

Minutes of the meeting of WATTON TOWN COUNCIL held on
Tuesday September 26th 2023 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at
Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton IP25 6AG

Councillors Present: Peter Bishop - Chairman, Tobi Amadasun, Tina Cruz, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Tomos Hutchings, Graham Martin, Kathryn Stallard, Don Saunders, Gillian Tarrant .

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

0 members of the public present

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED from**

Anthony Bridges, Keith Gilbert, Tina Kiddell, Catherine Turley-Long and Steve Turley Long

2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on September 12th 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Updates from items raised at the meeting on 12.09.23:

Item 4.3 An expression of interest from the Town Council was submitted to the 'Love Your Market Town Fund' and the Council has been invited to present the idea of four sessions of street entertainment to a panel at Breckland Council. However, it is unlikely the idea can be progressed to a full application in the given time and this matter will be considered further at the Finance Committee Meeting on 29.09.23. The Council may look to support another project, perhaps with match funding, which has been submitted to promote High Street businesses.

Item 9 Noted that one of the benches at Memorial Garden has been taped off due to vandalism. The Town Council preferred contractor has been asked to remove both benches at Memorial Garden.

It was reported that the Police may suggest removal of benches at Church Walk due to recent incidents and a request was made for the Town Council to investigate the possibility of improving lighting in Church Walk.

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has been away and had no report to give.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman has:

- attended the Battle of Britain Commemoration at County Hall on 15.09.23
- attended the Diss Civic Reception on 17.09.23
- opened Wayland Carnival on 17.09.23
- attended a Wayland Partnership meeting on 18.09.23

4.3 District Councillor's Report

Tina Kiddell and Keith Gilbert were not present at the meeting.

A written report from Keith Gilbert had been presented prior to the meeting (copy attached).

4.4 County Councillor' Report

County Councillor Claire Bowes was not present at the meeting.

4.5 Clerks Report

Written report presented in Councillors Agenda packs:

- The External Audit for the year ending 31.03.23 has been completed and notification has been posted on the Town Council website and on the notice boards.
- Consultation letter received re. proposed 20mph Abel Homes Norwich Road (Romney Road, Shetland Road, Woollen Way and Texal Road).

Verbal update included reference to e-mails sent to Councillors regarding Breckland Local Plan and the Slow Ways national walking network.

4.6 Reports from Lead Councillors

- Kathryn Stallard and Gillian Turrant are leading on preparations for the Council stall at the 2023 Festive Market. Donations and volunteers to man the stall were requested.
- Stan Hebborn reported that plans for the 2023 Fireworks Evening are progressing well. Don Saunders offered to act as the Lost Children Officer at the Fireworks Evening.

5. **WORKS IN PROGRESS LIST**

The Works in Progress List was accepted as presented.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – No members of the public present.

7. **FINANCE**

7.1 Payments for Approval for September 2023 were accepted as presented with the addition of £234 for Heritage sign tea towels and £76 for grounds maintenance work at Jubilee Garden.

8. **GRANT APPLICATION FROM 864 (WATTON) SQUADRON, RAF AIR CADETS**

It was resolved to give £500 to 864 (Watton) Squadron, RAF Air Cadets as requested to purchase branded clothing which will include the Town Council logo on the sleeve.

9. **SUBSCRIPTION**

Consideration will be given to subscribing to the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) at the next Full meeting of the Council. The link to the NABMA website will be sent to Councillors.

10. **LITTER PICK**

It was felt that a litter pick of the now acquired community land at the former Officer's Mess Site, Norwich Road was not needed but that an announcement should be posted on social media stating that the land now belongs to Watton Town Council and possibilities for the future use of the community space are being explored.

11. **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Councillors were asked to consider putting their names forward to act as Emergency Co-ordinators for the areas of the town where they live. This matter will be an agenda item again for the next Full meeting of the Town Council.

12. **MIDDLE STREET PRESENTATION**

It was agreed the Breckland Officer leading on the plans for pedestrianisation of Middle Street would be asked to give his presentation to the Council at a meeting arranged for that purpose. It was felt this should not be undertaken during a scheduled Town Council meeting due to the predicted length of the presentation.

13. PLANNING

13.1 TRE/2023/0251/TPO – TPO 2008/59 Fell Lime Tree – 6 Nelson Court, Watton
No comment

14. It was resolved to pass a resolution to exclude the Public and Press to consider Cemetery and allotment matters:

- **It was resolved** that, due to extenuating circumstances, an exception would be made granting a request for an ashes interment to be accepted as an interment of a resident of the town rather than a non-resident.
- **It was resolved** that any allotment holder that has not had their allotment tenancy renewed due to the plot not being cultivated will not be offered another plot in the future.