



Watton Town Council

Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 6AG
Telephone: 01953 881007 Website: www.wattontowncouncil.gov.uk
Town Clerk: Mrs Jane Scarrott clerk@wattontowncouncil.gov.uk

To Councillors: You are hereby summoned to attend the Town Council meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Jane Scarrott Town Clerk

17th June 2026

Please note that Breckland Council Safer Street Wardens presentation is being held from 6pm. Chamber doors will be open to the public from 7pm.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
2. To note Declaration of Members personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda
3. MINUTES
 - 3.1 To confirm that the minutes of the meeting held on 09.06.26 are a true and accurate record
 - 3.2 To receive an update on items from the previous meeting if not agenda items for this meeting
4. TO RECEIVE REPORTS
 - 4.1 Chairman's Report
 - 4.2 Vice Chairman's Report
 - 4.3 District Councillor's Report
 - 4.4 County Councillor's Report
 - 4.5 Clerk's Report
 - 4.6 Reports from Councillors
5. To note the Works in Progress List
6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
7. FINANCE
 - 7.1 To approve payments for June 2026 (To follow)
 - 7.2 To agree to reinstate 2024/25 accounts to include written off debt of £570.00
 - 7.3 To receive the Internal Auditors Report for 25/26 (App 1)
 - 7.4 To approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 (AGAR page 4) (App 2)
 - 7.5 To approve and sign the Accounting Statements for the financial year ending 31.03.26 (AGAR page 5) (App 2)
8. Update on Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation
9. To consider pledge to support Flourishing Watton
10. To receive draft Waste Management Report
11. To consider correspondence received regarding the graffiti wall at Lovell Gardens Play Area
12. PLANNING To consult on planning applications received since the last meeting:

12.1	PL/2026/078 9/HR For information only	Habitat Regulations application to support the application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Office space to self contained 2 bedroom first floor flat - PL/2026/0779/PAMA	Unit 6, BRECKLAND HOUSE Norwich Road, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk, IP25 6JT	https://publicportal.breckland.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=199657
12.2	PL/2026/082 7/HOU	Remove existing rear conservatory and erection of a single-storey rear extension comprising garden room and wet room	15 Spencer Court, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk, IP25 6XL	https://publicportal.breckland.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=199672&language=en

13. To pass a resolution to Exclude the Press and Public to consider confidential matters regarding the Cemetery:

Item 3.1

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday June 9th 2026 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

Councillors Present: – Sarah Humphries - Chairman, Gavin Bulmer, Tina Cruz, Cathy Halfacre, Keith Gilbert, Sue Hebborn, Tomos Hutchings, Graham Martin, Keith Prince, Don Saunders, Gillian Tarrant, Jack White, Jacqueline White.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED from:**

Stan Hebborn

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

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on May 26th, 2026, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that the Mayor stated at the meeting on May 26th that her charities for the year are Watton Men's Shed and Beside Youth C.I.C.

3.2 Update from the meeting held on May 26th not agenda items for this meeting:

- Cllrs visited Wayland Academy Garden Project on June 3rd.
- The planters outside the library have been filled by the grounds maintenance contractor and will be managed by the library.
- The IT Acceptable Use Policy has been amended as agreed and posted on Breathe HR and the Town Council website.

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman has:

- Attended and acted as a Judge at the Town Criers competition held on May 30th and thanks were voiced to all those who helped especially the Town Crier, the Events & Marketing Officer and the Community Projects Officer.
- Visited the Watton Men's Shed on June 1st.
- Attended a meeting of the Watton Relief in Need Charity.

4.2 **Vice-Chairmans Report**

The Vice-Chairman had submitted a written report prior to the meeting and verbally reported on his visit to Wayland Academy Garden Project and his attendance at the Thetford Civic Service.

4.3 **Clerks Report**

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

Household Waste

Noted that an Officer from Breckland Council will be visiting the Town Council Office and will hopefully update staff regarding new waste regulations.

Town Crier

The Town Crier will make a cry on Saturday June 13th to mark the Trooping of the Colour.

High Street Matters

The Norfolk County Council High Street Matters Project Manager has contacted the Town Council to arrange a meeting to discuss High Street Matters and how this relates to Watton. A date will be arranged.

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit was undertaken on 08.06.26 and the auditor's report is expected. Signing off the accounts for the year ending 31.03.26 and completion of the Annual Governance Statements will be agenda items for the Town Council meeting on 23.06.26.

4.4 Lead Councillors Reports

Keith Gilbert informed the Council of his enjoyable trip to Weeze for the towns 800th celebrations. He represented the Town Council and passed on a gift and greetings on behalf of Watton.

4.5 Report from Events and Marketing Officer – Report e-mailed to Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was noted that Cllr Jack White had also helped at the Spring Fayre.

It was noted that there is a need for Cllrs to assist at events especially to man the Town Council stall.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alison from Love Watton spoke to promote a new community project: Flourishing Watton. This is part of a wider Flourish movement and Love Watton is hoping that Watton will come together to create the first "Flourishing Town" in Norfolk. Love Watton would like people to visit their stall at Watton Carnival when they will be officially launching the project.

6. DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) –

Cllr Jack White noted that a letter has been sent by Norfolk County Council to the Government to say that local government re-organisation is not wanted in Norfolk.

7. FINANCE

7.1 The draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 05.06.26 were noted.

7.2 **It was resolved** to limit grant funding and not donate more than the grant pot figure set within the annual budget. Match funding of up to £500 per application will be expected and unsuccessful applicants will be given reasons why a grant is not made.

It was resolved that the Council will offer to hire the Queen's Hall Car Park each Wednesday morning to site the weekly market at a suggested fee of £100 per month and that additional advertising material for the market will be purchased.

8. WATTON MARKET

It was resolved that the Market Working Group will be tasked with discussing the benefits of creating a Four-Year Plan for Watton Market to coincide with the Council's Financial Four-Year Plan.

9. WATTON HIGH STREET

It was resolved to create a 'Town Council High Street Restoration Plan' which could be used as guidance to bring projects into a single vision. One compiled the Plan will be brought back to Full Council for consideration.

10. GRANT APPLICATION FROM WATTON CARNIVAL

It was resolved to grant £750 to Watton Carnival as requested.

The Carnival Committee will be made aware of the planned changes to the Council's grant policy which are expected to be in place next year.

11. WATTON DIRECTORY

Watton Directory presented and well accepted. Thanks to the Events & Marketing Officer who put the Directory together.

12. LAND ASSET TRANSFERS

It was resolved to progress with the transfer of land assets from Breckland District Council to the Town Council as presented.

It was noted maintenance of the areas will need further consideration.

13. CAR PARK TRANSFERS

It was resolved to take indemnity insurance relating to the transfer of the car parks in the town from Breckland District Council to Watton Town Council as offered at a cost of £55.

However, the policy limit will be investigated as to whether the value should be increased. The Clerk was given discretion to agree an increased premium if this was deemed beneficial.

14. PLANNING

14.1 **PL/2026/0360/FMIN** Use of units C1 and C2 for flexible use Class E(g) (Commercial, Business and Service), B2 (General Industrial) OR B8 (Storage and distribution), installation of external air-conditioning and ventilation plant with associated ductwork and minor elevation amendments including signage, and alterations to parking arrangements. Unit C1 & C2 Neaton Business Park, Norwich Road, Watton, IP25 6JB
No objections raised.

15. Resolution passed to Exclude the Press and Public to consider confidential staffing matters:

15.1 The draft minutes of the meeting held on 05.06.26 were noted.

15.2 It **was resolved** to accept the recommendation from the HR Committee to address a staffing matter as investigated through a formal management process.

It was resolved that staff holiday requests will be individually considered.

Item 3.2 Update from the meeting held 09.06.2026

Agenda Item No.	Update
4.3	Breckland Council Business Waste Officer Duncan Partridge visited the TC Office on 16.06.26 - see agenda item 10 23.06.26. He spoke of the introduction of food waste caddies throughout Breckland which is to take place from September 2026. Caddies are to be delivered to every household but Breckland is planning a follow on amnesty day when residents will be able to return the caddies if they are not wanted. Duncan did however present a good case for food waste collection.
5	Flourishing Watton -agenda item 9 23.06.26.
7.2	The Queens Hall has been approached regarding formalising the use of the car park by the weekly market.
8	Market Working Group to set a date to meet.
12	Breckland land transfers - Heads of Terms have been passed to the solicitors.
13	Car park transfers – solicitor is confirming that terms will allow the market to be held on a car park should that be wanted. Indemnity insurance to be taken as offered.

Item 4.5 Clerks Report

Received from Breckland Council:

Breckland Community Network

We're bringing everyone together again to share ideas, strengthen connections, and celebrate the people who make our community what it is.

Expect friendly conversations, new opportunities, and a light lunch that somehow always disappears quicker than expected.

Whether you're a familiar face or joining us for the first time, your presence genuinely matters to us.

Date: Thursday 23rd July 2026

Time: 10:00 - 14:00

Location: Breckland Council, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham, NR19 1EE

Hear From Guest Speakers on Topics Including:

- *Trading Standards - 30-minute presentation By Stephen Maunder NCC Communities Officer, focusing on Scam Awareness, Doorstep Crime, Consumer protection and highlighting resources like the Trusted Trader directory.*
- *Daisy Programme - supporting individuals affected by domestic abuse, this session will help community groups understand how to recognise early signs and offer safe, appropriate support.*
- *Commercial Waste - breaking the myth of waste - recycling and food waste as we "talk rubbish " and make it fun.*

- *Spotlight on the Community - An uplifting, behind-the-scenes story of how ideas grow into real impact and a community project comes to life.*

Questions?: community@breckland.gov.uk

VCSE organisations can claim £25 per organisation for attending - a little thank you for the time, energy, and insight you bring to our community.

Casual Vacancy

Advert for the one casual vacancy on the Town Council has been posted. To date 5 residents have requested application forms. The closing date has been set for July 6th with the intention of co-option being a future agenda item. A CHT trustee meeting has been scheduled for July 14th before the TC meeting and a Biodiversity Working Group Meeting scheduled for July 21st before the TC meeting. Co-option will therefore not take place until August 11th.

Reclaim the Rain (R the R)

The Reclaim the Rain Project Manager has confirmed that Reclaim the Rain is currently in the process of getting out basic consultation to the residents on the High St after which any comments will inform the design. The aim is to get the full design by mid-July with full completion of design and its technical aspects by mid-August, at which point the phase for pre-construction will begin.




The number of proposed assets will hopefully be known around the end of July, and dependant on funding, by end of August the final number of assets should be agreed.

The attached folder (App 3) gives further information as was promised following the Reclaim the Rain presentation to the Town Council on 26.05.26.


The Council has informed Breckland Council that it is willing to put money from the Pride in Breckland grant award to the R the R project but until costs are known nothing precise can be confirmed regarding what the grant will actually be used for.

	Resolution	Date/ Agenda item	Action	Lin k to 4YP /NP	Lead	Current Position – 17.06.26	Status
154	To progress with the transfer of land assets from Breckland District Council to the Town Council as presented.	09.06.26 12	Progress		Office	Heads of Terms with the solicitor. Maintenance of the areas will need further consideration.	😊
153	Create a 'Town Council High Street Restoration Plan'	09.06.26 9	Create plan		TH/Office		😊
152	The Market Working Group will be tasked with discussing the benefits of creating a Four-Year Plan for Watton Market to coincide with the Councils Financial Four-Year Plan.	09.06.25 8	Set Market Working Group meeting date		MWG	Market Working Group to meet	😊
151	Compile a future strategy for the provision of litter and dog waste bins	26.05.26 16	Compile strategy		Office	Office Support Clerk has compiled a draft report – agenda item 10. 26.06.26	😊
150	Cllr Humphries will replace Tina Kiddell as a Town Council bank signatory	26.05.26 11	Complete new mandate forms		Office	In process	😊
149	Purchase compost and herb plants to fill the planter at Jubilee Garden	12.05.26 8.16ii	Purchase compost and plants			TC preferred contractor asked for price - 100 litre bags of compost at £10 each	
146	To accept a policy to offer staff the opportunity to undertake temporary additional hours to cover short-term staff absence	28.04.26 14.2iii	To adopt policy procedure		HR	Policy to be compiled by HR Consultant	😊
145	Offer to pay 50% (£80) towards an additional grave digging charge	28.04.26 7.3iv	Awaiting response from undertaker		Office	Undertaker made aware of offer	😊
144	Undertake an audit of the footpaths in the parish	14.04.26 10	Would Biodiversity Working Group be interested in undertaking this audit?		Office KG	To agree how audit will be undertaken.	😊

143	Pride in Breckland Grant to support enhancement of the Reclaim the Rain project in the High street. If there is enough money consideration will be given to how the gateways into the town might be improved	14.04.26 8	Consult with WASFAG and Biodiversity WG		Office	Information regarding Reclaim the Rain has been provided to the Pride in Breckland team but project plans and costs are still awaited.	😊
142	Move forward with plans to hold a Festival of Youth in 2027	24.03.26 4.7			DS EMO	DS and EMO to meet with Love Watton, Wayland Academy and Beside Youth	😊
141	Further research to purchase a wooden sculpture to present to Weeze for its 40 th year in 2027	10.02.26 7.1	Research gift		Office	Framed plaques from Bowles and Walker agreed and on order – Research will also continue to be undertaken regarding the cost of a wooden hare and barrel as an additional gift	😊
139	Responses received on the WAT3 proposed site allocation adjacent to Wayland Wood be submitted to BC as presented and to request that Tree Preservation Orders are placed on 5 notable oak trees on site	09.12.25 12	Send response to BC and request TPO's		Office	TPO requests submitted to BDC. No response received so far Developers gave a presentation to Cllrs 14.04.26	😊
133	Commission further reports for Bridle Road, Lovell Gardens and Sports Centre play areas	23.09.25 12	Commission reports once the Council has completed the remedial works it is able to do		Office	Nearly all works completed. Annual inspection for 2026 to be booked. Quotes are being sought for the inspections.	😊
131	To investigate Honours nominations for two residents	12.08.25 10.3	Investigate		Office	Submission made	😊
129	To submit an application for s106 funding to pay for the additional works identified at Bridle Road Play Area	12.08.25 4.4ii	Application to be made		Office	To finalise plans also refer to 126	😊
126	Apply to the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme 2025 to help fund a dropped kerb to allow easier	08.04.25 10	Apply for funding		Office	Accept NPP offer of £694.94 to install dropped kerb	😊

	disabled access to the Bridle Road Play Area site					quotes to also be obtained for possibly widening the paths at Bridle Road play area to make them compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act	
<p><i>126 and 129 are linked and research is still being undertaken regarding what works should take place. Quotes received from playground installers to create improved access to both Bridle Road and the Sports Centre Play Areas are expensive. Fin. Com. is suggesting external funding needs to be found.</i></p>							
124	That the Office should gather information on the provision of services for the elderly in Watton with the intention of presenting a report to Full Council in September 2025 to help enable the Council to make a proposal regarding how it might provide or support future provision	11.03.25 4.4i	Gather information		Office	Draft directory presented to full council on 09.06.26 and was well received. EMO to publish on TC website and social media.	
120	Quote accepted to carry out the following works to the Clock Tower: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • site inspection of the tower • review of the present quinquennial survey • production of a list of works and discussion of the list with a view to producing a minor schedule of works. 	14.01.24 15	Accept quote and arrange works		Office	Contractor given the go ahead but awaiting works to be undertaken. Updates requested regularly but so far no date received. Other companies have been contacted for further quotes. Look at advice from local companies when the clock is ready to be fixed. Cllr Saunders and EMO to investigate English Heritage Funding for the tower.	
114	To hold discussions with BDC regarding possibility that the Town Council can take over the car parks in the town	24.09.24 8	Continue dialogue with BDC		Office	Accepted the Heads of Terms at the TC meeting held on 10 th March. Papers with solicitors. It was agreed on 09.06.26 to purchase Indemnity Insurance	

104	To produce a staff Well-Being Policy	23.07.24 4.6	Compile Policy		HR	All staffing policies, handbook and Contracts were accepted as presented on 28.04.26. Well-being policy still to be compiled	😊
85	Compile Play Area Policy	22.08.23 4.6i a,b,c,d	To present Policy to Full Council		TB	Draft Policy to be compiled by Office	😊
82	Landscaping of Portal Avenue Community Land	08.08.23 7.3	Research landscaping.	4YP NP	Office	EMO has started compiling a google sketch of ideas for Heritage Park	😊
68	Seats – to undertake audit of seats around the parish	11.10.22 5	Undertake audit of seats.		Town	Office is continuing to populate Civicly Asset software	😊
45	All initial urgent repairs recommended by the Quinquennial Inspection Report on Wayland Hall for which the Town Council is responsible will be undertaken.	14.09.21 6.1	Some works have been undertaken.	4YP	Office	To check final works which need to be undertaken prior to next Quinquennial Inspection Report. Building contractors have been approached.	😊
21	To commission audit of energy usage in Council premises.	22.09.20 5.1		4YP	Office	Work to heating system at Wayland Hall has been undertaken. Audit of Energy could be incorporated within a review of the Sustainability Audit	😊
13	Watton Town Council will consider model Climate Change Awareness Policies for possible adoption. To undertake a Town Council Sustainability Audit.	6 12.11.19 12 24.09.19	Clerk to investigate and present model policies to Full Council. To undertake Audit.	4YP	Clerk Office	Sustainability Audit to include Climate Change Awareness Policies Biodiversity Working Group to look at.	😊
13 and 21 are linked - Suggest including Sustainability Audit in reviewed Climate Change Policy. Climate Change Policy to be researched.							

4	To display photos of past Mayors in Council Chamber.	14/309	To collate photos and display.		Office	2 more photos to be obtained Note to be posted in the Chamber to state these 2 photos are unobtainable. Extend wall area up to accommodate more mayoral photos	
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NP – Watton Neighbourhood Plan

4YP – Town Council Financial Four Year Forecast

The resolutions from the Works in Progress list is to be incorporated within a Projects Action Plan which will link to the 4 Year Financial Forecast which will include possible projects for the High Street and weekly market.

Item 7.2

Re-instatement of 2024/25 Accounts

The 2024/25 accounts need to be re-instated to correctly include a debt of £570.

A doubtful debt of £570 was noted in the adjustments for 2024/25 but this was not included as a debtor as it needed to be for the entry to be reversed once the Council agreed to write off the debt in 25/26. The £570 has now been correctly included within the accounts and automatically reversed out of the accounts!

15 June 2026 (2024-2025)

Watton Town Council
Annual Return

Accounts for Year from 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025

This is prepared based on information in "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils : a Practitioner's Guide"

Important note: These figures have been prepared on an INCOME and EXPENDITURE basis.

Box No.	Description	Last Year £	This Year £
1	Balances brought fwd	665,228.30	654,041.41
2	Annual precept	408,805.00	427,625.00
3	Total other receipts	246,676.81	69,528.37
4	Staff Costs	215,957.39	293,608.97
5	Loan interest/capital repayments	0.00	0.00
6	Total other payments	450,711.31	291,097.24
7	Balances carried forward	654,041.41	566,488.57
8	Total Cash and Short Term Investments	634,384.06	577,535.80
9	Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Investments	1,291,079.38	1,256,886.38
10	Total Borrowings	0.00	0.00

Box 3 + Box 7
increased by £570
as doubtful debtor now
correctly entered as
debtor also.

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

WATTON TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance	
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £		
			<i>Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.</i>	
1. Balances brought forward	665,228	654,041	<i>Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.</i>	
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	408,805	427,625	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>	
3. (+) Total other receipts	246,677	68,958	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>	
4. (-) Staff costs	215,957	293,609	<i>Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.</i>	
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>	
6. (-) All other payments	450,712	291,097	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>	
7. (=) Balances carried forward	654,041	565,918	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>	
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	634,384	577,536	<i>The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.</i>	
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	1,291,079	1,256,886	<i>The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.</i>	
10. Total borrowings	0	0	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>	
For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.</i>
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.</i>

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2025 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

M. Cam **REQUIRED**

Date *09/04/2025*

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

09/06/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

8.4 **REFERENCE**

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

[Signature] **REQUIRED**

Item 9

Pledge will be to help organise a Watton Festival of Youth in 2027.

Item 10

Watton Waste Management Report

Provision of bins

Having heard from the Breckland Council Environmental Services Officer, it has been confirmed that the current process for any new bin requests must initially be submitted to Watton Town Council. The Town Council then consult with Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and Serco on the suitability of the location, considering things like the vicinity to other bins, as well as the land ownership. The Town Council is then responsible for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of any bin that is approved. The responsibility for emptying and disposing of the waste for the bins situated on Breckland or Norfolk County Council land currently falls to Serco, however it is unsure where that responsibility will lie following local government re-organisation.

Number of bins June 2026

The current number of litter bins and dog waste bins that exist in Watton appears to be 46 – with 10 of those being dog waste bins – although there is a chance there are more that have not been counted yet.

Land Transfers

The proposed land transfers from Breckland Council to Watton Town Council will result in all maintenance currently undertaken by Breckland/Serco will cease and the Town Council would then be responsible for works on the transferred sites. This would be expected to occur with immediate effect on the date of the transfer. There are several bins at these various locations that would then become TC responsibility.

The sites house 7 dog waste bins and 9 litter bins.

Waste Regulations

There have also been questions as to whether the public bins will fall under the new waste regulations coming into force. To date it is not clear whether the TC will be expected to provide recycling bins alongside general waste bins to conform with said regulations. However, at the moment there is no legislation in place to suggest that this will be the case due to public litter bins falling outside the domestic rules, instead operating under street-cleansing and public space management frameworks. Breckland Council is currently seeking clarity on this matter from the Environmental Agency.

It is of note that the Breckland Office suggested less bins rather than more!

Item 11

E-mail received from neighbour of Lovell Gardens Play Area:

Me, my husband and my daughter are the residents of Norwich Rd, Watton. We have a massive issue with the fence fragment built in a neighbouring children's playground. Kids are constantly kicking balls into that fence and the balls end up in our garden. We have children knocking on our door numerous times a day asking for their ball back. We have been dealing with this for almost two years now to the point where it's become unbearable. Constant noise of a ball kicked into external house wall and knocking at the door causes our dog severe anxiety.

We are now feeling harassed by this constant disturbance and disruption of our peace and privacy. Please advise of the steps we should take to have that fence piece (picture attached) moved elsewhere or removed entirely.



Item 13

Fallen tree

A tree in the open part of St Mary's Churchyard has fallen onto neighbouring property.

The Town Council's insurers have been made aware as the line of the boundary between the open churchyard and the Cemetery has often been contentious.

However, the neighbour whose property has suffered damage as a result has been advised to approach the church.

The TC insurers have responded to say the file will remain open for a period of 3 months. Should no correspondence be submitted from the third party within this time, the file will likely be closed.