

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on
Tuesday March 28th 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, Jane Fountain, Keith Gilbert, Stan Hebborn, Graham Martin, Kathryn Stallard, Pat Warwick, Beryl Bunning, Don Saunders

Officer present: Michelle Thompson

No members of the public present

Meeting live streamed.

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

Tina Kiddell, Tobi Amadasun, Keith Prince

Apologies also received from Tina Cruz and James Wooler

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

Item 7.3ii Stan Hebborn, Pat Warwick

Item 8 Pat Warwick, Beryl Bunning, Sue Hebborn, Stan Hebborn and Keith Gilbert

2. **MINUTES**

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on March 14th 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 14.03.23.

3. **REPORTS**

4.1 Chairman's Report

- Thurs 16th March, Stan and I attended the Food Hub for the official opening.
- Thurs 16th March, I attended the Finance Committee meeting
- Friday 17th March, We went to the Charles Burrell Centre for the Civic Reception of the Chair of Breckland Council.
- Sunday 26th March, Stan and I attended the A.G.M. of the Twinning Association.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

- 16th March - The Watton Food Hub official opening
- 16th March - Finance Committee Meeting

4.3 District Councillors Report

Tina Kiddell submitted a written report which was previously circulated to all councillors.

Keith Gilbert reported that he had attended the Breckland Council Chairmans reception and noted that the local council elections are being held on May 4th.

4.4 County Councillors Report

County Councillor not present.

4.3 Clerk's Report

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

- It was decided that the Town Council have a presence and stall at the kings coronation event on May 6th. Pat Warwick, Kathryn Stallard, Peter Bishop, Stan Hebborn, Beryl Bunning and Keith Gilbert volunteered to help run the stall. **It was resolved** that Sue Dent produce a detailed report on the status of the Coronation event and circulate to all councillors. **It was resolved** that an event meeting is to be held on April 11th at 6:30pm.
- The Town Council has received communication asking if a member of the Council would be interested in being on the Watton Carnival Committee this would include attending future committee meetings. The Town Council fully support the Carnival Committee and agree this in principle, but it was felt that this be discussed with the new Council after the elections – to be an agenda item on the Annual Council Meeting.
- It was noted that the pigeon works are to commence on April 17th on the Wayland Hall and Kings Arms roof.
- The Town Council has received correspondence from the Parish Ranger, Councillors to submit any defects within the town to the office by April 10th.
- Portal Avenue open space land - A meeting to be scheduled with Dereham Town Council to get advice on their country park. Arrange meeting once the new council is in place.
- It is not advised to site a camera outside the toilet block due to vandalism. It has been asked that once the refurbishment has taken place could the Town Operative check that the toilets are locked daily.

4. **WORKS IN PROGRESS LIST**

The Works in Progress List was accepted as presented.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public present

7. **FINANCE**

7.1 Payments for Approval for February 2023 accepted as amended.

7.2 Finance Committee Minutes from the meeting held 16.03.23 were accepted as presented.

7.3 Recommendations from the finance meeting held on March 16th:

- (i) **It was resolved** to engage consultant Michael Carter at a cost of £2500 to project manager the refurbishment of the Lovell Garden Play Area to the point where contracts are posted on the 'Contracts Finder' website.
- (ii) **It was resolved** to agree a donation of up to £100 towards the cost of promotion for the Wayland Chamber of Commerce Job Fair 2023. Pat Warwick was thanked for all her hard work in organising the job fair.
- (iii) **It was resolved** every councillor to be allocated a .gov e-mail address through which they will receive all electronic communication from the Watton Town Council Office.

Hard copies of agendas can be requested but councillors are asked to bear in mind the increased costs of paper and photo copying. To be effective for the new council.

7.4 Coronation event payments

It had previously been agreed that £3000 be allocated in the budget for a contribution to the Kings Coronation event to be held at the Sports Centre. It was agreed in principle that all invoices for expenditure towards the event be sent to the Town Council for payment once an event meeting on April 11th has taken place and after the Sports centre grant of £5000.00 has been fully used.

8. WATTON TWINNING GRANT

It was resolved to award the Watton Twinning Association the Grant of £500.00

9. BRECKLAND'S 'ISSUES AND OPTIONS' LOCAL PLAN

Breckland Council has adopted a Local Plan. The 'Issues and options' consultation, is the first formal consultation as part of this update to the Local Plan. **It was resolved** to defer this item to the next Town Council meeting.

10 MARKET RULES

It was resolved to accept the Market Rules as presented.

11. PLANNING

As a member of Breckland Planning Committee Keith Gilbert passed no comments on applications presented.

11.1 To note: FUL/2023/0006 Watton Junior School, Brandon Road, Watton, Thetford, IP25 6AL

Correspondence was received from the MP George Freeman regarding Support for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities - It was suggested that the mayor write to Mr Freeman to highlight the fact that none of the Schools in Watton were mentioned.

11.2 WATTON 11 Monkams Drive, , IP25 6PE

Proposal: Amendment to 3PL/2021/1432/HOU - Changes to ground floor rear elevation fenestration, removal of chimney breast. (Non Mat Minor Amend)

No comments

11.3 3PL/2023/0322/F - Decommission of Barclays Bank, Removal of existing external signage, ATM & Nightsafe & infill aperture. Removal of internal counters, furniture, 1 no. stud partition on ground floor. - WATTON: Barclays Bank 56 High Street

No comments