

## Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday 26th August 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

Also present: District/County Councillor Claire Bowes, 2 Officers from Breckland District Council and 7 members of the public

### **I. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED from**

Tony Bridges

### **2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

### **3. MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on August 12th 2025 were accepted as a true record.

3.2 Updates from items raised at the meeting on August 12th 2025 not agenda items for this meeting:

- Love Your Market Town application for funding for a Hares Trail submitted on 21.08.25.
- Heritage Park site meeting held on 15.08.25 – Developers are still working on site, but phase 1 is now fully accessible to the Town Council, meaning a project plan can be put together for the Alternative Community Land.
- £48.00 raised for the Mayors Charities at the Allotment Open Day 14.08.25. It is planned to make this an annual event.
- Further 6 year lease signed for the Industrial Unit at Threxton Road.

### **4. REPORTS**

#### **4.1 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman has attended:

15/08/25 VJ Day Beacon lighting at Loch Neaton

17/08/25 VJ Day church service in town at Chaston Place

17/08/25 Judged Watton in Bloom, organised by the Watton Society

19/08/25 Family fun day at the Charlotte Harvey Centre

20/08/25 Meeting with police at the council offices

24/08/25 Bikes on the High Street – The Chairman thanked those involved in the organisation of the day. It was a very successful event.

25/08/25 RAF Cadets summer barbecue

#### **4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report**

The Vice-Chairman combined her report with her District Councillors report. Copy filed with the minutes of the meeting.

Noted that HMP Wayland has offered to look at constructing a wooden shelter for Bridle Road Play Area.

#### 4.3 District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Keith Gilbert had nothing to report.

District/County Councillor Claire Bowes spoke in favour of the Town Council engaging with the Safer Street Wardens Scheme and not removing any benches from Watton High Street.

#### 4.4 County Councillors Report

See above.

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

##### **Market Towns Meeting**

Norfolk Parishes Training Partnership is planning to hold a get together for Clerks of Norfolk Market Towns in the Council Chamber October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

##### **Thetford Road Allotments**

The Town Operatives have re-instated the gate in the fence between Jubilee Garden and the Thetford Road allotments as requested by allotment holders. This will also give easier access to the water supply at the allotments to assist with watering of the plants at Jubilee Garden.

The notice board at the allotments and the planter at Jubilee Garden were made at HMP Wayland.

##### **Audit 2025**

The Audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 has been completed with the notice of completion and the relevant sections of the AGAR posted on the Wayland Hall notice board and Town Council website.

#### 4.6 Lead Councillors and Representatives Reports – no reports made.

### **5. WORKS IN PROGRESS**

The Works in Progress List was accepted as presented.

### **6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public were present to voice their views regarding the Breckland Safer Street Warden Scheme.

Breckland Officers were also invited to contribute to the discussion.

**It was resolved** to move items 10 and 11 up the agenda so those members of the public present would hear the discussion following their input in public participation, with item 11 considered first.

Much discussion took place regarding the proposal for Watton Town Council to participate in the Safer Street Warden Scheme. The matter had been considered previously by Full

Council with the decision not to financially support the Scheme, but requests had been made by 5 members of the Council to re-consider the proposal.

A recorded vote was requested which resulted in **the resolution for Watton Town Council not to participate in the Safer Street Wardens Scheme**. Copy of the voting record filed with the minutes.

A second counter proposal was made but withdrawn following the decision not to engage with the Scheme.

After some discussion the proposal to remove benches from outside Adcocks in the High Street was withdrawn.

## **7. FINANCE**

7.1 Payments for August 2025 were approved for payment as on the list presented prior to the meeting with the addition of payment of £1638 for the 2025 External Audit. It was agreed that up to £200 from the Community Provision line in the budget would be used to support the Community Day to be held at the Charlotte Harvey Trust.

### **7.1i VJ Day event**

The request from Loch Neaton Trustees to pay £250 towards the preparation and execution of the VJ event held at Loch Neaton on 15.08.25 will be considered by the Finance Committee at its next meeting once a breakdown of the invoice has been received.

7.2 The draft minutes from the Finance Committee held on 14.08.25 were noted.

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

E-mail from Norfolk Association of Local Councils forwarded to Councillors 26.08.25.

## **9. MARKET WORKING GROUP**

Notes from the Market Working Group meeting held on 13.08.25 were presented in the agenda pack.

## **10. HIGH STREET BENCHES**

See above as item moved to after public participation.

## **11. SAFER STREET WARDENS SCHEME**

See above as item moved to after public participation.

## **12. WHOLE COUNCIL TRAINING**

**It was resolved to** arrange whole council training as suggested in the agenda pack.

## **13. HR COMMITTEE**

**It was resolved** that Jack White would be a member of the HR Committee.

## **14. PLANNING**

14.1 PL/2025/1203/FMIN Proposed change of use of a residential dwelling. The use class will change from Residential (Use Class C3) to a Day Nursery (Use Class E(f)), Opal House, 61 Griston Road, Watton IP25 6DN

**15. Resolution passed to exclude the public and press.**

15.1 The draft HR Committee minutes from the meeting held on 14.08.25 were noted.

15.2 Recommendations from the HR Committee:

15.2i **It was resolved** to fund a Christmas lunch (no alcohol) for the staff up to a value of £450.

15.2ii It was agreed that the recommendation to engage Peninsula to provide HR and H&S services for a trial period of 12 months at a cost of £499.50 would be deferred until the HR Committee has considered the agreement presented by Peninsula.