

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

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

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

Also present: County/District Councillor Claire Bowes and 2 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED from

Tina Cruz and Keith Prince

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

Tony Bridges declared an interest in item 10.2.

3. CO-OPTION to fill the two casual vacancies on Watton Town Council

Sarah Humphries was proposed, seconded and agreed as a Town Councillor.

Jack White was proposed, seconded and agreed as a Town Councillor.

4. MINUTES

4.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on June 24th 2025 were accepted as a true record.

4.2 Updates from the meeting held on June 24th if not agenda items:

- Report on Wayland Hall received from the structural engineer and shared with Councillors.
- Independent report on the Cherry trees in the High Street will be commissioned.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Chairman's Report - written report provided in the agenda pack.

The Chairman has attended:

- the Wayland Chamber of Commerce lunch on 27.06.25 held to acknowledge a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ukraine City of Zhovka.
- 27.06.25 a 105th birthday celebration at Dorrington House.
- 29.06.25 Open Gardens.

5.2 The Vice-Chairman did not give a report.

5.3 Clerks Report

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

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 Watton Sports Centre from 1pm on Saturday 30th August.

(Councillors asked to let the office know if they 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.

[Since the meeting the Town Council has been informed Breckland Council holds a remaining £7627 s106 funding.]

Town van

It was noted that the Vivaro town van needs a new clutch.

It was agreed to delegate the decision to the Clerk to authorise the expenditure for necessary repair of the clutch.

Breckland Local Plan Meeting

Breckland Local Plan Meeting to be held at Watton Sports Centre July 15th 17:30.

5.4 Lead Councillors Reports:

i. Heritage Report included in the agenda pack.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A representative from the Stevens Almhouses Trust spoke of the need for the Council to nominate a Trustee for the Trust. Councillors were informed of the commitment needed and this matter will be an agenda item again for a future Town Council meeting.

7. DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) –

updates are forwarded to Councillors as received.

It was noted that the Council is no longer a member of Norfolk Association of Local Councils (Norfolk ALC) but it may be that this position should be reviewed as Norfolk ALC will be the body likely to deliver the best information regarding LGR to parish councils.

The Finance Committee will be asked to look again at membership of Norfolk ALC.

Information regarding Devolution and LGR will be shared on Watton Town Council social media.

8. GRAVE DIGGING SERVICES

The Deputy Clerk was thanked for her comprehensive report on grave digging services.

It was resolved to follow the recommendation in the report to appoint Phil Robson to undertake grave digging for burials at Watton Town Council. H. Brett & Son will be contracted to dig ashes plots.

9. SAFER STREET WARDENS SCHEME

After much debate **it was resolved** not to contribute to the Breckland Council Safer Street Wardens Scheme.

10. PLANNING

Noted that planning PL/2024/0796/FMIN Proposed 3no. dwellings on site of former gas works was granted approval by Breckland Planning Committee. The Town Council had raised concern that the proposed 3rd dwelling at the front of the site will have a negative visual impact on a non-designated Heritage Asset.

Tony Bridges left the meeting and returned after item 10.2.

10.1 PL/2025/0912/PAAF Field 1km North West of Merton 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 A balanced cut and fill earth moving operation to create two structures: 1) An interceptor attenuation lagoon 2) A farm reservoir.

The Town Council is keen to support this application as it is part of the local Reclaim the Rain project.

10.2 PL/2025/0849/HOU Erection of bay window 12 Bluebell Close, Watton

No objections

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

No objections

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

11.1 Councillor Declarations

Legislation now disqualifies any individual who is subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (commonly referred to as being on the Sex Offenders Register) from becoming a councillor.

The Councils Co-option form will be amended to reflect this.