

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on  
Tuesday July 12th 2022 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at  
Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton IP25 6AG

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

Also present: From Reclaim the Rain, Tom Mann Senior Project Manager, Liz Whitcher Chairman of Watton & Saham Flood Action Group and 1 member of the public.

## 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED FROM**

Tina Cruz and Tina Kiddell

## 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

Noted that the Chairman signed the donation application on behalf of the Charlotte Harvey Trust (item 10).

## 3. **MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on June 28th 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3.2 A report updating on items from the meeting on 28.06.22 was included within the agenda pack with updated verbal report given at the meeting:

- Public toilets – Meeting was held on 04.07.22 with a sales rep. from Cubicle Solutions. Awaiting quotes for suggested refurbishment which will be considered by the Finance Committee.
- Expenses Policy, Archive Policy and Standing Orders have been amended as agreed and uploaded to the TC website.

## 4. **REPORTS**

### 4.1 Chairman's Report

29<sup>th</sup> June Mayor and consort attended the 48<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Change of command at RAF Lakenheath.

1<sup>st</sup> July Mayor and consort attended The Beating of the Retreat hosted by The Royal Anglian Regt at Langley School Norwich.

7<sup>th</sup> July Mayor attended the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of the Methodist church, Watton.

9<sup>th</sup> July Mayor attended the rededication of the Methodist centre.

### 4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman attended the Desert Rats Memorial Service on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### 4.3 Clerk's Report

Written report issued with the agenda pack:

- 6<sup>th</sup> July – Clerk and Deputy Clerk attended the Norfolk Association of Local Councils Seminar/AGM

- Town Operative is on annual leave until 13<sup>th</sup> July and will be attending a Play Equipment Inspection course on her return to work on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Antiques Fair on July 3<sup>rd</sup> went well - PEPSO will give feedback at the next events meeting.
- Next Safer Action Neighbourhood Planning (SNAP) is to be held on July 13<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

### **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) training**

The Council GDPR and Freedom Of Information Training session provided by Stan Hebborn will take place on the evening of Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>, October 2022, in the Council Chamber.

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No matters raised.

## **6. HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

Cllr Jane Fountain shared information regarding planning permission use class changes and explained reasons why planning enforcement action should be taken by Breckland District Council (BDC) against a premises within Watton High Street which is seen as a storage facility rather than a shop. Breckland has stated that it is its belief that the premises use falls within class C and therefore the current use is permitted.

**The Council resolved to** challenge this view as it is felt the premises is not used as a shop but is a storage unit. A shop is now a class A development whereas storage is B8.

It is understood that storage could be an ancillary element for a shop but this would apply if the shop were open. However, the site does not appear to be operated as a shop but as a warehouse and distribution centre.

A letter will be sent to BDC to be signed by the Clerk, Chairman and Jane Fountain as Lead Councillor for Planning.

An update from BDC on matters relating to Watton High Street was passed to Councillors prior to the meeting. The streetlamp columns in the High Street are still to be painted and the contractor will be asked again for a date when this is to take place.

## **7. COMMUNICATIONS POLICY**

A draft communications policy has been shared with Councillors. **It was resolved to** consider suggested amendments to the draft policy before it is brought back to Full Council for adoption. The HR Committee was tasked with reviewing the draft.

## **8. QUEENS HALL**

**It was resolved** to make an annual contribution of £100 to the Queen's Hall to cover placing up to 10 display banners during the year on the railings of the Queen's Hall.

## **9. RECLAIM THE RAIN – item moved up the agenda**

Reports submitted by Liz Whitcher as Chairman of the Watton and Saham Toney Flood Action Group (WASFAG) dated 14.06.22, 28.06.22 and 12.07.22 had previously been shared with Councillors. Tom Mann, Senior Project Manager for Reclaim the Rain was present and informed the Council about the project.

The Reclaim the Rain Project Team will be working closely with the community to develop projects which maximise the opportunities to manage risks from both flooding and droughts. The overall project objective is to identify new ways of working that can be learnt from and evidenced to inform and influence future policy, approaches to, and investments in how flood

risk is managed nationally in the coming years. The DEFRA funded project will involve partner organisations and the community in the development of suitable flood water reuse schemes. The schemes will address the community's needs in terms of flood risk and water resource requirements.

An initial meeting will be arranged within the town and once more people are involved follow on workshops will be held.

Charlotte Greenough volunteered to be the Lead Councillor for the Reclaim the Rain Project. It was felt the initial idea for the Emergency Planning Working Group to be the liaison group for the Reclaim the Rain Project was not appropriate and **it was resolved that** a Reclaim the Rain Group should be established which will stand alone from the Emergency Planning Working Group.

#### 10. **DONATION APPLICATION**

**It was resolved** to give a donation of £3500 to the Charlotte Harvey Trust as requested to help fund the establishment of a food hub at the Charlotte Harvey Community Centre.

#### 11. **PLANNING**

Noted that as a member of Breckland District Planning Committee Keith Gilbert took no part in the discussion.

11.1 3PL/2022/0722/HOU - Reposition boundary fence to form new 2 meter high timber fence.  
WATTON: 10 Mallard Road

Recommend objection

Watton Town Council feels the layout of the fencing and boundary walls on the estate was designed to provide an open feeling along roadways and footpaths. The proposal compromises this design feature and creates a tunnel effect on the adjacent footpath.

11.2 3PL/2022/0717/A - Two Digital 75 inch LCD Display Screen one on each side of the Street Hub Unit outside 7 Chaston Place, Watton - Footpath outside 7 Chaston Place IP25 6XE  
WATTON

11.3 3PL/2022/0718/F - Removal of Existing BT Phone Box and Installation of a Proposed Replacement BT Street Hub and Associated display of Advertisement to both sides of the unit - Footpath outside 7 Chaston Place IP25 6XE WATTON

The Town Council in principle supports applications 11.2 and 11.3 but the "plans" submitted are confusing in that the existing phone box is located on the opposite side of the High Street to Chaston Place.