

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on
Tuesday September 12th 2023 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at
Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton IP25 6AG

Councillors Present: Keith Gilbert, Stan Hebborn, Tomos Hutchings, Tina Kiddell, Graham Martin, Don Saunders (Vice-Chairman), Catherine Turley-Long, Steve Turley-Long, Gillian Tarrant.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

Also present County Councillors Claire Bowes and Fabian Eagle and 5 members of the public.

Prior to the meeting a presentation on Emergency Planning had been given by Debbie Read Emergency Planning Officer at Breckland Council.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED and accepted from

Tobi Amadasun, Peter Bishop, Anthony Bridges, Tina Cruz, Sue Hebborn, Kathryn Stallard

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS MADE

3. MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on August 28th 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3.2 A written report was presented within the agenda pack updating on items from the meeting on 28.08.23

- A further information sign has been purchased for Lovell Gardens Play Area.
- Refurbishment of the play equipment at Lovell Gardens has been actioned and is likely to take place towards the end of the year/beginning of 2024.
- Additional poppies for the lamp posts have been ordered.
- Agreed grounds works have taken place at the Allotments.
- Agreed DBS check has been requested through CBR Business Solutions who undertake the Town Council payroll and HR services. The request has been forwarded to CBR'S Registered Body for confirmation of the level of check required.

4. REPORTS

4.1 No Chairman's Report as the Chairman of the Council was not present

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman has attended:

31.10.23 A Charlotte Harvey Trust Community Hub Meeting

08.09.23 Civic event at RAF Lakenheath

10.09.23 Dereham Town Council Civic Reception

4.3 Clerk's Report

Written report issued with the agenda pack, with verbal update provided.

Of note:

- A suggestion for Full Council Training will be investigated.
- It was agreed to pay the invoice for the recent maintenance work to the High Street Clock Tower (the invoice had not been received in time to be included on the August Payments List).
- An Officer from Breckland Council is willing to attend a future Town Council meeting to give an update on the proposed pedestrianisation of Middle Street. It will be an agenda item for the next Full Council meeting to set a date.

County Councillor Claire Bowes was present at the meeting and was invited to give a report as County Councillor. Claire informed the Council that a meeting, chaired by George Freeman MP, had been held with Cranswick representatives, local Councillors and Officers. The suggested plan for the future is to hold regular liaison meetings where issues such as the current odour complaints can be discussed.

County Councillor Fabian Eagle who was also present was invited to speak about the "Love Your Market Town Fund". Expressions of interest, which need to be submitted by 5pm on 22.09.23, can be made by anyone who has a connection with the High Street. The Town Council will advertise the fund on the Town Council website and submit an expression of interest.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters raised but a request was made for item 11 to be brought up the agenda for Tom Hassey from Apollo Events to give an update on the Bike Meet held in Watton High Street on August 27th 2023:

11. BIKE EVENT

The Bike Meet held on August 27th was considered to have been a success and a request was made for a similar but bigger event to be held in 2024.

Tina Kiddell as Lead Councillor for this event was asked to prepare a detailed proposal, including costs, to support her request for a 2024 event. The proposal can then be considered by the Finance Committee before presentation to the Full Council.

6. WATTON EMERGENCY PLAN

Some discussion took place regarding the presentation given by Debbie Read, Emergency Planning Officer, and it was felt Councillors have a role in providing information in an emergency situation and Debbie could provide training to support such a role.

Emergency Planning will be an agenda item again for the next Full Council meeting when Councillors will consider whether they might act as Emergency Co-ordinators in their local areas.

7. RECLAIM THE RAIN

Written report had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Liz Whitcher, Chairman of Watton and Saham Flood Action Group, gave a verbal update to the Report.

8. DONATION APPLICATION

It was resolved to grant a donation of £6000 to the Benjamin Foundation as requested.

9. MEMORIAL GARDEN

It was resolved, with one abstention, that the seats at Memorial Garden should be removed but kept in storage should it be decided to replace them.

10. MEMBERSHIP OF RURAL MARKET TOWN GROUP

It was resolved to consider membership of either the Rural Market Town Group or the National Association of British Market Authorities at the next Full Council meeting.

11. BIKE EVENT - *Item moved to below item 5.*

12. STREET NAME

It was resolved that the Town Council has no objection to the request for the name Peter Crane to be used as part of a future street name in the town.

13. WATTON SPORTS CENTRE PLAY AREA

It was clarified that, as part of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Watton Sports Association, the Town Council will continue to inspect the play equipment at the Sports Centre weekly. An annual RoSPA inspection will also continue to be arranged.

14. LITTER PICK

A litter pick/engagement day at the recently acquired community land at Heritage Park will be considered at the next meeting of the Full Council.

15. PLANNING

3PL/2023/0862/HOU Installation of a dropped kerb to allow access to front of dwelling: 60 Norwich Road, Watton

No objections

15.1 WATTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was resolved to accept the Examiner's Report for Watton Neighbourhood Plan and agreed that the Plan should be put forward for referendum.

15.2 LOCAL VALIDATION LIST CONSULTATION

It was suggested that any comments on the Local Validation List Consultation should be sent to the Office to be passed to Breckland Council.

16. A resolution was passed to exclude the public and press to consider matters relating to the Cemetery and other confidential matters:

- A complaint, which has been made regarding procedures at the Cemetery, is being responded to in line with the Council's Complaints Procedure.
- Noted that the Council has received a Freedom of Information request. Advice has been taken and Councillors were in agreement that the sensitive information which has been requested cannot be released.
- Councillor Kiddell gave an update relating to the proposed skate park at Watton Sports Association and in due course the Chairman of the Association will share further information with the Council.