

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on  
Tuesday October 24th 2023 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at  
Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton IP25 6AG

Councillors Present: Peter Bishop - Chairman, Tobi Amadasun, Anthony Bridges, Tina Cruz, Keith Gilbert, Tomos Hutchings, Tina Kiddell, Graham Martin, Kathryn Stallard, Catherine Turley-Long, Steve Turley-Long, Gillian Tarrant.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

County Councillor Claire Bowes and 1 member of the public present

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED from**  
Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Don Saunders

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**  
Peter Bishop declared an interest in item 7.1

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Updates from items raised at the meeting on 10.10.23:

- Lovell Gardens - Cllr Bridges and the Clerk attended a site meeting on 16.10.23 at Lovell Gardens Play Area to discuss final details for installation of the new play equipment. Installation is scheduled to begin 13.11.23 and will take an estimated 4 weeks. Following a visit to the Council Offices from members of the Youth Advisory Board consideration will be given to how any play areas can be made more inclusive. This will include looking for possible funding to install pathways at the play areas owned by the Town Council. The Finance Committee was asked to consider purchase of a swing seat suitable for wheelchair uses to be included in the refurbishment of Lovell Gardens Play Area.
- Second draft of the Memorandum of Understanding re. the Sports Centre Play Area has been passed to Watton Sports Association.
- An insurance assessor has been to look at the fire damage at the public toilets and the Town Council has the option to use contractors arranged by the insurers or to obtain a quote for the works. A quote has been requested from Focus who undertook the refurbishments of the toilets earlier in the year.

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman has attended a complaints procedure meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October and the AGM of the Watton Society on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

4.2 **Vice-Chairman's Report**

The Vice-Chairman was not present at the meeting.

4.3 **District Councillor's Report**

- District Councillor Tina Kiddell reported that Youth Workshops are to be held as part of the Breckland Local Plan Consultation. Two events are planned for November 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

which will be advertised by posters and through social media and those aged between 16 and 21 are asked to register an interest.

- Those present were informed that a meeting is to be held with George Freeman MP and the Police to discuss concerns about anti-social behaviour at Church Walk.
- The Breckland Council High Street Task Force work is being re-generated following a lapse in activity.

#### 4.4 County Councillor' Report

- District and County Councillor Claire Bowes reported that Breckland Council is to install two electric car charging points at the Kittell Road car park and that the Breckland Design Guide is going out for consultation.
- Norfolk County Council (NCC) is requesting that anyone affected by flooding should inform the Water Management Team.
- NCC has been allocated funds for the Household Support Winter Fund.
- The Busseys family has partnered with NCC to deliver a grant to support the planting of one million trees across Norfolk.
- Noted that road markings around the town are scheduled to be refreshed by the end of November 2023.
- Claire has used part of her members budget to help deliver a 20mph speed limit along Watton High Street, to extend past the Junior Academy.
- Claire has also put in an application to the Road Safety Fund to deliver a 20mph limit outside Wayland Senior Academy. It is suggested that the Town Council could apply to the NCC Parish Partnership Scheme for 20mph wig-wag signs outside the school if the speed limit is to be introduced.
- Claire is willing to support a Parish Partnership bid for two trods along the Norwich Road and it will be an agenda item for the next Town Council meeting to consider what applications the Town Council might wish to make for Parish Partnership funding.

#### 4.5 Clerks Report

Written report presented in Councillors Agenda packs.

Verbal update included

- Notification of timetable for referendum for the Watton Neighbourhood Plan.
- Paul Adcock has been successful with his application for the Love Your Market Town Fund
- Work is scheduled for 25.10.23 to make the plinth in Chaston Place suitable to locate the new artificial Christmas Tree for 2023.

#### 4.6 Reports from Lead Councillors

- Gillian Tarrant reported that donations are being received for the Town Council stall at the Festive Market but any contributions from Councillors would be appreciated.
- **It was resolved** not to fund a hot chestnut stall to attend the 2023 Festive Market due to the cost.
- A written report from Stan Hebborn, as Chairman of the Town Council HR Committee, was e-mailed to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman verbally presented the report at the meeting.
- The Community Projects Officer had provided an update on the Fireworks event to be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> which was read out by the Chairman.

### 5. **WORKS IN PROGRESS LIST**

The Works in Progress List was accepted as presented.

### 6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Liz Whitcher, as Chairman of Watton and Saham Flood Action Group (WASFAG) gave a report of the rain and flooding which occurred over the weekend 20/21 October. Five inches of rain have been recorded as falling in Watton during the past week. Three reports have been received by WASFAG regarding flooding incidents but no reports of internal flooding have been reported. The message is however to keep reporting any incidents to get any action.

Noted that Anglian Water has plans to install a new foul water sewer which will run from the Thetford Road roundabout.

## 7. **FINANCE**

7.1 Payments for Approval for October 2023 were accepted as presented with the addition of a £198 payment for inspection of the play area at Hares Green.

8. **DIGITAL SIGNAGE FOR ENTRANCE POINTS TO THE TOWN** – item postponed as Councillor who requested the item not present at the meeting.

## 9. **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES**

Review received and noted that there are no changes planned for Watton.

## 10. **20MPH OUTSIDE JUNIOR AND SENIOR ACADAMIES**

See County Councillor's Report item 4.4.

## 11. **PLANNING**

11.1 3PL/2023/0922/HOU Retrospective Planning Permission for all structures erected on the garden land, including the Cabin, the Potting Shed and Summer House. Please also note that the Cabin has associated drainage connections. WATTON: 30 Swaffham Road.

No Comments

## **12. It was resolved to pass a resolution to exclude the Public and Press to consider CONFIDENTIAL legal and staffing matters:**

Liz Whitcher had been invited to remain for an additional first item for agenda item 12.

It is possible that land in the town which is being sold at auction could be purchased as community land as part of the million trees for Norfolk initiative. The Town Council agreed in principle that it would be prepared to consider help with maintenance of such an asset should it be formally approached.

### 12.1 Hares Green Play Area

It was resolved that a request received for compensation will be passed to the installers of the play equipment.

12.2 Cemetery - A confidential report was presented to Councillors and a final response to the complaint received was drafted.

12.3 Report from HR Committee meeting held 11.10.23 was presented at item 4.6.

12.3(i) It was resolved to temporarily employ the Administration Clerk for an additional 2 hours a week from 01.11.23 to help cover current staff absence.