

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on
Tuesday August 8th 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, Don Saunders.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

3 members of the public present (Tomos Hutchings, Catherine Turley-Long and Steve Turley-Long.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED and accepted from
Anthony Bridges, Tina Cruz, Gillian Tarrant

Liz Whitcher, Chairman of Watton and Saham Flood Action Group also sent her apologies as she had been due to present a report to the Council at item 4.4.

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

3. MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on July 25th 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman

3.2 A written report was presented within the agenda pack updating on items from the meeting on 25.07.23.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has:

- 26th July attended Police Priority Setting Meeting at Wayland Hall
- 27th July attended opening of art sculpture at Rokeles Green
- 4th August attended Charlotte Harvey Trust Management Committee meeting
- 4th August attended meeting with Sports Centre Management regarding Sports Centre Play Area
- 4th August undertaken work for Norfolk Association of Local Councils (Norfolk ALC) with Cllr Stallard and Cllr Saunders
- 7th August presented award for Gardens in Bloom
- 8th August attended initial meeting held with potential Event Organiser re. possible future contract

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

4th August - The Vice-Chairman attended the meeting at the Sports Centre and assisted Norfolk ALC.

4.3 Clerk's Report

Written report issued with the agenda pack.

Of note:

Hares Green Play Area

Sutcliffe Play have been in touch regarding the current issues with the play equipment and surfacing at Hares Green Play Area. The Contracts Manager has now been in contact with the surfacing company and has requested they visit the site and report their comments. However, no date has been given.

Answers will be sought before the next Town Council meeting.

Middle Street Town Centre Improvements

Noted that officers from Breckland Council are to arrange to meet with the Town Council in the near future re. the proposals for Middle Street.

4.4 Report from Watton and Saham Flood Action Group

Liz Whitcher, Chairman of Watton & Saham Flood Action Group (WASFAG), could not be present and thus no report was given.

The representation from WASFAG relating to planning 3PL/2022/1375/F, 3DC/2023/0203/DOC, which the Council had previously agreed to support, was presented to Councillors within the agenda pack.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters raised.

6. CO-OPTION

It was resolved to co-opt to fill the three current vacancies on the Town Council. The three applicants, Tomos Hutchings, Catherine Turley-Long and Steve Turley-Long, duly completed their acceptance of office forms and took their seats at the table.

7. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

7.1 and 7.2

It was resolved to seek further quotes for the proposed grounds maintenance works at the allotments and this matter will be deferred to the next Full Council meeting for a decision to be made.

It was resolved that Rentokil will be engaged to undertake pest control at the Church Road allotment site once the overgrown allotments have been cleared.

7.3

It was resolved to accept the quote received from the preferred contractor to undertake an initial cut of the grass of the Alternative Community Land area at the Officers Mess site, off Norwich Road. Ownership of the area has recently been transferred to Watton Town Council.

Research is being undertaken regarding landscaping of the area and a site meeting is to be booked with a contractor to obtain initial advice. Other contractors will also be approached.

7.4

It was resolved to accept the quote received from the preferred contractor for exploratory works to be undertaken to the raised plinth at Chaston Place to determine what may need to be done to ensure the base is prepared so that an artificial Christmas tree can be sited.

8. CCLA ACCOUNT

It was resolved that Keith Gilbert will be appointed as a CCLA bank signatory to replace Beryl Bunning who is no longer a Councillor.

9. OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Following quite lengthy discussion it was resolved that the old Christmas lights currently in storage will be offered (untested), to local organisations in the following order:

1. Queens Hall
2. CHT
3. Other charitable organisations within Watton
4. High Street businesses

Any remaining or non-working lights will be sold for scrap.

10. POLICIES

It was resolved that, both having been reviewed, the Town Council Complaints Policy and Town Council Co-option Policy need no amendments.

11. A resolution was passed to exclude the public and press to consider staffing and other confidential matters:

11.1 **It was resolved** to accept the recommendation from the HR Committee Interview Panel to appoint the chosen applicant for the position of Community Hub Caretaker with a start date of September 1st 2023.

11.2 Cranswick

A statement has been passed to the Town Council from Cranswick regarding complaints received relating to odour reported to be from the Cranswick site along the Brandon Road. **It was resolved** that the Town Council would not publish the statement from Cranswick but a statement made by the Town Council will be published on the Town Council website: "Watton Town Council has received a message from Cranswick which has led to the Town Council asking the District Councillors to convene a meeting to which Cranswick, the Environment Agency and members of the public would be invited".

The statement will be shared with Town Councillors and Cranswick before it is published on the Town Council website.