

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on
Tuesday January 10th 2023 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at
Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton IP25 6AG

Councillors Present: Sue Hebborn – Chairman, Peter Bishop – Vice-Chairman, Beryl Bunning, Don Saunders, Pat Warwick, James Wooler, Tobi Amadasun, Jane Fountain, Stan Hebborn, Tina Kiddell

Officer present: Michelle Thompson Deputy Clerk

3 members of the public present

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

Keith Gilbert, Kathryn Stallard, Tina Cruz and Keith Prince

Tina Kiddell queried why her apologies was not accepted at the last Town Council Meeting. it was felt her attendance was low and her contribution to the town was lacking. Tina Kiddell wanted to express her upset and felt it was unfair as she is currently going through personal matters.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE**

Beryl Bunning declared an interest in item 14.3

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on December 13th 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman as the Chairman was not present at the last meeting.

3.2 Written report presented within the agenda pack updating on items from the meeting on 13.12.22

To note: Following the proposal from Breckland District Council, Sue Dent be asked to liaise with Councillor Tobi Amadasun and the Watton Sports Centre to arrange at joint event for the Kings Coronation.

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 Chairman's Report

- 17th December I opened the Nativity display at the Watton Methodist Centre.
- 7th January Both Stan and I attended The Watton Twinning Assoc gathering for the New Year.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

- 15th December – Watton Town Council Finance Committee Meeting
- 5th January – Charlotte Harvey Trust Management Committee Meeting

The Vice- Chairman gave a brief update on the Watton Food Hub, the room has been re decorated, new flooring laid and shelving up. It is hoped the hub will be opening in 3 – 4 weeks' time.

4.3 Clerk's Report

Written report issued with the agenda pack with verbal update given at the meeting:

- Street light columns in the high street are scheduled to be painted between January 17th and the end of the month.

- There are 2 pots of funding available for Local Cycling and walking infrastructure which both Watton and Swaffham are included, both feed into the Future Breckland Plan in relation to the Swaffham to Watton cycleway via Loch Neaton. It was suggested that Sue Dent be asked to contact Emma Crampton at BDC regarding the future Breckland plan and see if the funding available is likely to support plans for the Swaffham, Watton cycleway via the Loch. If the funding can support the project how can the Loch committee or Watton Town Council help.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public present spoke under items 9 and 12

6. The draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 15.12.22 were received and accepted.
- 6.1 Recommendations from the Finance Committee Meeting:
 1. **It was resolved** that the precept request for 2023 - 2024 should be for £408805. This would be based on a Budget requirement of £460005, offset by the use of £12000 from reserves and a predicted income of £39200. With a tax base of 2883.4 the precept requested would result in a Band D charge of £141.78. This is an increase on 22/23 of £2.50 or 1.79%. The precept increase itself would show a 4.37% increase.

Thank you to the Town Clerk for her hard work in preparing all budgeting documentation and to the Chairman of Finance Kathryn Stallard for her on going work.

It was asked that in the next Watton TC newsletter it is highlighted that the increase to a band D property is minimal.

7. PAYMENT TO TITANIUM FIREWORKS

Payment of £7440.00 was ratified and accepted.

8. DONATION APPLICATION

Trustee Roger Harrold was in attendance to support the Donation Application.

It was resolved to defer the donation request to the next town council meeting. The Wayland Partnership will be asked to submit up to date accounts. Once this information is received and the donation policy has been reviewed the request will be re considered.

It was suggested that the on-going issues with the Wayland Hall heating be referred to the Finance Committee to meet with the Museum for a discussion on an overhaul of the heating system.

9. SPEED LIMIT CHANGES

A proposal has been received for changes to the speed limit along Aircraft Drive and Pingo Road in Watton. Norfolk County Council are proposing to introduce a 20mph speed restriction.

It was resolved to support the scheme.

10. LITTER BIN REQUEST

The Council has received a request for a new waste bin to be sited along to Norwich Road near the bus stop opposite Blenheim Way due to extensive littering issues.

It was resolved to defer this item until further investigation has been sought regarding costs and if Serco would empty the bin.

11. GRIT BIN REQUEST

The Council has received a request for a grit bin to be sited on Dye Road due to the estate not having any bins currently. Advice has been sought from Norfolk County Council who are at capacity for grit bins. **It was resolved** to ask the resident to contact the local County Councillor on this matter.

12. RECLAIM THE RAIN

Liz Whitcher from the Watton and Saham Flood Action Group/Reclaim the Rain local group was in attendance.

It was resolved that along with Councillor Keith Gilbert, Councillor Tina Kiddell be appointed to represent the Town Council on the Reclaim the Rain Local Project Group as and when she is able and to substitute for Councillor Gilbert if he is unable to attend.

13. ATTENUATION FEATURES

The lead local Flood Authority project for retrospective attenuations in 6 locations in Watton including Shire horse Way.

It was resolved that Liz Whitcher liaise with the Clerk to organise a meeting for the Town Council and Charlotte Harvey Trustees to meet with the NCC Flood Officer sometime in February to discuss areas in which the attenuations are to be located.

14. PLANNING

14.1 3PL/2022/1391/F - Erection of a ground mounted photovoltaic array (hardwired to Cranswick Country Foods site) and associated works. - WATTON: AND LITTLE CRESSINGHAM Land to rear of Cranswick Country Foods Brandon Road

No comments

14.2 3PL/2022/1351/F - Opening to be formed within the existing party wall between 33 and 35 High Street and another opening to be formed between the existing shop and store within 35 High Street. 33 & 35 High Street (Amys & Myhill & Sons Ltd) AMENDMENT: Amended Plans

No comments

14.3 3PL/2022/1375/F - Construction of funeral premises with new garage and access Land Off Thetford Road IP25 6BQ WATTON

No objections, however the Town Council would ask the case officer to consider possible conflict of roadway at the Tesco junction which often creates road blockages in both directions on Thetford Road.

14.4 3PL/2022/1380/A - Non-Illuminated Totem Advertising Board - Jewson Norwich Road Ind. Estate IP25 6DF WATTON

No comments

14.5 3PL/2022/1393/LU - Construction of outbuilding (garage) - Certificate of Lawfulness (Proposed) - 4 St Marys Close IP25 6DS WATTON

Application already withdrawn

14.6 3PN/2022/0046/PNE - Prior approval for proposal to erect a single storey rear extension projecting from the original rear wall by 8.0m deep, with a maximum height of 4.0m and eaves height of 3.0m – 4 St Marys Close IP25 6DS WATTON

No objections

14.7 TRE/2022/0320/TCA – Application to remove Tree T1 (ash) and T3 (robinia regrowth from stump) identified on Plan OAS 22-249-TS01 (included in Tree Survey Schedule OAS 22-249-TSS01, Oakfield, Aug 2022). nb. Tree T2 (robenia) on plan OAS 22-249-TS01 proposed for retention. Barclays Bank, 56 High Street IP25 6AF WATTON

Application already approved by BDC.

14.8 3OB/2022/0065/OB - Application to discharge clauses 1.2, 1.3 & 1.5 of the S106 agreement dated 9th August 2021 relating to pp 3PL/2021/0032/F - WATTON: Land North of Norwich Road

No comments

15. Resolution passed to exclude the press and public to consider legal matters

15.1 A Transactional Report summarising in brief the main aspects of the transaction that the Council should be aware of before proceeding to completion. The Report also contains the latest format of the Acquisition Transfer for the Council's approval.

It was resolved to approve the Transactional report and proceed with the land transfer once clarification has been made regarding adoption of roadways.