

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday September 10th 2024 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

Councillors Present: Don Saunders - Chairman, Tina Cruz, Peter Bishop, Tomos Hutchings, Tina Kiddell, Graham Martin, Kathryn Stallard, Gillian Tarrant.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

2 members of the public also present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED from

Tobi Amadasun, Tony Bridges, Keith Gilbert, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn

Claire Bowes also sent apologies.

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

3. MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on August 27th 2024 were accepted as a true record.

3.2 Updates from the meeting held on August 27th 2024 if not agenda items (as listed in the agenda pack):

- Application made to Coronation Living Heritage Fund for Community Orchard at Jubilee Garden.
- Awaiting report following drone survey of Wayland Hall.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended:

31st August Watton Community Day at the Charlotte Harvey Community Centre

1st Sept. Watton Rotary Club Summer Gala

6th Sept. launch of Range & Road at Neaton Business Park

8th Sept. Dereham Civic Reception

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

Vice-Chairman has attended:

30th July – Summer Fun Day at the Charlotte Harvey Community Centre

31st July – Police Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting

1st August – CHT Management Com. meeting and Food Hub Meeting

31st August Watton Community Day at the Charlotte Harvey Community Centre

4.3 Clerks Report

Written report presented in Councillors Agenda Pack with verbal update given.

- **Pedestrianisation on Middle Street**

The Clerk and Cllr Hutchings met with officers from Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council on 04.09.24 who are looking at final design plans for the proposed pedestrianisation of Middle Street.

There are still decisions to be made before the plans are subject to consultation.

The Council requested that the plans be brought back to Watton Town Council for consultation before being finalised.

- **Bridle Road**

The Deputy Clerk and Events Officer met with Mark Webster from Conservation Volunteers at Bridle Road Play area on September 9th re. clearing the boundary at Bridle Road. A quote for work to be undertaken is awaited.

Noted that Anglia Water and the Community Payback Team may also be available to undertake some voluntary grounds work in the parish.

- Notification received that Norfolk County Council is proposing to make an Order to introduce a 20mph Speed Limit Zone at Bowes Close, Byfords Way and Dudley Close.

- **Boundary Commission**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has adopted Breckland Councils submission for a council size of 51 members. A Breckland Council Working Group has now proposed new warding arrangements for the district which will see a new ward created for the Watton area to be identified as 'Haggard de Toni'. To achieve the desired electoral equality the current model of three district councillors for Watton with another covering Saham Toney and Carbrooke will be amended to create an additional 5th councillor. This will be achieved by splitting Watton east and west, with 2 Councillors for the eastern side, two for the new western side which will also incorporate Saham Toney and one for Carbrooke.

It was felt the Council and individuals should respond to any consultation regarding this proposed change.

Links relating to relevant information will be provided to Councillors and this matter will be an agenda item for the Full Town Council meeting on September 24th.

4.4 Reports from Lead Councillors

Noted that a report of the Watton Community Day held at the Charlotte Harvey Community Centre on August 31st will be given at the Trustees Meeting scheduled for 24th September.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

New Methodist Minister for Watton, Rev. Anne Richardson, was present to introduce herself.

Resident spoke to say that avenues continue to be explored as to how Watton can challenge or mitigate against the Breckland Council decision to implement car parking charges in the market towns. Costs for possible options the Town Council could consider will be provided for the next Full Council meeting.

6. CAR PARKING CHARGES

It was resolved that the Chairman and Town Clerk should arrange to meet with the Chairman and Clerks from the other Breckland market towns to discuss the possibility of a

Judicial Review being undertaken against Breckland Council in relation to the proposed introduction of car parking charges.

7. BRECKLAND COUNCIL PUBLIC OPEN SPACES & PLAYING FIELDS SURVEY

Councillors were presented with the first draft of the response to the Breckland Council Public Open Spaces and Playing Fields Survey.

Comments voiced will be included within the draft which will be then be passed back to Councillors for review before submitting a final version to the consultants.

8. TREE LOCATIONS

It was agreed that the suggestions for locations in Watton for trees to mark 50 years of District Councils should be deferred until a site meeting, scheduled for September 16th has taken place. This matter will be an agenda item again for the Full Council meeting on Sept. 24th.

9. HIGH STREET FOOTFALL COUNTERS

The Town Council has been asked to support Breckland Council in an initiative to install two footfall cameras in Watton High Street. The proposal is that Breckland Council would cover the installation costs of the footfall counters and Watton Town Council would fund ongoing costs (3 year contract estimated at £630 p.a.).

It was resolved not to financially support this initiative due to the cost involved.

10. NON-ENDORSEMENT AND EQUAL SUPPORT POLICY

It was resolved to accept the Non-endorsement and Equal Support Policy as presented.

11. USE OF COUNCIL RESOURCES

It was agreed that a policy relating to the use of council resources, such as the market gazebos, should be compiled.

12. HIGH STREET SIGNAGE

It was resolved to purchase four “No litter” and “No Dog Fouling” signs, for use in the High Street. Signs will be purchased from Breckland Council at a cost of £52.50 per sign.

13. PLANNING

13.1 3PL/2024/0685/HOU - Construction of detached underground basement extension to rear garden - WATTON: 10 The Gallops

No comments

13.2 3DC/2024/0167/CON – Proposal 3PL/2013/0510/F Confirmation that all planning Conditions & Obligations have been met - 18 Byfords Way IP25 6TB WATTON

No comments

14. NO RESOLUTION PASSED TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS