

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on
Tuesday 22nd March 2022 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at
Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton IP25 6AG

Councillors Present: Jane Fountain – Chairman, Sue Hebborn – Vice-Chairman, Stan Hebborn, Keith Prince, Don Saunders, James Wooler, Tina Cruz, Charlotte Greenough, Tina Kiddell, Keith Gilbert

Officer present: Michelle Thompson Deputy Clerk

1 member of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM**
Peter Bishop, Kathryn Stallard, Beryl Bunning, Pat Warwick

County Councillor Claire Bowes sent her apologies.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE:**
No interests declared.

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman with an amendment to be made to item 14.1 to include the issue of the encroachment and vehicular access onto Church Walk by neighbouring residents and the nature of the land registration would both now be referred to the solicitor.

3.2 Written report presented, updating on items from the meeting on 08.03.22

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented certificates for the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Window competition on March 18th.

1st Place- Andrew Francis Funeral Services

2nd Place – Dutch Flower Parade

3rd Place - Styella Hair Co Hairdressers

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

No report given.

4.3 District Councillors Report

Both present District Councillors expressed how pleased they were that the Lidl application was approved by Breckland Council Planning Committee.

4.4 County Councillors Report

Written report received from the County Councillor prior to the meeting was shared with Councillors.

4.5 Deputy Clerk's Report

Written report issued with the agenda pack.

5. WORKS IN PROGRESS LIST

The Works in Progress list was accepted as presented.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Liz Whitcher was in attendance to speak on the Reclaim the Rain Project under item 10.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Payments for Approval for March 2022 were accepted as presented

7.2. The minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting held on 10.03.22 were accepted.

7.3 Finance Committee recommendations to Full Council:

- i. **It was resolved** that a budget of £1000 is set to book a stall for the Town Council at the Wayland Show and that up to £700 of this allocation be spent on promotional materials for the Town Council to use at such events. The funding will be taken from the “other events” allocation within the 2022/3 budget.
- ii. **It was resolved** that the quinquennial building inspection of the clock tower should be undertaken to include focus on access to the clock tower.

The Finance Committee suggested using the same building surveyor who undertook the Clock Tower Quinquennial report in 2016. **It was resolved** that NPS Property Consultants undertake the survey at a cost of £1,625.00 plus VAT.

8. GRANT REQUEST WILD CHURCH NORFOLK

It was resolved with 1 abstention that Wild Church Norfolk be awarded the grant of £500.00

9. BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL TREE PLANTING AND CHAIRMAN VISIT

The Town Council received an offer of a Tree from the Chairman of Breckland District Council to recognise the 70th day of the year in the 70th year of the Queen’s reign.

It was suggested to investigate either the open space land at the top of George Trollope Road which is owned by Breckland Council or Jubilee Gardens as locations for the tree to be planted.

The Town Council has been approached by Breckland District Council (BDC) regarding the BDC Chairman officially presenting certificates at Town/Parish Council meetings or other suitable occasions, to a nominated resident of Watton for their service in the community through out the pandemic. **It was resolved** to invite the Breckland Council Chairman to a future Town Council meeting to present the certificate.

10. RECLAIM THE RAIN PROJECT

Reclaim the Rain is a joint project between Norfolk and Suffolk. The Project is designed to help rural communities with funding for ways to remove excess rainwater for reuse in the town. The Watton and Saham Flood Action group has been approached to try and get commitment from the community of Watton. There is a potential to receive £1 million pounds to spend on capital works. The money has been awarded to Norfolk County Council by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Environment Agency (EA).

It was resolved that Watton Town Council supports this project in principle.

11. MEETING WITH PAUL LEGRICE – HARES GREEN

Following on from a previous decision made to not adopt the open space at Hares Green, Managing Director of Abel Homes Paul Legrice is keen to work with the Town Council to resolve

any concerns. **It was resolved** that the Town Council will invite Paul Legrice to attend before the next town council meeting on April 12th.

12. **PLANNING**

Noted that Keith Gilbert, as a member of the Breckland Council Planning Committee, took no part in agreeing comments made.

12.1 3PL/2022/0237/VAR - Variation of conditions 4, 5 and 7 on 3PL/2016/1291/0 to allow additional dropped kerb Highways crossing to serve Plot 9. - WATTON: 90 Griston Road

No comments

12.2 3PL/2022/0296/F - 4no. New Dwellings - WATTON: Field Maple Road

It was resolved that an extension on the deadline for comments be asked for. If the extension is granted, this will be on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting on April 12th. If an extension is not granted the council resolved to object to the application on the grounds that there are issues regarding a 106 agreement in respect of the land.

12.3 3PL/2022/0322/HOU - To replace existing shed / workshop with a new larger structure. WATTON: 53 Griston Road

No comments

13. Resolution passed to Exclude the Press and Public to consider legal matters

13.1 Hares Green

Correspondence received from the Solicitor was discussed.