

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on  
Tuesday 23rd August 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, Jane Fountain,  
Charlotte Greenough, Stan Hebborn, Keith Prince, Don Saunders, Kathryn Stallard, Pat Warwick.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

5 members of the public

One minute silence held in memory of past Mayor Marilyn Scrymgeour.

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

Beryl Bunning, Tina Cruz, Keith Gilbert, Tina Kiddell, James Wooler.

**2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>h</sup> August 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Written report presented updating on items from the meeting on 09.08.22

- The County Councillor has been contacted as requested but has been on holiday, so although an acknowledgement has been received further answers are awaited.
- The grounds maintenance contractor has installed a water trough at the Thetford Road allotment site as agreed.
- Advise has been sought from the grounds maintenance contractor regarding the possible removal of the workings of the water fountain at Memorial Garden. The Town Operative has been asked to look at cleaning the feature and the plaque (to include re-painting if necessary).
- Town Council stand at the Wayland Show Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> – Councillors have volunteered to man the stand until 2pm but no-one has yet offered to fill the 2-4pm slot.

Verbal update given:

- Notification has been received from Ameys that the street lamp columns in the High Street should be painted in September or October. Failing this the work will be undertaken in Spring 2023.

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman had nothing to report.

**4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report**

The Vice-Chairman attended the Finance Committee meeting on 11.08.22, a meeting on 17.08.22 to see the Charles Burrell Food Hub at Thetford and later that day a meeting about the Brecks World app.

**4.3 District Councillors Report**

No District Councillors present and no reports received.

#### 4.4 County Councillor Report

County Councillor not present and no report received.

#### 4.5 Clerk's Report

Written report issued with the agenda pack.

- Information passed to Councillors explaining the option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements. **It was resolved** not to opt out.
- **Heron Way Trees** - Trees donated to Breckland District Council (BDC) by the Woodland Trust were planted at Heron Way earlier in the year but unfortunately, due to the exceptionally dry conditions, not many of the trees have successfully taken root. With ongoing commitments to protect and enhance the environment BDC remains committed to increasing the tree canopy in the district and the Council's Leader announced at a recent Council meeting that BDC will be planting a new set of trees in the future.
- **Parking on the pavement** - Response from Parking Operations:  
"Without specific locations it is difficult to be specific, and the rules do vary by location. In general, parking on a pavement isn't prohibited (outside London) unless there is a specific restriction prohibiting it or there are yellow lines on the adjacent carriageway which then also apply to the pavements.  
If parking is causing what could be considered as a 'dangerous obstruction' by forcing the user on to the live carriageway to pass then this should be reported to the police using their 101 non-emergency number, only the police have powers to deal with such obstruction offences."

Verbal update given:

- The Town Council will have a stall at Watton Carnival on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Councillors will be needed to man the stall.
- The Highway Engineer for the area has been asked why the pedestrian crossings in Watton no longer beep and whether the SAM2 VAS sign can be positioned somewhere along the Swaffham Road.

### 5. WORKS IN PROGRESS LIST

The Works in Progress List was accepted as presented, but with suggested additional updates to be made to the list.

### 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident spoke against planning application item 11. It is believed premises may be used for commercial purposes. Residents of St. Marys Close have concerns about the plans which the Town Council will encompass in its consultation response.

### 7. FINANCE

7.1 Payments for Approval for August were accepted as presented

7.2. The Bank Reconciliation for 12.07.08 and the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 11.08.22 were received.

## 8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

8.1. **It was resolved** to accept the responses to comments received at the Pre-submission Consultation stage of the Neighbourhood Plan.

8.2. **It was resolved** to accept the proposed modifications to the Pre-submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan as presented.

8.3. **It was resolved** that the Neighbourhood Plan as modified and the required supporting documents are submitted to Breckland District Council at the earliest opportunity.

Thanks were voiced for the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group who have got the Plan this far and to the Deputy Clerk for all her assistance.

## 9. TREE PLANTING

A resident has requested permission to plant trees at Shire Horse Way.

**It was resolved** that tree planting at the site will be considered once it is known whether any drainage works will be undertaken at this location as part of the LLFA/WSA drainage projects within Watton.

## 10. CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

The Council considered the Civility and Respect Pledge as provided by Norfolk Association of Local Councils. Watton Town Council acknowledges the intention of what the pledge wishes to achieve but feels legislation and the mechanisms the Council has in place are sufficient.

**It was resolved** not to sign the pledge.

## 11. PLANNING

11.1 3PL/2022/0898/HOU - Construction of garage in rear garden for storage of private car collection - WATTON: 4 St Marys Close

concerns to be raised as voiced by residents

11.2 3PL/2022/0876/F - Change of use of first floor of Barclays Bank building (use class E) to two (2 no.) residential units (use class C3) with new windows and doors to the upper level rear elevation, two roof terraces and external staircase access. - WATTON: Barclays Bank, 56 High Street

concern to be raised re. parking

12. Resolution passed to Exclude the Press and Public

12.1 Former Officers Mess Site

Discussion took place as to the future use of the land at the Officers Mess site which will be handed over to the Town Council. The restriction on the Alternative Community Land (ALC) is to not use the land as anything other than open recreational space for the benefit of the public. Therefore the Council will look at creating a Country Park area.

Councillors were asked to provide their suggestions for landscaping of the ALC.

Don Saunders offered to approach a member of Dereham Town Council who may be willing to visit Watton and share Derehams experience of creating a Country Park.

12.2 Hares Green Land Transfer

Clarification is being sought regarding the open space maintenance contribution which will be paid with the transfer of the open space land at Hares Green to the Town Council. The money is primarily to be used to maintain the open space, which may include for example SUDS which are not adopted. Any infrastructure which is adopted will be maintained by the relevant body. The developer will therefore need to confirm that they have a section 104 agreement in place/ or progressing with Anglia Water for the adoption of the drainage features in the open space land.

### 12.3 Sports Facilities

General discussion took place regarding sports facilities within Watton.