

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on
Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at
Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton IP25 6AG

Councillors Present: Jane Fountain – Chairman, Peter Bishop, Beryl Bunning, Keith Gilbert, Charlotte Greenough, Sue Hebborn – Vice-Chairman, Stan Hebborn, Keith Prince, Kathryn Stallard, Pat Warwick

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

2 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM**

Don Saunders, James Wooler, Tina Cruz, Tina Kiddell

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE:**

No interests declared.

3. **CO-OPTION**

Tobi Amadasun was nominated, seconded and duly elected to fill the one casual vacancy on the Town Council. Mr Amadasun signed his Declaration of Office form and joined the meeting as a councillor.

4. **MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2 Written report presented, updating on items from the meeting on 12.04.22

- Radio Norfolk has contacted the TC Office re. possible series about Watton.
- The Events Budget was considered at the Finance Com. meeting 14.04.22.
- E-mail, dated 08.04.22, received from Andrew Holdsworth Breckland District Council (BDC) Inward Investment Manager re. Market Town Initiative etc. shared with Councillors.
- Further information requested from BDC re. the project to install flag poles on buildings along Watton High Street has been received and passed to Councillors.

5. **REPORTS**

5.1 Chairman's Report

19th April – Chaired Annual Town Meeting

20th April – Watton Market site visit with the Clerk to consider options to possibly re-locate some stall positions. The feasibility of suggested options is being investigated.

20th April – attended Platinum Picnic meeting

22nd April - attended a celebration of the town of Great Yarmouth showcasing the planned redevelopment of the town around the port area.

5.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

No report given.

5.3 District Councillors Report

Written report submitted by Tina Kiddell.

Cllr. Gilbert answered a query regarding what would happen to the trees in the planters at the east end of the High Street once they become too large for the tubs. Breckland District Council arranged for the trees to be planted and have agreed that at the appropriate time arrangements will be made for the trees to be re-located.

5.4 County Councillors Report

County Councillor not present and no report received.

It was noted that Cllr. Bowes has been approached regarding whether any of her members highways allocation will be put towards the successful Town Council Parish Partnership application for a trod along the Thetford Road.

5.5 Clerk's Report

Written report issued with the agenda pack.

Verbal update given:

- Reported that the public toilets are currently not being opened every day due to issues with cleaning. The cleaning contract is being reviewed and it will be an agenda item for the next Full Town Council meeting to consider refurbishment of the toilets.
- Memo received 25.04.22 from Birketts solicitors relating to Church Walk has been shared with Councillors. Church Walk will be an agenda item for the next Full Town Council meeting.
- Cllr. Bishop reported that the High Street planters, which were removed for refurbishment, are in such poor condition that it is suggested new ones are ordered in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend. The Council agreed in principle to go ahead with an order for new black planters at an estimated cost of £13888. This decision will be ratified at the next Full Town Council meeting.
Litter bins around the town will also be replaced but at a later date.
Amey who will be re-painting the High Street lamp columns have been approached to ask if the columns can be painted black to match the new tubs.
- Noted that the £25500 Pocket Parks grant funding, which supplemented the replacement of the young children's play equipment at Bridle Road Play Area, has finally been received.

6. WORKS IN PROGRESS LIST

The Works in Progress list was accepted as presented.

- The Works in Progress List, No. 14, will be updated to note that the Heritage Map is at the final draft stage.
- Request made that a contractors list is compiled to be shared with Councillors.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- The Patients Participant Group (PPG) is holding an Open Evening at the Queen's Hall on 15.05.22 @ 7pm.
- Weeze Twinning Group is visiting Watton in June. A reception is planned to be held in the Chamber on Saturday June 18th. This will be an agenda item for the next town council meeting.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Payments for Approval for April were accepted as presented with the addition of a payment of £5012.94 for installation of the kitchen in the Council Chamber.

8.2. The minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting held on 14.04.22 were received.

8.3 Finance Committee recommendations to Full Council:

- i. **It was resolved** that in light of rising costs and improvements in technology it is recognised that the Councils Expenses Policy, the Communications Policy and Social Media Policy are in need of review. Policies need to be consistent and should be reviewed in time to be implemented by the newly elected Council in May 2023.
- ii. **It was resolved** that the Civic Policy will be reviewed in June 2022. The Finance Committee will look at this in May.

9. **BRECKLAND LOCAL PLAN: Call for Sites Consultation**

The Chairman and Clerk will look at how best to respond to the consultation. General consensus is that the open space sites allocated within the Watton Neighbourhood Plan should be submitted for inclusion within the Local Plan but there are no development sites within Watton that have not already been considered.

10. **OPEN SPACE AT HARES GREEN**

It was resolved that the Town Council would accept the open space land at Hares Green as offered. Transfer will be passed to the solicitors to advise.

11. **HIGH STREET FLAG POLES**

Breckland District Council (BDC) has been investigating the feasibility of erecting 22 flagpoles on buildings along Watton High Street with the suggestion that Watton Town Council would adopt the flagpoles once they are erected.

Councillors have had sight of the proposed draft flagpole licence and other information supplied by BDC. The Town Council had previously investigated such a project itself and had erected flags on some buildings, but the project had not been taken further and was not something noted on the wish list supplied to BDC in 2020. This project is not included within the Council's three year budget plans and the Council feels the associated costs to manage flag poles on buildings in the High Street in perpetuity is not something it would want to assume.

It was resolved not to accept the flagpoles.

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/2022/0398/F - Proposed siting of 6 mobile homes on the land for occupation by members of staff for a temporary period - WATTON: Land to the rear of Dorrington House, 73 Norwich Road

Concern raised in that this application would result in over development of the site. There is no clarification of the models of the mobile homes, how many residents or indication of the number of car movements which might result, nor what constitutes the temporary period. Concern was also raised regarding the impact on deliveries and car parking. It was suggested conditions should be imposed if the planning is to be granted to limit the number of persons and vehicles on site and to remove the mobile homes at the end of the temporary period and re-instate the land.

A suggestion was made that more information could be obtained by speaking directly with the owner of Dorrington House.

12.2 3PL/2022/0379/F - Proposed Workshop Building - WATTON: Drome Garage Norwich Road

No comments

(concern raised by neighbouring resident received and noted).

Application 3PL/2020/1314/F Erection of new 2m high palisade security fence (retrospective), Drome Garage Watton also noted.

12.3 3OB/2022/0021/OB - Application to discharge the planning obligation on 3PL/2015/1191/O - Submission of open book analysis to determine affordable housing contribution as required by S106 agreement - Second schedule, Part 2 - WATTON: Land off Town Green Road, Watton

No comments

12.4 3PL/2022/0385/VAR - Variation to condition 2 of 3PL/2016/0084/F: Changes to approved drawings - CARBROOKE: Land off Lancaster Avenue

No comments

12.5 TRE/2022/0091/TPO - 1) Ash (T5) - Fell because I have been advised it has ash dieback, presently in poor condition with thin crown, leaf and minor branch loss during year. Naturally replaced with Oak saplings that are already growing adjacent to it. 2) Oak (T6) Remove odd dead branches to growing point. Tree generally in good condition. 3) Oak (T7) Remove odd dead branches to growing point. Tree generally in good condition. - 7 Saffron Close IP25 6WD
WATTON

No comments

12.6 TRE/2022/0097/TCA - Twisted Willow - W1 - Very close to neighbours property, out growing situation, pollard to 7m - 75 High Street Watton IP25 6AW

No comments