

Minutes of the Watton Annual Town Meeting

held at Watton Sports Centre on May 9th 2023

Present: Mayor Sue Hebborn (Chairman of Watton Town Council), District Councillors Mr K Gilbert (also Town Councillor) Ms T Kiddell (also Town Councillor) and Ms C Bowes (also County Councillor), 4 other members of Watton Town Council and 19 members of the public (many representing organisations in the town).

Also present Watton Town Council Clerk.

1. The minutes of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting were presented, agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a report of Town Council activities over the past year. A copy of all reports received or given at the meeting will be made available on the Town Council website: www.wattontowncouncil.gov.uk

Three members of the community were presented with a Mayors Certificate of Achievement: Liz Whitcher, Carol Cox and Dr Mahatme.

3. District Councillors' Report

Written Reports were received from Claire Bowes, Tina Kiddell and Keith Gilbert.

4. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Claire Bowes gave a verbal report.

5. Reports received from organisations which have received grants and donations from Watton Town Council in 2022

- Loch Neaton Bowls Club – written report received and verbal report given.
- Watton Carnival Committee - written report received.
- Wayland Partnership Development Trust - written report received and verbal report given.
- Museum 4 Watton – Apologies received for non-attendance. Written update statement received with report promised.
- 864 Squadron - written report received and verbal report given.
- Stevens Almshouses Charity - written report received and verbal report given.

6. Reports received from local organisations

- Watton Safer Neighbourhood Team – apologies received for non-attendance. Written report received.

- Watton Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Written report received and verbal report given by David Dent, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
- Wayland Chamber of Commerce – Written report received and verbal report given by David Dent, Chairman of the Wayland Chamber of Commerce
- Watton Sports and Social Club – verbal report given by Tobi Amadasun, Chairman of the Watton Sports and Social Club.
Noted that a new Sports and Social Club Committee of 12 members has been in place since October 2022. The new Committee is making a difference and is putting plans in place to move forward.
A successful joint event, between the Sports Centre and Watton Town Council, to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III was held at the Sports Centre. It is hoped this is a good start to working together.
The Sports Centre finances are said to be turning a corner with the current position looking to be even at the end of the next quarter.
The facility, although usage is growing, needs much work and there are plans for the site to be re-modelled to give it a fresh look.
Staffing is a challenge and money is needed to retain staff.
The Sports Centre is hopeful large events can be held to cater for many people which will bring funds in.
- Loch Neaton Committee - written report submitted and verbal report given.
- Queen's Hall – written report received.
- The Charlotte Harvey Trust – written report submitted with verbal report given.
- Watton Ladies Group – written report submitted with verbal report given.

All organisations are looking for volunteers!

6. Town Affairs/Matters raised by attendees

- Noted that Norfolk Gift Shop in Watton High Street has recently celebrated one year of trading.

Reports available on the Town Council website