

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday August 12th 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

Councillors Present: - Tina Kiddell – Vice-Chairman, Tony Bridges, Sarah Draper, Keith Gilbert, Tomos Hutchings, Graham Martin, Don Saunders

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

1 member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED from

Gillian Tarrant, Tina Cruz, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn and Jack White.

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

3. MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on July 22nd 2025 were accepted as a true record.

3.2 Updates from the meeting held on July 22nd if not agenda items:

- Official opening of the Skatepark at Watton Sports Centre 27.08.25.
- The Events and Marketing Officer is investigating putting an application in for 'Love Your Market Town' funding to possibly support a Hares Trail around the town.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report - The Chairman had sent apologies for the meeting.

4.2 The Vice-Chairman reported that she attended the recent gathering of those concerned with what was thought might be happening at the former Verve Hotel site. Misinformation has been corrected.

The Vice-Chairman would like to bring discussion about the Council engaging in the Safer Street Warden Scheme back to a Full Council Meeting. [A third of the number of Councillors (5) will need to request revisiting a decision already made in the last six months].

4.3 Clerks Report

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

Faculty update

The Faculty application to allow removal of soil from the Cemetery has been submitted and public notices have been displayed in the Church and on the Cemetery notice board. The notices need to be up for 28 days and if no objections are made to the proposal permission should be granted.

Heritage Park

The EMO has arranged a site meeting with the developers at Heritage Park on Friday August 15th @ 9.30am.

Watton and Saham Flood Action Group (WASFAG)

On 29.07.25 Cllr Hutchings and the Clerk attended an on-line catch up regarding the Reclaim the Rain Project. Any project for Watton High Street is dependent on the amount of money available and once this is known plans will be shared more widely.

Staff have attended a training session to help manage the WASFAG website.

Thetford Road Allotments

An afternoon tea has been arranged at the Thetford Road Allotments for 14.08.25 to celebrate and inform allotment holders of the transfer of ownership of the site.

VJ Day Commemoration

Beacon to be lit at Loch Neaton 9.30pm 15.08.25 and service to be held at Chaston Place at noon on 17.08.25.

4.4 Lead Councillors Reports:

- i. Update from Love Watton provided within the agenda pack for the meeting.
- ii Play Area Report submitted with the agenda pack.

It was resolved to accept the Play Area Report and to submit an application for s106 funding to pay for the additional works identified at Bridle Road Play Area.

It was also suggested that the play equipment at the Sports Centre should be re-painted. Councillor Bridges offered to investigate whether young people could assist with this.

Twinning Association

Cllr Gilbert, as Twinning Lead Councillor, informed those present that next year will be 700 years since the founding of Weeze and Watton Twinners will be heading to Weeze for the celebrations. The following year, 2027, is the fortieth anniversary of the Twinning Association being formed and Twinners from Weeze will be coming to Watton.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – no matters raised.

6. DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) –

Noted that the Clerk has attended an on-line LGR meeting hosted by Norfolk Association of Local Councils. The representative from the County Council who was putting across the County's model of a one unitary authority for Norfolk very much stressed that the new body the County Council is proposing would be looking to work with town and parish councils if this was wanted by the councils.

7. TREE REPORT

It was resolved to accept the tree report relating to the cherry trees at the west end of the High Street as received.

8. THREXTON ROAD UNIT LEASE

It was resolved to accept the offer presented to continue with the lease of the Unit at Threxton Road Industrial Estate for six years from 1st March 2026.

9. PLANNING

9.1 PL/2025/1065/DCA Discharge of conditions 17,18 on pp 3PL/2022/0806/F New Green Business park, Norwich Road, Watton.

No comments

Notifications also received relating to Carbrooke Quarry extension of the time limit for restoration and landscaping.

9.2 LOCAL PLAN CALL FOR SITES

It was resolved to submit comments as presented relating to the recent Breckland Council Local Plan Call for Sites, stressing that Watton Town Council would want sites to conform with the Watton Neighbourhood Plan and the Council is not in support of the large sites 086 due to the proximity to SSSI Wayland Wood and 088 due to proximity to the heritage site of St. Mary's Church.

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

10.1 Cemetery Update

It was resolved to proceed with the civil money claim relating to fees owed for use of Watton Cemetery

10.2 Pay Award

It was resolved to accept the agreed National Joint Council staff pay increase for 25/26 of 3.2% across all pay scales from April 1st 2025.

10.3

It was resolved to investigate Honours nominations for two residents.