

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on
Tuesday 14th February 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, Tobi Amadasun, Beryl Bunning, Jane Fountain, Stan Hebborn, Tina Kiddell, Keith Prince, Don Saunders, Kathryn Stallard, Pat Warwick, James Wooler

No officer present due to staff sickness. Minutes taken by the Chairman.

4 members of the public present

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED

Tina Cruz and Keith Gilbert

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

3. MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on January 24th 2023 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 24.01.2023:

- 31.01.23 Letter emailed and posted to Ian Sharman and Claire Bowes regarding Church Walk –Ian Sharman will be thanked for his response which was noted.
- Breckland Council was asked if the £200 match funding grant for flags for the coronation can be used on an event in Watton. Response received from Breckland Council: “Unfortunately not. We have had a few enquiries re. changes to the funding scheme and I have been advised that it is a no.”
- Quotes are being sought for complete refurbishment of Lovell Gardens Play Area. The project will however need to be advertised on “Contract Finder” so decisions will need to be made as to what is actually wanted.
- Warm Spaces Grant awarded to the Charlotte Harvey Trust on December 20th 2022

4. CO-OPTION

It was agreed to co-opt Graham Martin to fill the one casual vacancy on the Council.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Chairman’s Report

The Chairman attended the Watton Twinning Association lunch on February 11th.

5.2 Vice-Chairman’s Report

The Vice-Chairman had nothing to report.

5.3 Clerk’s Report

Written report issued with the agenda pack.

- Complaints have been received relating to the newly acquired play equipment at Hares Green. A meeting has been arranged with the provider.

- A meeting is to be arranged with the owner of the Thetford Road allotments. Date to be arranged. The Chairman and Kathryn Stallard will attend the meeting.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Query raised regarding development of land off Mallard Road.
- Noted that Breckland Council has agreed grant funding to Loch Neaton Management Committee to deliver Loch Neaton enhancements programme. Volunteers are needed to help at the Loch. Thanks were voiced to Breckland Officer Emma Crampton for the help received with the application.

7. PIGEON CONTROL AT WAYLAND HALL

The proprietors of the Kings Arms, adjacent to Wayland Hall, are concerned with the number of pigeons using Wayland Hall roof and the resultant guano.

A quote to address this has been received with the suggestion that the cost be spread equally between the Kings Arms and the Town Council. Councillors requested a breakdown of the quote which adequately indicates what proportion of the work would be undertaken to the Council building.

The proprietor, who was in attendance at the meeting, was asked to supply a revised quote for the Town Council Finance Committee meeting on 16.02.23.

Noted that other quotes for pigeon control are being sought and that advise would be needed as to whether suggested pigeon control can be placed on a listed building.

8. 2023/24 EVENT BUDGET

It was confirmed that costs for events must be kept within the agreed budget allocation. The Council would want to see breakdowns of expenditure for each event and it was felt any reservations necessary for this years events should be taking place as soon as possible.

9. WATTON AND SAHAM FLOOD ACTION GROUP (WASFAG) DONATION

The application for a donation for WASFAG was discussed but **it was resolved** to defer any decision pending WASFAG making an approach to Saham Toney Parish Council, or other neighbouring parishes, also for funding support.

Currently WASFAG is supported by the Town Council and invoices are presented for a contribution.

10. PLANNING

10.1 3PL/2023/0036/F - Change of use from a privately-run residential care facility (C2) to a hotel (C1). - WATTON: Hare And Barrel, 80 Brandon Road

Interest declared by Tobi Amadsun

No objections

10.2 3PL/2022/1213/HOU - Erection of fence around garden of property - WATTON: 201 Lovell Gardens

Comment raised

The Town Council is of the view that bolt fencing in a front garden has a detrimental impact on the street scene due to the height and material.

10.3 3PL/2023/0069/LB - Installation of a Log Burning stove and external flue - WATTON: 12 Harvey Street

No objections

10.4 3PL/2023/0053/F - Single storey extension of existing community building with raised roof ridge, new rooflights and additional solar panels - St Marys Church Church Road IP25 6DQ WATTON

No objections

10.5 3PL/2023/0054/LB - Proposal Single storey extension of existing community building with raised roof ridge, new rooflights and additional solar panels - St Marys Church Church Road IP25 6DQ WATTON

No objections

10.6 3PL/2023/0089/F Demolition of existing bungalow and development of single storey annexed building for a care home and new access WATTON: 255 Lovell Gardens

Comments

The Town Council considers that any additional traffic via the new access could cause concern to local residents. It is requested that a condition be considered to limit traffic movement.

Also suggestion made to consider rain water harvesting.

Noted:

10.7 3PL/2023/0130/LU - The use of Opal House, as a home for up to four looked after young persons between the ages of 8-18 - certificate of lawfulness - proposed use - WATTON: Opal House 61 Griston Road

10.8 3OB/2023/0004/OB - WATTON Land at Town Green Road - Discharge of Obligations within Schedule 3 clause 1.6 a and b - open space Maintenance Contribution on pp - 3PL/2015/1191/O & 3PL/2017/1358/D (Planning Obligation)

11. A resolution was passed to exclude the press and public to consider legal and staffing matters

11.1 Thetford Road Allotments update

Resolved to meet with the owner of the Thetford Road allotment site (see item 5.3).

Noted that the current allotment tenancy agreements are to be extended to run until September 30th 2023 and that the agreement is under review. A revised agreement will be presented at the next Town Council meeting to include a provision of "No trees".

11.2 Noted that the minutes of the HR Committee meeting held 07.02.23 will follow.