

## 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 Turrant –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.

### **I. 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 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 were accepted as a true record.

3.2 Updates from items raised at the meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the town. The Weeze Twinning Group will then come to Watton in 2027 which will be the 40<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.