

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on
Tuesday December 13th 2022 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at
Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton IP25 6AG

Councillors Present: Peter Bishop – Vice-Chairman, Beryl Bunning, Keith Gilbert, Don Saunders, Kathryn Stallard, Pat Warwick, James Wooler.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

0 members of the public present

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED

Tobi Amadasun, Tina Cruz, Jane Fountain, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn,
Apologies not accepted from Tina Kiddell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

Pat Warwick declared an interest in item 8.1 and Beryl Bunning in item 8.2.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on November 22nd 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Written report presented within the agenda pack updating on items from the meeting on 22.11.22.

To note:

- An asbestos survey has been undertaken on the public toilets. A copy of the report has been forwarded to the company engaged to refurbish the building.
- Following the meeting held in November, no update regarding Church Walk has been received from Ian Sharman at Norfolk County Council. This will be followed up in the New Year.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

Written report received forwarded to Councillors:

23.11.22 Mayor and consort attended a thanksgiving celebration hosted by RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall at Ely Cathedral.

25.11.22 Mayor and consort attended a St Andrews event at Haverhill.

27.11.22 Mayor attended Watton Christmas Market which was well attended. Thanks given to all those involved in arranging the Market and helping on the day.

28.11.22 Mayor and consort attended Wayland Academy Awards evening. We were both The student's results were noted as very impressive as is the fact that the school has moved to 4th in Norfolk for their exam results which were the best Wayland has ever had. (On that note, speaking with David Dent, the Chamber of Commerce donated £100 this year, and it was suggested that the Town Council donation for next year could be reviewed.)

7.12.22 Mayor attended another awards ceremony for the Air Cadets. Again, a very impressive collection of results by the youth of our town, made possible with the enthusiasm of the volunteer staff.

11.12.22 was the turn of St. Johns Ambulance to give out their awards at St Peter and St Paul Church Carbrooke. H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, The Lady Dannatt, MBE, also

attended this event, together with The Bailiff of Egle, The Hon. Lady Fiona Barttelot, MBE, DL.

The Mayor was especially delighted to see that Mark Baldwin of Watton received his 2nd bar to service medal for 20 years as a volunteer.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman reported that he was present at the Festive Market, and attended a Charlotte Harvey Trust Management Committee Meeting on December 1st and an HR Committee Meeting on December 5th.

Noted that no Santa sleigh run is to be held by the Town Council this year.

4.3 Clerk's Report

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

- Breckland Council is attempting to arrange a meeting with those in Watton who may be able to offer a 'Warm Space'
- The Town Operative and Cllr Gilbert attended a site meeting on 09.12.22 regarding the completion of gas works along Saham Road by Cadent. It was noted that although the work was thought to be complete it was suggested there may be the need for further highways work.
- The Clerk of Dereham Town Council is willing to visit Watton one afternoon in the New Year to inform the Town Council how Dereham Town Council has gone about creating a new park area in Dereham.
- The one casual vacancy on the Town Council has been advertised.
- An appointment has been made for a pest controller to visit Wayland Hall to advise how the pigeons which gather on the roof may be controlled.
- Works at Wayland Hall suggested in a Legionella Report are to be undertaken the 14th, 15th and 16th of December.
- A quote to repair lighting in the Museum toilets at Wayland Hall and to install an improved outside light outside the Museum door has been requested.
- Breckland Council has allocated funding from the Market Town Initiative to support Loch Neaton and to also locate more trees in Watton High Street.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present.

6. FLOOD ACTION GROUP REPORT

A report from the Flood Action Group was presented in the agenda pack for the meeting. Cllr. Gilbert reported that a very constructive meeting had been held earlier in the day with Breckland Councillor Gordon Bambridge, as a member of a local Drainage Board, and members of the Watton and Saham Flood Action Group.

6.1 **It was resolved** that Councillor Keith Gilbert will represent the Town Council on the Reclaim the Rain Local Project Group. Consideration will be given at the next Full Council meeting to appointing a second councillor to the Local Group.

6.2 **It was resolved** to defer item 6.2 to the next Full Council meeting.

7. TOWN DELIVERY PLAN

Officers from Breckland Council are to give a presentation of the Town Delivery Plan at the Town Council meeting on Jan. 24th. The meeting will be set to allow enough time for discussion of the Plan.

7.1 The High Street Task Force Diagnostic Report was received.

8. FINANCE

8.1 **It was resolved** to accept the payments for December as presented with the addition of £106.29 expenses incurred by the Flood Action Group.

Request made that regular reports of income are again presented with the payments list.

8.2 Representatives from Stevens Almhouses Charity were present at the meeting to support the charities application for a donation from Watton Town Council.

It was resolved, with one abstention, to donate £3000 to the Stevens Almhouses Charity but to suggest that the Charity should approach Breckland Council, the Church and Feltons Fundraisers for further advice and support.

8.3 Due to the weather no representative from the Wayland partnership could be present to support the donation application submitted by the Partnership. **It was therefore resolved** to defer the decision regarding the requested donation to the next Full Council meeting.

9. HR

9.1 The minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on 14.11.22 were received.

9.2 The minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on 06.12.22 were received

10. CLOCK TOWER

The company instructed to manage the maintenance work for Watton Clock Tower feel that GF Atthowe should be appointed by the council to undertake the repair work identified in the quinquennial report which can then be overseen by the company as instructed.

Charges to project manage the works will be on an hourly rate basis.

It was resolved to continue with the proposal as presented.

11. TOWN SIGN

It was resolved to accept the draft of the Rotary Club which is to be replaced on the Watton town sign.

12. CORONATION

Breckland Council has been considering some options for how it can help communities celebrate the forthcoming Kings Coronation on May 6th 2023.

The Town Council is in the early stages of planning its approach to celebrating the occasion and further guidance from Pageant Master Bruno Peake is awaited re. civic responsibilities. However Breckland Council has a proposal for consideration to mark the occasion in partnership on the day.

Breckland Council is offering to provide each of the 5 Market Towns with outside screens and an on-site technician to enable live streaming of the Kings Coronation at any event the Town Council will be facilitating on the day.

It was resolved to submit an expression of interest for the proposal to Breckland Council.

In the New Year the Town Council will need to confirm what event it will plan to celebrate the Coronation.

13. PLANNING

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

13.1 3PL/2022/1269/F – WATTON 255 Lovell Gardens, - Demolition of existing bungalow and development of single storey annexed building for a care home (Lancaster House) and new access

No Comments

13.2 3PL/2022/1280/HOU – WATTON - 12 Harvey Street - Replacement Windows & Doors

No comments

13.3 3PL/2022/1281/LB – WATTON - 12 Harvey Street - Replacement Windows & Doors At Property

No comments

13.4 3PL/2022/1290/VAR WATTON 21 Wayland Avenue - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) On,3PL/2022/1049/HOU - Re-position of new double garage

No comments

13.5 3PN/2022/0042/PV WATTON - Abattoir, Cranswick Country Foods, Brandon Road - Prior approval for the installation of a Solar photovoltaic System on roof of non-domestic building (Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 schedule 2, Part 14, Class J)

The Town Council supports comments made by Watton and Saham Flood Action Group

13.6 TRE/2022/0291/TCA - 10 Harvey Street, Watton - To remove Whitebeam as too big for the area it is in

The Town Council feels that the loss of any tree is regretted but the location of this one is not on general public view so provides no impact on the street scene and given its position in relation to buildings, the request for removal is reasonable.

13.7 3PL/2022/1295/F - Proposed change of use of Units H & J to include B8 use as well as existing B2 WATTON: Neaton Business Park North Norwich Road

No comment

13.8 3PL/2022/1326/D - Reserved matters application for erection of 3 dwellings following outline permission 3PL/2020/0046/O - WATTON: 51 Thetford Road
<http://planning.breckland.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=3PL/2022/1326/D>

The Town Council supports comments made by Watton and Saham Flood Action Group

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

16.1 It was resolved to consult further with the owner of the Thetford Road allotment site relating to the costs of further investigation regarding the possibility of the land being transferred to a Trust,