

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

Councillors Present: Peter Bishop - Chairman, Tobi Amadasun, Keith Gilbert, Tomos Hutchings, Tina Kiddell, Graham Martin, Don Saunders, Kathryn Stallard, Gillian Tarrant, Tony Bridges.

Officer present: Michelle Thompson Deputy Clerk

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

Tina Cruz, Stan Hebborn and Sue Hebborn

No apologies were received from Steve Turley-Long and Catherine Turley-Long

2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on February 27th 2024 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Updates from items raised at the meeting on 27th February 2024

- Graphics on the path at Lovell Gardens Play Area was installed on March 8th.
- 3 new litter bins are on order for specified locations around the town.

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended:

- CHT Management Committee and Food hub meeting on 29.02.24
- Whole Council training on 05.03.24
- Launch of the new Watton Heritage boards on 06.03.24
- Norfolk senior cup semi-final at the sports centre on 09.03.24 – Watton United Football Club made it through to the Norfolk Senior Cup Semi Final.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman has attended:

- CHT Management Committee and Food hub meeting on 29.02.24
- Whole Council training on 05.03.24
- A meeting on 05.03.24 with Multiply who are providing Math tutoring at the CHT building
- A meeting on 05.03.24 with Diss and Thetford Citizen's advice who are possibly going to offer debt advice at the CHT building

4.3 Clerks Report

Written report presented in Councillors Agenda packs:

- A grant application has been made to the British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator and cabinet which will be located on a Breckland Council owned lamp post adjacent to Lovell Gardens Play Area. **The Town council was informed that the grant has been successful, the Council will need to contribute towards the installation costs (this may also include the cost of the cabinet).** The grant stipulates that the cabinet must be kept unlocked and uncoded and it is a suggestion that perhaps the cabinet at the Charlotte Harvey building should be the one which is kept unlocked rather than that at the suggested Lovell Gardens location.

The Events and Marketing Officer will be asked to investigate quotes for installation and organise a small event to publish the defibrillator.

- Link to the Draft Breckland Design Code: [Consultations - Breckland Council](#)
- Councillors and 5 staff undertook basic councillor training on 05.03.24. New staff member Lorren Woodgett, who started work with the Council on 04.03.24 as the Events & Marketing Officer, attended the training and has been welcomed as part of the Team.
- Watton Town Council and Watton Sports Centre Working Group held a meeting on March 1st, minutes were presented in the agenda pack.
- The Town Councils Parish Partnership bids have been successful. These are for Frontage kerbing outside Cranswick, a Trod east of Lidl on Norwich Road from the entrance to Breckland Business Park to the bus stop and wig-wag signs at Wayland Academy.

4.4 Reports from Lead Councillors

Councillor Tina Kiddell as representative for the Sports Centre congratulated the Sports Centre on their success of hosting a winning Semi-final football match.

Some discussion took place regarding the lack of press coverage for Watton. It was agreed that the Chairman write a letter to the EDP expressing the disappointment.

Councillor Tony Bridges as the Lead Councillor for Youth Provision thanked everyone involved with the new Lovell Gardens play area. A date of April 2nd has been agreed for the grand opening.

The Town council agreed for Councillor Bridges to publish a statement on social media regarding the opening and current status of the parks refurbishment.

4.4 (i) Right to Play Pledge

It was resolved to adopt the Right to Play Pledge as follows:

We pledge to make all our play areas accessible, inclusive, and safe environments that challenge, excite, stimulate and promote the interaction of all young people of all abilities.

We pledge to:

- Value all children and young people's Right to Play.
- Adopt a statement for Inclusive and Accessible Play Areas in Play Area policy.
- Adopt the three inclusive design pillars of Accessibility, Multi-Sensory and Supporting Infrastructure.
- Apply Inclusive Principles to all Play Area refurbishment and new projects.
- Demonstrate in planning and grant application that Inclusive Principles have been included in design.
- Consult with the community, particularly young people, to advocate inclusive design and refurbishment to make play areas accessible to all.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present.

6. OPEN GARDNES AND YARD SALE WEEKEND

The dates of 29th and 30th June 2024 were confirmed for the Open Gardens and Yard Sale weekend.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT

It was resolved to adopt the new Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020.

8. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)

It was resolved to support the renewal of the PSPO.

9. HERITAGE PARK GRASS CUTTING

It was resolved to accept quote 2 at the cost of £600 plus VAT for 2 cuts during the grass cutting season.

10. FLOOD MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2024

As the Town council is a member of Norfolk ALC, there are 2 free tickets to attend. Liz Whitcher – Chairman of the Watton and Saham Flood Action Group will be asked if she would like to attend along with the newly appointed Chairman/Vice Chairman of the Council at the time.

11. PLANNING

11.1 3PL/2024/0178/F - Demolition of existing internal structures. Proposed internal alterations and extensions to provide a new store to the rear, accessible W.C., new office space and kitchen area. Proposed replacement signage to Western Elevation - Watton Service Centre Brandon Road
Goldline Fuel (Hutton) Ltd

No comments

11.2 3PL/2024/0185/F Proposed change of use of hotel (C1 Use Classes Order) to residential care home (C2 Use Classes Order), including removal of 4 windows and replacing them with doors on rooms 11, 12, 12a and 14 – Watton Vibe Care Ltd 80 Brandon Road, Watton

No comments as such, other than it is a positive to bring extra employment opportunities to the town.

12. **It was resolved** to exclude the public and press to consider cemetery matters

The Town Council has received a request to purchase the Exclusive Rights to grave plots either side of a recent burial.

It was resolved to retain practice of only allowing purchase of **one** adjacent Exclusive Right for a burial plot for a family member at the time of an interment.

As a member of the HR Committee Councillor Gill Turrant reported that 3 applicants were interviewed for the 2nd Town Operative position. 1 applicant has been chosen and will be appointed subject to references and a DBS check. **It was resolved** to support the HR Committees decision on the candidate.