

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday July 14th 2026 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED from:

Gavin Bulmer, Cathy Halfacre, Jack White, Jacqueline White.

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

3. MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on June 23rd, 2026, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Update from the meeting held on June 23rd not agenda items for this meeting:

- Car Parks Transfer - What should be the final amended transfer documents are now with the solicitors acting for Breckland Council.

The Town Council solicitor has also now reviewed the Licence Agreement with MER Charging UK Limited relating to the EVC points at the Kittell Close car park. This will incur additional fees but it is thought final costs should still fall within the initial estimate of £5,000 - £6,500 due to the limited amount of negotiation Breckland has allowed.

The final Property Report provided by the solicitor relating to the town car parks has been shared with Councillors who remain happy to proceed with the transfer.

- The last two photos of past Mayors have been obtained and sent for printing and framing so they can be included in the display in the Council Chamber.
- A quote to remove the graffiti wall at the Lovell Garden Play Area has been received and work will be commissioned. The Charlotte Harvey Management Committee has declined the offer of the wall being relocated to the Community Hub.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked those who supported the Yard Sales and Open Gardens held on June 28th which raised £265 for the Mayors Charities. She also thanked those involved with Watton Carnival for providing a much appreciated community event. The Mayor was unable to attend herself but the Deputy Chairman stood in for her. On 13.07.26 the Chairman attended the 2nd Wayland Cub Packs celebration of 110 years of Cubs.

The Chairman also thanked Cllr Tarrant for attending the Change of Command Ceremony at RAF Lakenheath on 10.07.26.

4.2 Vice-Chairmans Report

The Vice-Chairman attended both the Open Gardens and Yard Sales event and the Carnival.

4.3 Clerks Report

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

- NCC grant applications for Bus Stops
- Finance Committee meeting to be held 17th July 9.30am
- HR Committee meeting to be held 17th July 11.00am
- Biodiversity Working Group meeting to be held prior to the Full Council meeting on July 28th.
- Ashley Cooper Project Manager (Hospitality and High Streets) - visiting the Office 22nd July 11.00am re. High Street Matters Project.
- Breckland Council 5 Towns meeting held 14th July – Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Clerk invited to attend.
- There is a Police Safer Neighbourhood Meeting scheduled to be held in the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall on Monday 20th July 7pm.

4.4 Lead Councillors Reports

Cllr Gilbert informed the meeting that the Breckland Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation has been approved by the Breckland Cabinet with public consultation to start on July 31st. Councillors have been provided with a link to the plans which were made available for the Cabinet Meeting.

The development site adjacent to Wayland Wood initially included in the Plan is not supported by Breckland Council and has been removed from the Plan. This does not mean however that a developer could not put the site forward.

Sites within the plan include land off Sharman Avenue and land opposite Barn Ruche on the Merton Road.

A question was raised regarding whether land to the rear of Akrotiri Square is likely to be developed at some point as there is access to the adjacent field.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – no members of the public present.

6. DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

At the Breckland Five Market Towns Meeting attended by the Deputy Chairman and Clerk early in the day it was stated that there is no update regarding Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.

7. ST GILES CAR PARK

Following a request for repair of a large pothole in the St Giles Road Car Park a reply has been received from the land agent managing the site to the effect that the owner receives no income from the car park and would the Town Council be willing to arrange and fund the necessary repairs and accept responsibility for any resulting claims or damage.

The Town Council will not fund repairs to a privately owned area and **it was resolved** that a letter will be sent to the land agent stating this.

8. GRANT APPLICATION

A grant application has been received from Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School. As the Town Council Grants Policy is to be considered by the Finance Committee at its meeting on 17.07.26 **it was resolved** to defer any decision until after a recommendation from the Finance Committee.

9. LITTER PICKER

It was resolved that the volunteer litter picker who collects litter along the Norwich Road should be given a Community Champion Certificate and an award of £80.

10. WASTE BINS

The Waste Management Report and associated location map of bins around the parish was noted but no policy regarding the provision of bins will be made until more is known about future services once local government reorganisation is underway.

11. BRECKLAND LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Noted that ahead of the launch of the Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation a virtual 'Town Hall' event is scheduled to take place 6-7pm on 20th July. Anyone can attend: www.breckland.gov.uk/Local-Plan-Town-Hall

[To review the latest draft Local Plan documents and take part in the consultation after it launches on 31 July, visit Breckland.govocal.com]

12. MARKET WORKING GROUP

The Market Working Group is scheduled to meet on July 28th 2026 at the Town Council Office.

13. CO-OPTION INTERVIEWS

It was agreed to hold co-option meetings on 11th August 2026 prior to the Town Council meeting.

14. PLANNING

PL/2026/0892/HOU Extension to garden annex (used by family member) to create bedroom and gym 39 Dereham Road, Watton IP25 6ER

No comments

To note:

Discharge of Conditions 7, 10 & 11 on PL/2025/1437/FMIN Serco Transport Depot, Norwich Road, Watton IP25 6JB

15. Resolution passed to Exclude the Press and Public to consider confidential matters:
- 15.1 Cemetery Update – noted that a tree which has fallen is within St Mary's Churchyard not the Cemetery.
- 15.2 Fireworks Event – update to be given at the Full Council meeting on August 11th.