

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on
Tuesday June 13th 2023 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at
Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton IP25 6AG

Councillors Present: Peter Bishop – Chairman, Tobi Amadasun, Keith Gilbert, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Tina Kiddell, Graham Martin, Kathryn Stallard, Gillian Tarrant, Don Saunders, Pat Warwick,

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

7 members of the public present

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED FROM:

Tina Cruz

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

Tobi Amadasun declared an interest in anything to do with Watton Sports Association as he is Chairman of the Association.

3. MINUTES

3.1 The accuracy of item 9.3 of the minutes of May 23rd 2023 was challenged but a positive vote resolved to accept the minutes, which were duly signed by the Chairman.

3.2 A written report was presented within the agenda pack updating on items from the meeting on 23.05.23.

Note that .gov e-mail addresses have been set up for Councillors and all electronic communication to Councillors from the Town Council Office will now only be sent to the .gov addresses.

It was noted that the Christmas event to be held at Watton Sports Centre on November 26th, which is the same day as the Annual Festive Market in Watton High Street, has been booked by the event organiser for some time and it is hoped that both events will together create a good day for the town.

The Council Promotions Events Projects Support Officer (PEPSO) will be asked to report to the Town Council regarding plans and promotion for the 2023 Festive Market.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended:

02.06.23 Watton Jobs Fair - thanks were expressed to Pat Warwick for organising this event.

05.06.23 – meeting with Steve Halls from Norfolk County Council regarding possible flood mitigation works at the Charlotte Harvey Trust field.

12.06.23 - meeting with Belvoir regarding sponsorship of the Watton Food Hub.

13.06.23 – meeting to consider possible works to Church Walk Walsingham Gates (noted that the gates are only approximately 20 years old but the railings are the original listed structure).

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman attended the Mayor of Thetford's reception on 02.06.23.

4.3 District Councillors Report

Tina Kiddell has attended the Watton Jobs Fair and Emergency Planning training. Keith Gilbert has undertaken training relevant to his new position on Breckland Councils Licensing Committee.

Clerk's Report

Written report issued with the agenda pack.

A resolution was made to accept a grant application which had been received too late to be included on the agenda. If the application were not considered at this meeting the date of the event the grant is to support would have passed. Cllr Stan Hebborn introduced the grant requesting £500 to support an event to celebrate Armed Forces Day. **It was resolved** to support the application.

Cllr Martin who has been liaising with the Watton Men's Shed reported that Jewsons have offered to help the Mens Shed with supplies.

It was suggested that "Reports from Lead Councillors" should be routinely included on the Full Council agenda.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Members of the public present raised concern about a statement recently posted on Facebook.
- Support was voiced for a Motorbike Day to be held again in Watton High Street.
- "Tom" from Apollo Events was present to introduce himself and stated that he hopes he can work with the Town Council to make sure both his Christmas event at Watton Sports Centre on November 26th 2023 and the High Street Festive Market on the same day are successful.

6. CO-OPTION

It was resolved to co-opt Anthony Bridges to fill one of the three vacancies on Watton Town Council. Mr Bridges signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took a seat at the Council table.

7. OFFICERS MESS ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY LAND

The Deed of Variation relating to transfer of the Alternative Community Land at the Officers Mess site along the Norwich Road to Watton Town Council has now been signed by the Town Council.

A meeting has been arranged for 2.30pm on July 13th with the Clerk of Dereham Town Council so he can inform Watton Town Council of his recent experience of establishing a new park area in Dereham.
The Officers Mess Site will be an agenda item again following the meeting on July 13th.

8. EMERGENCY PLAN FOR WATTON

Liz Whitcher, Chairman of Watton & Saham Flood Action Group, presented a verbal update regarding emergency planning for Watton (copy of the Report filed with the minutes of the meeting).

9. BIKE EVENT 2023

It was resolved that Cllr Kiddell will organise a Bike Event for 2023 in Watton High Street. An amendment to the original proposal, which had suggested that no bike event be held in the High Street until 2024, was defeated.
The Finance Committee will be requested to look at allocating a budget for the event.

10. WAYLAND SHOW 2023

It was resolved that the Town Council will not book a stall at the 2023 Wayland Show.

11. LOCH NEATON PICNIC

It was resolved to ask the PEPSO, as has been requested, to liaise with the Thorp House Nursing Home Activities Co-ordinator to advise on organisation of a Community Picnic at Loch Neaton.

12. WATTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Keith Gilbert will be the Council representative on the Watton Twinning Association.

13. LEAD COUNCILLORS

Keith Gilbert will be Lead Councillor for Planning.
Pat Warwick will be Lead Councillor for Youth Provision.
Kathryn Stallard will be Lead Councillor for Provision for the Elderly.

14. FINANCE

14.1 INTERNAL CONTROL OFFICER

Peter Bishop will remain as Internal Control Officer.

14.1a INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT 2022/23

The Internal Auditors Report was received and accepted. No matters were raised which require formal comment or recommendation.

14.2 The Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 was approved and signed.

14.3 The Accounting Statements for the financial year ending 31.03.2023 were approved and signed.

15. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

It was resolved to accept quotes as presented from the preferred Grounds Maintenance Contractor to:

- Level and install matting at the base of the slide at Bridle Road Play Area.
- Repair to the plinth of the town sign in Watton High Street
- Build a compound at Watton Cemetery to house 2 skips.
- Replace a damaged post at Jubilee Garden.
- Planting of the tubs at Bridle Road Play Area.

16. PLANNING

16.1 3NM/2023/0057/NMA - Amendment to pp 3PL/2022/0687/VAR - to substitute approved drawing ref.P19-0628_10-B (Detailed LEAP Proposals) with drawing ref.P19-0628_10-C (Detailed LEAP Proposals). - Land at Thetford Road WATTON
No Comment

16.2 3OB/2023/0029/OB - Discharge of obligations set out in clause 1.1 of schedule 3 of the Section 106 agreement of 3PL/2018/0952/O - Open space - Thetford Road WATTON

No Comment

16.3 3PL/2023/0553/F - Proposed conversion of existing outbuilding to dwelling - Barclay End Farm Town Green Road IP25 6RD WATTON

No Comment

16.4 TRE/2023/0152/TPO - T1 1x oak tree: Reduce tree by 3/4m all over to allow light into the garden/property. Remove 2 x over extended lateral limbs (marked on the photo) in customers garden as they would have no good pruning point so drop crotch technique would blend them in far better.
Green Oak Road IP25 6BE WATTON

No Comment

17. A resolution was passed to exclude the public and press to consider allotment and cemetery matters:

17.1 SHED REQUEST CHURCH ROAD ALLOTMENT SITE

It was resolved that the request received for a larger than normally permitted shed at Church Road Allotment Site will be allowed. This is an exceptional circumstance due to disability. The allotment holder will be asked to remove the shed at the end of the tenancy.

17.2 REFUND OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL (EROB)

It was resolved to refund the fee for the Exclusive Right of Burial for plot G20 in Watton Cemetery as requested.

17.3 REFUND OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL (EROB)

It was resolved that a request received to refund costs for Exclusive Rights Of Burial originally associated with plot F4 in Watton Cemetery will be considered again in 3 months time once both parties have had a chance to check what information is available to support the refund request.