

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday June 11th 2024 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

Councillors Present: Don Saunders - Chairman, Tobi Amadasun, Peter Bishop, Tony Bridges, Keith Gilbert, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Tomos Hutchings, Tina Kiddell, Graham Martin, Kathryn Stallard, Gillian Tarrant.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

Officers from Breckland District Council gave a presentation about Future Breckland to Councillors prior to the start of the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED from**

Tina Cruz, Catherine Turley-Long and Steve Turley-Long.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

Tobi Amadasun declared an interest in item 12.

**3. MINUTES**

**3.1** The Minutes of the meeting held on May 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 were accepted as a true record.

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1** Chairman's Report

The Chairman has:

- 30<sup>th</sup> May attended site visit to Heritage Park
- 6<sup>th</sup> June attended Buckingham Lodge D Day commemoration and lighting of the beacon at Loch Neaton.
- 7<sup>th</sup> June judged the Watton Best Garden Competition and attended Thetford Civic Reception

Noted that Gillian Tarrant will act as a judge for the Town Crier Competition on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024.

**4.2** Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman attended meetings of the Charlotte Harvey Trust and Food Hub on June 6<sup>th</sup> and an HR Committee Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

She was also present at the lighting of the beacon at Loch Neaton on June 6<sup>th</sup> and Watton Jobs Fair on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**4.3** Clerks Report

Written report presented in Councillors Agenda Packs.

Verbal Update given:

- All staff undertook First Aid training on June 5<sup>th</sup> and it is suggested some members of staff should also undertake a 3 day course. The Finance Committee will be asked to look at the cost of this.
- The Highway Engineer for the area has informed the Office that he would be happy for bulbs to be planted along Church Walk and for strings of Christmas lights to be placed in the trees. Quotes are being sought for lights along Church Walk.

- Following a request received it was **resolved** that the Council would not permit any political party to have a stall on the Wednesday Market.

#### 4.4 Reports from Lead Councillors

- Kathryn Stallard was thanked for providing reports on Walsingham Gates to submit to English Heritage requesting amendment to the heritage listing of the gates.  
Once all documentation relating to the gates is accurate the Council will look at what repair work should be undertaken to the gates.
- Gillian Tarrant informed the Council that there will be a Festive Market meeting held on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

4.5 Liz Witcher, Chairman of Watton & Swaffham Flood Action Group sent apologies for not attending the meeting as planned, but she will attend a future meeting when she has more to update. It was noted that GreenBlue Urban have recently surveyed the High Street in preparation for the installation of urban tree pits.

### 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present.

### 6. AGENDA PACKS

Those Councillors wishing to receive a hard copy agenda pack were asked to tick the list made available.

### 7. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The following were appointed:

- i. SNAP Meetings – Gillian Tarrant
- ii. Air Cadets – Tony Bridges
- iii. RAF Watton Families Club – Stan Hebborn
- iv. Wayland Partnership – Don Saunders

### 8. BRECKLAND LOCAL PLAN

Toby Amadasun and Tomos Hutchings volunteered to take part in the Breckland Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy and Open Space Assessment.

### 9. WATTON NEWSLETTER

It was **resolved** that further investigation should be undertaken regarding the possible provision of a newsletter for Watton.

### 10. THETFORD ROAD ALLOTMENTS

It was **resolved** to continue with the transfer of the Thetford Road allotment land and to accept the estimated £855 fee for the solicitor to advise further on charity law points raised.

Councillors will be passed copies of the correspondence received from the solicitors to date.

### 11. SAM 2 SIGNS

It was **resolved** to investigate the provision of two additional Speed Awareness Monitors (SAM) so all four entrances to the town can be covered by signage and to

approach the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team requesting that the camera bike be used in Watton .

## **12. SPORTS CENTRE GRASS CUTTING**

It was **resolved** that the arrangement the Town Council has with Watton Sports Association, contributing to the grass cutting at the Sports Centre, will be reviewed when the Town Council Grounds Maintenance Contract comes up for renewal at the end of October 2024.

Watton Sports Association will be asked to clarify what assistance is needed.

## **13. PLANNING**

13.1 3PL/2024/0468/EU - Lean-to roof above original porch and in front of lounge window - certificate of lawfulness - existing use WATTON: 58 Lovell Gardens

**Regularisation only therefore no comment**

## **14. RESOLUTION PASSED TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

14.1

The draft minutes of the

HR Committee Meeting held on 05.06.24 were noted.

It was **resolved** to implement the presented policy for the provision and use of smartphones with immediate effect.

It was **resolved** to accept the recommendation that staff can claim the cost of an annual eye test at Cecil Ameys (to include retinal photography) and offer an allowance of up to £120 towards the cost of necessary glasses if a prescription and receipt is provided.

14.2 HR Consultancy

A proposal had been made by the HR Committee that two HR companies would be invited to attend a future HR meeting so questions could be asked prior to a contract for HR services being entered into.

One of the two consultants approached was not prepared to provide a free in person presentation so it was **resolved** that only the current contractors would be asked to attend a meeting. Councillors were invited to submit any questions they may have for HR consultant.

Following the meeting the HR Committee will make a recommendation to Full Council as to whether or not the Council should enter into a further contract with the current HR service providers.

14.3 Cemetery

**It was resolved** to grant the request for parishioners fees to be charged for an interment at the Cemetery, as requested, as the deceased was known to be listed on the electoral register for Watton.