

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday July 9th 2024 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

5 members of the public also present.

Noted that a Charlotte Harvey Trust meeting was held prior to the Town Council meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED from

Tobi Amadasun, Tony Bridges, Tina Cruz, Catherine Turley-Long and Steve Turley-Long.

2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE

3. MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on June 25th 2024 were accepted as a true record.

It was requested that it be noted that the suggestion was made at the meeting on 25.06.24 to look at the repair and maintenance of the market gazebos. The Finance Committee will be considering this at its next meeting.

3.2 Updates from the meeting held on June 25th 2024 if not agenda items

- Electrical works needed following the Wayland Hall Electrical Installation Report have been commissioned at an estimated cost of £346.20. Other recommended works are also to be cost estimated.
- Breckland Local Plan public consultation - stall held on Watton Market 03.07.24. Cllr Tomos Hutchings gave a verbal report regarding the Local Plan. Tomos was thanked for his report and asked to provide a written report to be used as a basis for a Town Council response to the consultation.
It was resolved to approach George Freeman MP and Carbrooke Parish Council to establish an initial meeting to discuss the proposals in the Local Plan which would be followed by a request to Breckland Council to give a presentation to the Town Council.
- Site visit re. structural report for the north end of Wayland Hall to take place on 11.07.24.
- 3PL/2024/0512/F - Proposed erection of 2-bedroom bungalow with associated parking Land adjacent to 60 Norwich Road IP25 6DF WATTON
Noted that Watton and Saham Flood Action Group has no comment to make re. this proposal.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the Loch Neaton picnic and beacon lighting and the High Street Antiques Fair.

4.2 Vice-Chairman's Report - nothing to report.

4.3 Clerks Report

Written report presented in Councillors Agenda Packs.

Open Gardens and Yard Sales 29th/30th June

Donations from the Yard Sales totalled £250 with staff also raising £87 from a stall held at Jubilee Garden, with all money to go to the Mayors Charities.

Planning

To note: Refusal of planning proposal 3PL/2024/0326/F Part change of use of residential curtilage for standing of Mobile food truck to sell food and drinks opening time will be weekends only at 34a Akrotiri Square.

20 mph Speed Limit see App 2

Harvest Road, Bramble Way and Crabtree Close, Watton – 20mph Speed Zone Norfolk County Council (NCC) is proposing to introduce a new 20mph Speed Zone on Harvest Road, Bramble Way and Crabtree Close, Watton. The aim of this scheme is to reduce vehicular speed and improve user and pedestrian safety of those using Harvest Road, Bramble Way and Crabtree Close. This work is being funded by the developer as part of the terms of their planning agreement.

Noted that the Town Council is supportive of the 20mph Speed Limit.

High Street Bus Stops

The Safer Neighbourhood Team has requested that one of the seats outside Adcocks in the High Street be re-located to discourage people gathering in one spot.

The team involved with installing the new gold bus stop in the High Street has been approached to see if re-positioning of the seat could be incorporated within the bus stop works.

The Council has received notification that the proposed bus stops works are scheduled to take place 19th-23rd August 2024 (outside Edwards) and 2nd- 6th September 2024 (outside Boots). Noted that once the shelters have been installed benches and planters can be re-orientated to new positions if necessary.

Car Parking Charges

Some discussion took place regarding the Breckland Council proposal to introduce car parking charges within Breckland.

It will be an agenda item for the next Town Council meeting to consider a response to this proposal.

Antiques Fair

Report from the Antiques Fair presented to Councillors. Noted that the Events Officer and the Town Operative who worked on the day will take time in lieu for the hours owed.

4.4 Reports from Lead Councillors – no reports given.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Allotment holders were present to complain about the state of some allotments which are not being worked at the Thetford Road Allotment Site.
It was suggested a meeting with allotment holders would be arranged to find a way forward to manage neglected plots and look at other concerns raised.
The Clerk was asked to produce a report for the meeting showing which allotments have been re-entered by the Council and which have been strimmed.
- Complaint made about litter along the Brandon Road.
- Highways have indicated that trods are to be installed along the Norwich Road past Lidl and checks will be made as to how this work is progressing.

- Chairman of Watton and Saham Flood Action Group has asked for an agenda item for the next Town Council meeting when she will update on the Reclaim the Rain Initiative and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

6. WAYLAND AND WATTON TIMES

It was resolved to purchase a full page in the Wayland & Watton Times at a cost of £200 per month.

Appropriate publishing software will be purchased at an estimated cost of £80 to assist with producing the drafts for inclusion within the paper.

7. DONATION REQUEST FROM WAYLAND PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Stan Hebborn declared an interest.

It was resolved to invite a representative from the Wayland Partnership to the next Town Council meeting to answer any questions on the donation request. The request will therefore be an agenda item again for the July 23rd meeting.

8. DONATION REQUEST FROM CHARLOTTE HARVET TRUST

It was resolved to grant the donation of £2500 to the Charlotte Harvey Trust as requested to help fund 'Summer Fun Tuesdays' during the 2024 summer school holidays. As in line with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Charlotte Harvey Trust, Town Council staff will be available to assist with the running of the fun days.

9. S106

It was resolved to submit an application for s106 funding of £7400 to contribute to the planned improvement works for the Bridle Road Play Area.

10. THETFORD ROAD ALLOTMENTS

As also agreed at the Charlotte Harvey Trust meeting, held prior to the Town Council meeting, **it was resolved** to ask the owner of the Thetford Road allotment land if they would be willing to pass the land to the Town Council rather than to the Charlotte Harvey Trust as originally suggested. A covenant could be put on the land to protect it from any change of use.

If the owner does not wish to pass the land to the Town Council it was resolved that, as advised by the solicitor acting for the Town Council, the Charity Commission will need to grant approval for the transfer to the Charlotte Harvey Trust and continued lease of the land by the Town Council.

11. LOCH NEATON CHARITY

Tomos Hutchings volunteered to be the Town Council nominated trustee for the Loch Neaton Charity.

12. VE/VJ CELEBRATION 2025

It was suggested to ask Catherine Turley-Long if she would consider being the Lead Councillor for the 2025 VE/VJ celebrations.

The date for an event will be agreed with the Events Officer and if deemed necessary a Working Group could be formed to help facilitate the event.

13. PLANNING

Notification received:

- proposed installation of additional antennas, and associated development at Watton Water Tower, Lovell Gardens, Watton

- householder development consultation 3PN/2024/0027/PNE – erection of a single storey rear extension projecting from the original rear wall at 252 Lovell Gardens, Watton.

14. NO RESOLUTION PASSED TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS