

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

I. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND APPROVED from

Tina Cruz, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Keith Prince, Catherine Turley-Long, Steve Turley-Long.

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

3. MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on April 8th 2025 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Updates from items raised at the meeting on April 8th 2025 not agenda items for this meeting:

- Structural Engineer attending the Clock Tower on 29th April.
- Four members of staff have now undertaken training to access data from the Footfall Cameras recently installed in the High Street.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

On April 11th the Chairman attended the Breckland Civic Reception, and on April 15th the Family Fun Day at the Charlotte Harvey Community Hub and the Annual Town Meeting held at Watton Sports Centre.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman attended the HR Committee meeting on April 11th and on April 15th the Family Fun Day at the Charlotte Harvey Community Hub and the Annual Town Meeting held at Watton Sports Centre.

4.3 District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Keith Gilbert has taken photographs of the flags recently re-positioned on buildings in the High Street to show how they have once again furled around the poles. Breckland Council will be informed and it will be stressed that the Town Council did not want such flags. It is disappointing that the flags are unsightly and unfunctional.

4.4 County Councillors Report

No report received from County Councillor Claire Bowes.

4.5 Clerks Report as presented in the agenda pack with verbal update given:

- Middle Street – The Town Council has received Norfolk County Council's (NCC) latest draft of proposed works for the "Market Square" in Middle Street. NCC is now moving into the detailed design stage.
- Sports Centre Skate Park - Notification has been received from the Breckland s106 officer that additional funding will be released for approved Skate Park.
- Safer Street Wardens – Breckland officers are to attend before the Town Council meeting on Tuesday 27th May from 6:15pm to give a presentation on the Safer Street Wardens Initiative.
- Industrial Solar Farm across Mid Norfolk between Swaffham and Dereham- Invite received for Parish / Town Council meeting with George Freeman on Friday 25th April.

4.6 Lead Councillors Report

No reports given.

5. WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Works in Progress list was noted.

It was suggested that the Works in Progress should be thoroughly reviewed at the Full Council Meeting on May 27th with a view to revisiting some of the resolutions which may no longer be relevant.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Payments for April 2025 were approved for payment as on the list presented prior to the meeting.

7.2 The draft minutes from the Finance Committee held on 11.04.25 were noted.

8. DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION

E-mail received from Breckland Councillor Bill Borrett, Executive Member for Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation forwarded to Town Councillors 16.04.25.

9. ALLOTMENTS

9.1 **It was resolved** that an allotment plot could be provided for use by a community group but that the charge of £25 should be made, as it is to other allotment holders.

9.2 **It was resolved** to keep the Thetford Road Allotment site known as "The Thetford Road Allotment Site".

9.3 **It was resolved** that a meeting should be held with the Thetford Road Allotment holders to update them on the ownership of the site and to set a date for an "Open Day" to be held on site.

10. GAZEBO

10.1 Market Gazebo Report received as presented in agenda pack.

10.2 It was agreed to defer any decisions regarding future use of the market gazebos until after a meeting of the Market Working Group has been held.

10.3 It was agreed to defer agreeing the Policy for Borrowing Council Equipment until after a meeting of the Market Working Group has been held as the policy includes use of the gazebos.

11. WATTON & SWAFFHAM FLOOD ACTION GROUP (WASFAG)

A request has been received for the Town Council to continue to fund the WASFAG website. In principle the Council is willing to contribute but a decision will be made once the website has been discussed by WASFAG at the meeting scheduled for 28.04.25.

12. CHURCH WALK

The Chairman has been making enquiries regarding the possible installation of solar powered bollards along Church Walk. Norfolk County Council will be approached regarding permissions that would be needed and whether funding would be available through the Parish Partnership Scheme.

It was noted there has been no update regarding the installation of a security camera at the east end of Church Walk or of the additional streetlight for the Walk.

13. PLANNING

For information Only - PL/2025/0485/TCA, T1- Ash Sectional fell clear and cut to 10-12 ft, Dereham Road Watton. IP25 6ER

The Chairman announced that as from the end of the meeting Councillors Peter Bishop and Kathryn Stallard have resigned from the Council.

14. Resolution passed to exclude the public and press.

14.1 HR - Council informed that the Chairman of the HR Committee, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk are to meet on 28.04.25 with the consultant who has produced a report for the Town Council regarding possible workforce reorganisation.