase promotional materials to be used at such an event, to be agreed by the Full Council in April. The PEPSO could then be asked to research appropriate resources.

#### 7. WAYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DONATION

**It was resolved** not to grant the £5000 donation applied for by the Watton Chamber of Trade. It was felt more specific outcomes would need to be identified for such a donation to be given.

#### 8. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2022

**It was resolved** to accept the three year quote received for provision of the towns Christmas lights display. The display lights will no longer be anchored to buildings but the street lamps will be used instead with electricity to be taken directly from the lamp columns. The contractor has stated that they will directly sort this with Norfolk County Council and the contract will need to clarify this. The Town Council will use social media to publicise that the lights display will be different for 2022.

**It was resolved** that further investigation will be made regarding the possibility of an artificial Christmas tree and options will be presented to Full Council at a future meeting.

#### 9. CHURCH WALK

**It was resolved** to investigate the cost of erecting an information board at the Dereham Road end of Church Walk, (past the Old Infant School). The board should outline the history of the walk and associated buildings and events.

It was also resolved that the faded traffic notice on the gates at the Dereham Road end of Church Walk should be replaced with a new sign stating "CHURCH WALK. Vehicle access for Linden Court only By Order".

## 10. GRASS MATTING

**It was resolved** to accept the quote of £525 to install grass matting to prevent wear to the ground of the pump track mounds at Bridle Road as long as this would remedy future soil erosion.

## 11. CEMETERY HEDGE

**It was resolved** not to grant permission, as requested, to remove part of the boundary hedge to the rear of the Cemetery until a site visit has been undertaken. This matter will be an agenda item again at the next meeting when Councillors have taken a look.

## 12. EMERGENCY PLANNING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

**It was resolve** to accept the Emergency Planning Group Terms of Reference as presented.

## 13. PLANNING

13.1 3PL/2021/1500/F - Erection of two additional business units for general industrial use (class B2), with associated parking, landscaping and external works. - Neaton Business Park North Norwich Road - Abel Properties Ltd - AMENDMENT: Location Plan Red Line Changed

No comments

13.2 3PL/2022/0160/HOU - Single storey back extension and loft conversion - WATTON: 98 Norwich Road

No comments

13.3 3PL/2021/1640/F - Single storey warehouse building for car washing and valeting - Watton Valeting Centre Norwich Road IP25 6JU

No comments

13.4 3OB/2022/0006/OB - Application to modify the planning obligation - Deed of variation of section 106 agreement dated 22 April 2008 (Planning reference 3PL/2007/0262/O); and supplemental agreement and deed of variation of section 106 agreement dated 18 August 2017 (Planning reference 3PL/2014/1378/F), to enable the Alternative Community Land, the Open Space Land and the LEAP to be transferred to Watton Town Council. The open space maintenance contribution is to be paid to Watton Town Council. - CARBROOKE: AND WATTON Former RAF Officers Mess Site & Radar Site Portal Avenue

Support

## 14. Resolution passed to exclude the public and press to update and consider confidential legal matters

### 14.1 Church Walk

The registration of Church Walk is being prepared for submission to Land Registry. The Council has some queries regarding adverse possession and **it was resolved that** an appointment will be made for the Chairman, Clerk and Cllrs Bishop and Stallard to visit the solicitor.

#### 14.2 Hares Green

**It was resolved** that the Town Council will not accept the open space land at Hares Green.

#### 14.3 Former Officers Mess Site

Paperwork relating to the transfer of the open space land at the Former Officers Mess site has been forwarded to the solicitor who will be acting on behalf of the Town Council.