

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday April 8th 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED from

Keith Gilbert, Keith Prince, Cat Turley-Long and Steve Turley-Long

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

3. MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on March 25th 2025 were accepted as a true record with correction to item 12: "The Town Council is Sole Trustee of the Charlotte Harvey Trust".

3.2 Updates from the meeting held on March 25th if not agenda items (noted in the agenda pack):

- Electrical work completed at the Unit.
- Clock Tower Maintenance – It was resolved that a structural engineer will be commissioned to appraise the structure of the clock tower at an estimated cost of £1440. Building works will then be undertaken as necessary.
- Footfall cameras have now been installed in the High Street. Town Council Officers are to be trained how to access the data.
- No nominations received from Councillors for "Make a Difference" awards– deadline has now expired.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

08.04.25 The Chairman attended the Family Fun Day at the Charlotte Harvey Trust Community Hub and the 80th VE Day celebration planning meeting.

It was resolved that the Watton Men's Shed should be sent a letter of thanks for their help with the Family Fun Day and a vote of thanks was made to all staff and Councillors who gave up time to support the event.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

08.04.25 The Vice-Chairman attended the Family Fun Day at the Charlotte Harvey Trust Community Hub and the 80th VE Day celebration planning meeting.

4.3 Clerks Report

Written report presented in Councillors Agenda Pack with verbal update given informing the meeting that Breckland Council is reinstalling four flag poles along the High Street.

4.4 Lead Councillors Reports:

Councillor Bridges informed the meeting that he is no longer able to continue as the Town Council representative for the Air Cadets. A replacement Councillor will be agreed.

Councillor Stan Hebborn informed the meeting that he is liaising with the fireworks providers to agree music to accompany the 2025 fireworks display.

4.5 A report from Councillor Hutchings was submitted with the agenda pack for the meeting.

4.5i **It was resolved** to remove “contacting NWT and NCC regarding Wayland Wood” from the Works in Progress List as new connections have been made with more information available.

4.5ii **It was resolved** to review the provision of gazebos at the weekly Wednesday Market and to agree a policy regarding their use generally. A report will be compiled for the next Full Council meeting.

4.5iii **It was resolved** to check the legal position before deciding whether allotment plots could be given to charitable groups free of charge. This matter will be an agenda item again once clarification has been received.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – No members of the public present.

6. DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – updates are forwarded to Councillors as received.

7. RIGHTS OF WAY

It was resolved that information would be published on the Watton Town Council pages in the Wayland Times stating how issues with public Rights of Way can be reported.

8. SUMMER RECESS – motion withdrawn.

9. BRECKLAND LOCAL PLAN

Noted that following the recent call for sites as part of the Local Plan Review, Breckland Council is to arrange meetings later in the year to give representatives from parishes a chance to discuss and share their views on the sites that have been put forward prior to a formal consultation.

10. PARISH PARTNERSHIP

The Town Council has been successful with its application to the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme 2024, and **it was resolved** to purchase a third SAM2 Vehicle Activated Sign as funded.

It was also resolved to apply to the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme 2025 to help fund a dropped kerb to allow easier disabled access to the Bridle Road Play Area site.

11. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It was resolved to accept the quote of £11500 for provision of the Christmas lights for the High Street for 2025. Should the cherry trees which have held lights in past years be removed from the containers at the west end of the High Street during 2025 adjustment can be made to the quote and the money saved used to possibly purchase other Christmas motifs. £15000 has been allocated in the 2025 budget towards Christmas lighting.

12. PLANNING

12.1 PL/2025/0366/FMIN Demolition of existing bungalow and development of single storey annexed building for existing care home and erection of new porch for existing care home 255 Lovell Gardens, Watton

The Town Council supports the representations made by the Watton and Saham Flood Action Group.

12.2 PL/2025/0395/FMIN 9no dwellings with associated parking, access and landscaping Land at Rear 121a Brandon Road, Watton

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13. RESOLUTION PASSED TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS to consider confidential matters.

13.1 The Charlotte Harvey Trust

For information Councillors were presented with a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding held between the Town Council and the Charlotte Harvey Trust.

13.2 Community Fun Days

It was agreed that the Community Fun Days which take place at the Charlotte Harvey Trust Community Hub are run by the Charlotte Harvey Trust but sponsored by the Town Council which has made an allocation in the 2025 budget to financially support the events. Community Provision in the budget has been set at £3000.