

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday June 10th 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

1 member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED from
Tony Bridges and Tina Cruz.

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

3. MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on May 27th 2025 were accepted as a true record.

3.2 Updates from the meeting held on May 27th if not agenda items (noted in the agenda pack):

- To date three co-option applications have been received for the two casual vacancies on the Town Council.
- Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been updated as agreed and uploaded to the Town Council website.
- A VJ Day event meeting will be called when the Events Officer returns from leave.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report – no report given.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report – no report given.

4.3 Clerks Report

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

- Structural engineer will be booked to further investigate cracks which have appeared in the north wall of the Chamber at Wayland Hall.
- Noted that it is planned to hire another skip to clear rubbish from the Thetford Road Allotment Site and a small event will be organised in Allotment Week 2025 (suggested date August 14th) to publicise that the Town Council now owns the Thetford Road Allotment site.
- The Town Crier has asked whether he might be included in Armistice Day commemorations in 2026.
- The Office is still looking at possible locations for a third SAM2 Vehicle Activated Sign. It is felt additional sites could be introduced at points opposite to where the signs are currently positioned and a request has been made for a location along East Road.

4.4 Lead Councillors Reports: No reports given.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – No issues raised.

6. DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Updates are forwarded to Councillors as received. Noted that Breckland Council will be holding a meeting re. LGR at Thompson Village Hall on June 24th 14:00 -15:30.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

It was resolved to accept The Risk Management Plan with slight suggested checks and amendment to be made.

8. FINANCE

8.1 **It was resolved** to accept the accounting reports for the year ending March 31st 2025 as presented in the agenda pack for the meeting.

8.2 **It was resolved** to accept the Internal Auditors Report for 24/25.

8.3 **It was resolved** to approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25.

8.4 It was resolved to approve and sign the Accounting Statements 2024/25.

9. WATTON TOWN DELIVERY PLAN

The Council had been asked to suggest any “quick fixes”, from within the Watton Town Delivery Plan, which Breckland Council might be able to undertake.

Suggestions included:

- Investigating if any improvement could be made to Chaston Place. As the area is not within public ownership permission would be needed from the owner.
- Supporting the Reclaim the Rain project to plant trees in the High Street.
- To look at what green spaces, local to the High Street, might be enhanced or made better use of. This could include the Breckland Council owned area of land adjacent to the Queens Hall.
- Reviewing the “wish list” put together a while ago by the Town Council.

10. STEVENS ALMSHOUSES CHARITY

A request has been made to the Town Council to provide a Trustee for the Stevens Almshouses Charity. This matter will be raised again when more Councillors are present.

It was suggested that to help Councillors understand the role of a Councillor, training could be arranged once new Councillors have joined the Council.

11. TOWN CRIER

It was resolved that following request from the Town Crier the Town Council would support hosting of the Town Criers Guild British Championships in 2026.

12. PLANNING

12.1 PL/2025/0666/TRE Beech B1 - To reduce crown of tree at Dereham Road, Watton
No comments.