



Watton Town Council

Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 6AG
Telephone: 01953 881007 Website: www.wattontowncouncil.gov.uk
Town Clerk: Mrs Jane Scarrott clerk@wattontowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillors: You are hereby summoned to attend the Town Council meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall on Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Please note Co-option interviews will take place from 5:30pm before the Town Council meeting.
Doors to the Council chamber will not be open to members of the public until 7pm.

Jane Scarrott – Town Clerk

2nd July 2025

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
2. To note Declaration of Members personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda
3. To agree Co-option to fill 2 vacancies on the Council
4. MINUTES
 - 4.1 To confirm that the minutes of the meeting held on 24.06.2025 are a true and accurate record
 - 4.2 To receive an update on items from the previous meeting if not agenda items for this meeting
5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS
 - 5.1 Chairman's Report
 - 5.2 Vice Chairman's Report
 - 5.3 Clerk's Report
 - 5.4 Reports from Lead Councillors
 - I. Heritage
6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
7. Update on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation
8. To receive report on grave digging services and consider how to proceed
9. To agree to contribute to the Safer Street Wardens Scheme
10. PLANNING - To consult on planning applications received since the last meeting

10.1	PL/2025/09 12/PAAF	Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Excavations or Deposits of Waste Material reasonably necessary for the purposes of Agriculture The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 6	Field 1km North West Of Merton	https://publicportal.breckland.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=197893
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		A balanced cut and fill earth moving operation to create two structures: 1) An interceptor attenuation lagoon 2) A farm reservoir		
10.2	PL/2025/0849/HOU	Erection of bay window	12 Bluebell Close, Watton	https://publicportal.breckl and.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=197855&language=en
10.3	PL/2025/0936/TCA	3.5m all over reduction of ash to allow more light into garden. 3.5 m of turkey oak to gain more light into garden. 4 m prune back of overhanging beech branches to prevent limb failure	High Street Watton. IP25 6AW	https://publicportal.breckl and.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=197914

11. To pass a resolution to Exclude the Press and Public to consider confidential matters

11.1 Councillor Declarations

Item 3.

Co-option Notes

- A local council may wish to indicate that people with specific skills and expertise (e.g. accountancy, HR, Planning) are particularly welcome to apply. This should not be part of the formal notice and it must be clear that people without those skills are still eligible to apply. In cases where there are more candidates than vacancies, a council will need to fairly consider who to co-opt and such skills and expertise may be taken into account according to a council's particular needs. Watton Town Council has not indicated any specific skills or expertise is necessary.
- Where the number of candidates is less than or equal to the number of vacancies, the candidates shall be appointed to the council if they meet the section 79 eligibility criteria and they are not disqualified.
- Decisions made by a local council about who to co-opt when any casual vacancy arises should be transparent. In the National Association of Local Councils (NALC's) view it would be difficult for a local council to argue that there are special reasons which justify excluding the public during a council meeting when it is making decisions about a matter of public interest such as co-option. Decisions about co-option which are made at council meetings when the public have been excluded will not eliminate the need for a council to explain, for example to unsuccessful candidates, the reasons for its decisions.
- Chairman to offer opportunity for debate on the order of priority to offer co-option and Council to vote on the acceptability of each candidate for co-option.
- An absolute majority is required for each candidate from all members present and entitled to vote (LGA 1972 Sch.12 Para.39). (The applicant with the least number of votes cast will be deleted and the vote taken again and again, etc, until the number of candidates equals the number of vacancies).

Item 4.1

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday 24th June 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

Councillors Present: - Gillian Tarrant –Chairman, Tina Cruz, Keith Gilbert, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Tomos Hutchings, Tina Kiddell, Graham Martin, Don Saunders.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

County Councillor Claire Bowes also present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED from
Tony Bridges and Keith Prince

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE:
Stan and Sue Hebborn declared an interest in item 9.

3. MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on June 10th 2025 were accepted as a true record.

3.2 Updates from items raised at the meeting on June 10th 2025 not agenda items for this meeting:

- 6 applications have been received for the 2 casual vacancies on the Town Council.
Interviews will take place prior to the Full Council meeting on July 8th, starting at 5.30pm.
- Structural engineer visited Wayland Hall 17.06.25 – awaiting written report regarding cracking below the north end window in the Council Chamber but no immediate action believed to be needed.
- Skip for the Thetford Road allotments is booked for July 7th.
- The Highways Engineer has agreed a further potential location on the Norwich Road for the SAM2 signs and a new SAM2 sign and post has been ordered.
- The next Watton Town Crier Competition event will be held on 30th May 2026.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended:

On the 12th of June Finance Committee Meeting, Charlotte Harvey Community Centre Meeting and the Food Hub Meeting.

On the 16th of June the first day of the open week at Buckingham Lodge Care Home.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman submitted a written report prior to the meeting which had been circulated to Councillors.

4.3 District Councillor's Report

Written reports from District Councillors Claire Bowes and Tina Kiddell had been forwarded to Town Councillors prior to the meeting.

It was noted that neither the District Councillors, nor the Town Council, were invited to attend a recent site meeting regarding the pedestrianisation of Middle Street. Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council will be contacted to ensure all are included in any future relevant meetings.

4.4 County Councillors Report

Written report received from County Councillor Claire Bowes was forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting with verbal update given.

The County Councillor was asked to produce her report earlier so Councillors get a chance to see it before the meeting. The County Councillor explained she wanted her report to be as up to date as possible.

Noted that if reports are not received in good time for the meetings Councillors may not see them until after the meeting, meaning information could be out of date by the next meeting should any comments wish to be made.

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

The Highway Engineer visited Watton on 17.06.25 and it is noted that:

- Harvey Street is scheduled to be surfaced dressed in 2026. This has been postponed due to the utilities works taking place.
- In response to concern raised double yellow lines could possibly be installed along the entrance to Harvest Road if funding could be found (possibly via the County Councillors budget?).
- Clarity will be sought whether the trod along the Norwich Road has been completed.
- Road markings at the south end of East Road are to be refreshed. Thoughts are East Road would not be a suitable location for a SAM 2 sign.

Before being taken further it was suggested an assessment to show a need for double yellow lines at Harvest Road should be undertaken. Installing double yellow lines could be duplicating existing restrictions within the Highway Code and yellow lines could be disproportionate intervention if no material problem can be confirmed.

Thetford Road Development

Councillors have been invited to attend a pre-planning meeting with developers looking at building off Thompson Road opposite Barn Ruche. The invitation will be extended to members of Watton and Saham Flood Action Group once a date has been confirmed.

HMP Wayland

Following invite, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk visited Wayland Prison 24.06.25. The prison is undertaking a project to engage more with the local community and this initial meeting was to provide information around what the prison may be able to provide to support the local community.

Local Plan

Breckland Council is facilitating a series of round table events to hear views from parishes re. the call for sites exercise of the emerging Local Plan. The Town Council has been asked to accommodate an event on July 15th 17:30 to 18:30. It was agreed that as the Town Council will book Watton Sports Centre to host the event.

4.6 Lead Councillors and Representatives Reports

- Noted that the Lead Councillor for Youth had submitted a written report prior to the meeting and Cllr Hutchings had submitted a summary of his attendance at a recent site meeting relating to Middle Street.
- Cllr Gilbert spoke of his visit to Weeze with the Twinning Group and noted that the Group will be visiting Weeze again in 2026 as it will be the 800th anniversary of the founding of the town. The Weeze Twinning Group will then come to Watton in 2027 which will be the 40th year from the Groups formation.
Cllr Gilbert was congratulated on his setting up of the Twinning Association and for the longevity of his involvement.

5. WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Works in Progress List was accepted as presented.

5.1 **It was resolved** the Town Council will not progress with digital signage in the town and therefore this item will be removed from the Works in Progress List.

5.2 **It was resolved** the Town Council will not consider installing any more litter bins in the town at this time.

6. NO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - no members of the public present.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Payments for June 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 12.06.25 were noted.

7.3 Recommendations from the Finance Committee:

- It was resolved** to obtain an independent opinion of whether the cherry trees in the planters at the west end of Watton High Street are now at a point where they are too big for the containers.
- It was agreed that the works as recommended in the Wayland Hall Quinquennial Report 2021 should be completed. A quote is being sought from the contractor already engaged to undertake maintenance work to the windows in the Council Chamber.
- It was resolved** to apply for a Faculty from the Diocese to permit removal from site of the excess soil from grave digging at Watton Cemetery.

8. UPDATE ON DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION (LGR)

Cllrs Hutchings and Kiddell and the Clerk attended a Breckland District Council briefing re. Devolution and LGR on 24.06.25.

9. GRANT APPLICATION

It was resolved to grant £500 to Watton Junior School as requested but to either order the resources needed (to be donated to the School) or to make payment on receipt of invoices for equipment.

10. MAYORS CADET

It was resolved not to appoint a Mayors Cadet.

11. VJ DAY EVENT 2025

It was resolved that the Town Council would manage the VJ Day event on 15th August 2025.

12. PLANNING

12.1 PL/2025/0780/HOU Two storey front extension to comprise kitchen, porch, bedroom and ensuite 106 Norwich Road, Watton

No comments

12.2 FOR INFORMATION ONLY PL/2025/0755/CLOPUD The lawful commencement of development for holiday lets, plots 19-24 as per planning permission reference 3PL/2007/1310/F Richmond Park Golf Club Saham Road, Watton

12.3 PL/2025/0751/OMAJ Erection of 12 dwellings and associated works Land Off Merton Road, Watton

The Town Council will object to this outline application due to concerns regarding access. It is also noted flooding issues have been raised by other objectors and Watton & Saham Flood Action Group will be approached for advice. It was noted the field is known as a landing place for Air Ambulance.

12.4 PL/2025/0647/VAR Variation of Cond. 8 on 3PL/2022/0718/F - Vary the wording of condition 8 (Have air quality and CO2 sensors are built into the new units) to be removed Watton Footpath Outside 7 Chaston Place, Watton

No comments

12.5 PL/2025/0847/FMIN Demolition of existing garages and erection of new two storey dwelling Land to the Rear Of 25 Norwich Road , Watton, IP25 6DA

The Town Council will object to this application due to concerns regarding access.

13. Resolution passed to exclude the public and press.

13.1 Verbal report given by the Chairman of the HR Committee.

Points from the recent Staffing Report are being clarified and, as the contract for the Council's HR support is due for renewal, options are being investigated. Both matters will be considered at the next HR Committee meeting before being brought to Full Council for any decisions to be made.

13.2 Memorial

It was resolved not to permit a memorial in the Cemetery as had been requested, however the Council will investigate the provision of a memorial wall or similar in the Cemetery.

Item 4.2 Update from the meeting held 24.06.25

Agenda Item No.	
3.2	<p>Structural engineer visited Wayland Hall 17.06.25 report has now been received:</p> <p><u>Uneven/bouncy floor in Council Chamber</u></p> <p>Further to our visual appraisal of the floor, it appeared that the floor construction spans from East to West between the external walls and a centrally located masonry spine wall. The floor was uneven and appeared to be deflecting between the external wall and the spine wall. This deformation could only be felt in the floor finishes and could not be seen in the Ground Floor ceiling finishes (i.e. no cracking was present within the ceiling finishes). It is therefore our assumption that the floor construction is made up of many layers (i.e. Suspended ceiling, original floor joists/construction, overboarding, etc.) and that the movement observed is either historic, or in one of the many flooring layers. However, it should be noted that these additional layers added to the original floor construction could lead to overloading if the floor was not strengthened at the same time.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the only way to confirm the exact floor construction present and its capacity would be to undertake intrusive investigations (i.e. lift up floor finishes or remove ceiling finishes). If these investigations are not undertaken, we would recommend that the floor and ceiling continue to be monitored for any further movement in the future. If any future works undertaken require parts of the floor to be lifted or ceiling to be removed, this would be the ideal time to record the construction present.</p> <p><u>Crack below North gable window at 1st Floor</u></p> <p>A vertical crack is present in the internal wall finishes below the North gable window at 1st Floor level. This crack continues up into the window stonework and is approximately 2mm in width. This crack was observed during our previous inspection in July 2024 and does not appear to be bigger in length or breadth. The crack was not present externally. It is therefore our recommendation that the a small amount of plaster be removed to expose the masonry behind to ascertain the cause of the crack and allow repairs to be specified if required. If found to be just in the plaster, the crack can be filled and redecorated.</p> <p><i>Building contractors will be looking at the above works when they attend to replace the chamber windows – hopefully at the end of July.</i></p>
4.5	<p>HMP Wayland – a wish list has been sent to the prison and an article has been compiled for the Wayland News. HMP Wayland is keen to be involved with the planned Allotment Open Day on August 14th 2025 and is looking to present a notice board and markers for the allotments on the day. Other projects around the Thetford Road Allotments and Jubilee Garden are being considered too.</p>
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company has been contacted for an independent opinion regarding the Cherry Trees in the High Street – awaiting reply • Faculty application re. removal of soil from the Cemetery is still to be applied for.

11.	EMO met with Phil Kibler (Loch Neaton representative) and George Collins (RBL representative) on July 2 nd to discuss ongoing plans for the VJ Day event. It became clear that the Loch Neaton Committee have already started preparations and organisation of the event and thus it is felt not to be appropriate for the EMO to step in and take over organisation. EMO will continue to work with the Loch and RBL representative to ensure organisation runs smoothly leading up to the event.
13.2	Memorial wall or similar for the Cemetery is being investigated

Item 5.1

Chairman's report 08/07/2025

27/06/2025

I attended the Wayland Chamber of Commerce lunch at Broom Hall, this was for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Norfolk councils and the Ukraine City of Zhovkva, Major Oleg Volskyi.

I was given a book by Oleg about his city; I will bring it to the office once I have finished reading it. Hopefully we have established a link between Watton and Zhovkva particularly in respect of education and heritage.

Also, on 27/06/2025

I visited Bob at Dorrington House who was celebrating his 105th birthday. I presented him with a bouquet of flowers and card on behalf of the council. Bob asked me to thank everyone at the council for their good wishes, he was visibly touched, his family and the care home staff also expressed their thanks.

It was a pleasure to chat with Bob about his life and the time he spent in the RAF and to share in his special day.

29/06/2025

I visited the open gardens and received a lovely welcome from everyone.

The gardens were beautiful and each one quite different.

Unfortunately due to other commitments I was unable to visit those that were only open on Saturday.

I would like to express my thanks to the council staff who work so hard to put this and all the council events on. Well done everyone.

Item 5.3 Clerks Report

Breckland Planning Committee

Proposal: New residential scheme on site of former gas works for 3No. dwellings

Address: Land At 2 Saham Road, Watton, IP25 6EA

Proposal above is being considered by the Planning Committee on Tuesday 8th July 2025

Men's Shed Annual BBQ

The Wayland Men's Shed has invited the Mayor and representatives from Watton Town Council to their annual Barbecue. The event is to take place at the Sports Centre in Dereham Road from 1pm on Saturday 30th August.

Please let the council office know if you would like to attend with any dietary requirements e.g. vegetarian.

S106 funding

The S106 funding application for the re-surfacing of the hockey pitch at Watton Sports Centre has been approved.

Breckland Council holds a further £11,790.67 which is available for spending on projects relating to Off Site Outdoor Sports in Watton from the Contribution paid under planning reference 3PL/2018/0952/O and the deadline for spending is 28/5/28.

Item 5.4 i

Lead Heritage Report for Watton Town Council:

This report is to update The Council on matters relating to heritage and other works by Cllr TH.

Museum for Watton:

- The Museum for Watton their display model to commemorate VJ day.
- Attended the Antique's Fair, with many thanks to The Council for organising the event.

Additionally, I have been researching in depth the history of Wayland Woods and the archaeological finds in Watton. This has led me to work on a proposal (as a volunteer) to display some of the woodland's history as early peoples may have been present in our geographical area dating back to the Neolithic era, around 12,000 years ago up to modern times.

Additional:

- I would like to contact the Breckland Conservation Officer regarding our conservation zone to know what that means for visuals, structural changes and future planning.
- I toured Wayland Hall with the Chairman of Museum for Watton to speak about the current state of the building and to learn more. This may result in future suggestions, such as restoring plastering works on the stairway.

Non-Heritage:

- On the 20th of June I supported the Chamber of Commerce in hosting the Jobs Fair at the Queen's Hall by serving refreshments to stallholders. This allowed me the opportunity to talk with many local service providers.
- On the 25th of June I met with Liz Witcher and The Clerk regarding Watton and Saham Flood Action Group. Following on from this, on the 30th of June, I met with board members of Reclaim the Rain to learn more about the project.
- The next **Wayland Partnership meeting** is on the 14th of July, please email me as soon as possible if you would like to contribute anything to my report for the partners.
- I will be assisting Thetford Pride on the 2nd of August, hosting a 'Queer Symbolism of Plants' trail at a known location.

Written by Councillor Tomos Hutchings

Item 7

Notes on Local Government Re-organisation Meeting – 24/06/25

Held at Thompson Village Hall – Hosted by Breckland District Council

– Attended by Cllr Tina.K, Cllr Tomos.H and WTC Clerk Jane.S

Overview:

- 1 hour presentation, with Q&A at the end.
- *Breckland District Council* (BDC) is acting in the interest of its own demographic.
- Negative outcomes were spoken about in depth, such as council tax harmonisation, less local knowledge and the possibility of future transformations being sidelined due to the early stage of LGR.

New information:

- Minister who had communicated with Breckland previously had stated unitary authorities should have 500,000 people minimum which has since been dropped.
- BDC asked parishes to share their '**Future Norfolk**' webpage for residents to be informed and have a say in local consultations.
- Parish / Town Councils are still told that **we can expect no changes** – however this isn't necessarily true with car parks, green spaces and the transfer of information from residents to authorities.

Below are the scribed questions of the local meeting, the text is partially verbatim with some alterations for grammar and a more informative structure.

Q&A:

- 'When will we see a map?'

'Soon, in the upcoming weeks. We have to ensure boundaries and imagery is correct.'

- 'Will there be less councillors?' & 'Will we know what we are voting for in 2026?'

'Yes, no districts mean no district councillors. We will be less but will still require an appropriate number of officers and councillors for services to be carried out. The form these officers will take is yet to be decided as duties of the new mayoral body is undecided.' & 'We will absolutely know what the mayoral body will do by the date of the election.'

- 'I can see the outline of what is to come, but what vision does Breckland have? And how will education be split up if multiple authorities come to place?'

'Harmonisation means that we will end up looking more like other places across the country, at this stage of planning, we can not say who or how education will be affected as that is a secondary legislative action following initial LGR plans.

TH- *It is assumed that under 1 authority education will be mostly unaffected, however under 3 unitary authorities this could change the approach.*

- 'Will parish boundaries be split between multiple authorities if we have 2 or 3 unitary authorities? Will parishes see any changes?'

'Parish boundaries will not be split between authorities, but we could look at district boundaries. Breckland will not be split as we are geographically secure in all proposals.'

‘There are no planned changes for the role of Town and Parish councils as part of LGR’.

- ‘Are we still fast-tracked for devolution and LGR?’

‘We are fast tracked for devolution, but LGR will happen simultaneously with other places around the country. The distinction is devolution is the transfer of powers from national and LGR is reorganising.’

TH – gov.uk website states that ‘... for areas not on the DPP (Devolution Priority Programme), we will work with and support areas to access devolution in the future.’

As mentioned above, more information can be found at <https://www.futurenorfolk.co.uk/> and I encourage everyone to ***share this with your community***.

Furthermore, helpful information can be found at <https://www.local.gov.uk/search/all/lgr> which has many recourses including FAQ’s and videos.

Written by Tomos Hutchings

Session slides App1

Item 8

Grave Digging Services for Watton Cemetery

Michelle Thompson – Deputy Clerk

25th June 2025

Purpose

This report provides options for grave digging services at Watton Cemetery.

Background

The current grave digger has informed the Office he wishes to end his current contract and thus alternatives are being sought.

Current position

Alternatives could be:

1. Finding another contractor
2. Allowing undertakers to use their own contractors to dig graves

There are pros and cons for both options:

Pros for contractor	Cons for contractor
Council has greater control	Possible difficulty finding a contractor
Accepted risk assessment, method statements etc.	Relying on one person/company

Pros for undertakers	Cons for undertakers
For undertakers to arrange grave digging	Office loses direct control
Less admin for the Office if not needing to book grave digger	Maybe more visual checks of what has been dug will be needed
	Less admin. re booking the grave digger but more checks may be needed re. risk assessment etc. if grave digger is not known by the Office.

If Council decided to appoint another contractor:

Phil Robson

Currently digs for Eirlys Funeral services, Dereham Town Council, Aylsham Town Council, Wymondham Town Council, Swaffham east of England and more. He will prioritise full burials over ashes

Charges are:.

Full burial - £340.00

Ashes - £90.00

Reference received from Aylsham Town Council

"I am happy to recommend Phil, he is highly skilled and has always done a good job for us when a grave has required digging.

He leaves the graveside presentable and neat before burial and the same once backfilled.

We have never had an issue contacting him and he has always turned up when booked.

Would highly recommend."

Aylsham Town Council dig their own ashes!

H. Brett & Son Stonemasons

I felt the stonemasons could be an option for digging Ashes plots only, they are extremely local and on a regular basis they attend the ashes interment anyway to install the memorial.

Brett's have dug at Downham Market Cemetery, Gooderstone Churchyard and Thurgarton Churchyard.

Charge is:

Ashes £90 plus VAT

Matthew Greaves

Matthew has been in the industry for twenty five plus years now, involving all aspects of funerals from setting up and managing cemeteries to arranging funerals.

Now operating solely as a gravedigger for the past four years, digging mainly for the Coop and Susan Whymark whilst occasionally Gordon Barber's, Critophe and Crowe, Rosedales.

Charges are:

Full burial - £384.00

Ashes - £125.00

Documentation

Copies of Insurance, Grave digging policy, risk assessment, Health & Safety policy and Method Statements have all been requested from each contractor.

Grave digging forms

The current arrangement is that the funeral director completes the 'Request for grave digging' form, this is then sent to the Grave digging contractor who confirms date and time, I feel this should be continued – keeping the Town Council office records uniform and creating a full audit trail of each interment.

Faculty

If the faculty is accepted, allowing the Town Council to take concreted soil off site, Contractor will be asked regarding the process of soil removal from full burials.

Recommendation

My personal recommendation, if the council decide to use another contractor, would be to appoint Phil Robson for full burials and H. Brett & Son for Ashes plots. My reason for not recommending Matt Greaves is that we don't have any knowledge or experience of him and he is not based very local.

My reasoning for suggesting using two separate contractors is Phil Robson will prioritise full burials over ashes meaning we could be very limited on date availability if Phil was also to dig ashes aswell as full burials.

The TC office would continue to mark graves and would need staff on site to witness interments.

Having spoken to 3 funeral directors they have expressed that they would prefer to dig their own graves.

Conclusion

1. Appoint another Grave Digging Contractor (if so who?)

Phil Robson – Digs ashes and burial (but will prioritise burials)

H. Brett & Son – Digs ashes only

Matthew Greaves – Dig ashes and burials (not known of)

This will give the Council office greater control and accepted documentation such as Risk Assessment etc..

Or

2. Let undertakers use their own contractors to dig graves

Meaning the Council office loses direct control, possibly more visual checks on site but less admin.

Item 9

Following the visit to the Council meeting by Craig Fowler Environmental Health & Licensing Manager Breckland Council and the Street Wardens further information has been supplied:

It is noted that there are quite a few complexities with the intended expansion and roll out of the Street Wardens Scheme but Breckland has started to deploy the wardens on a temporary and funded basis in Watton, for around 5-7 hrs per week (subject to annual leave). Without Watton contributing the requested £10k then there is no guarantee any service will be continued after the end of July.

However, a contribution and commitment from Watton Town Council is likely to result in a minimum of 18.5 hrs of officer time per week. The Safer Street Wardens, usually carry out patrols in pairs so this would equate to a minimum of 9 hrs per week of foot patrols until the 31st March 26. However, it could be that if other Councils don't want to take part, then the offer to Watton could be more than that.

The Wardens work on a rota basis (including evenings and some weekends) and will work flexibly so that they are deployed to have the maximum impact and persons do not get used to regular patterns of working. This is likely to include presence in Watton on 2 days per week.

Until Breckland know the exact number of Towns who are wishing to participate in the scheme and willing to commit funding, it is difficult for precise information to be given, but Breckland wants to work actively with Watton Town Council to ensure the success of the scheme and to ensure that all parties are satisfied that they are achieving the desired outcomes and achieving a satisfactory return on investment.

Suggestion – this matter be considered by the Finance Committee at its meeting on 10.07.25 when it can be looked at in context with other commitments.