

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday February 11th 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

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

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

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

Tina Kiddell

**2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

**3. MINUTES**

**3.1** The Minutes of the meeting held on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2025 were accepted as a true record.

**3.2** Updates from the meeting held on January 28<sup>th</sup> if not agenda items (noted in the agenda pack):

- Car Parks – Update presented in additional report from Clerk sent out prior to the meeting. The car parks will be an agenda item for the next Full Council Meeting.
- Initial meeting with consultant who will be conducting the agreed staffing re-structure took place 07.02.25.
- Request submitted for planning application PL/2024/0796/FMIN to be considered by Breckland Planning Committee.

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1** Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended the Air-Cadets Formation Dinner at Broom Hall on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

**4.2** Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman attended the Police Neighbourhood Priority Panel Meeting on 29.01.25.

**4.3** Clerks Report

Written report presented in Councillors Agenda Pack with additional update sent out prior to the Council meeting.

- Request received from the Head of Yr 11 at Wayland Academy for support for the 2025 Leaver's Prom.
- Love Watton has been approached regarding possible involvement with the Fun Days planned to be held at the Charlotte Harvey Trust.
- The Chairman of Saham Toney Parish Council has approached the Town Council to say that Saham Toney Parish Council would like to see Watton and Saham Flood Action Group (WASFAG) continue as a working group with councillors and residents as members. It was suggested that the Clerk should contact the Clerk of Saham Toney Parish Council to discuss how this might be achieved, and the matter will then be brought back to Full Council for consideration.

- Works at Bridle Road Play Area, both by volunteers engaged to clear the north and east boundary line and the contractor who is re-installing the pump track, are continuing well.
- The annual sweep to clear unpermitted adornments from graves at the Cemetery is taking place and other jobs at the Cemetery, including how to deal with waste soil on site, are being planned. The agreed extension of the ashes area is to be undertaken in the near future.
- Communication has been received from Norfolk Trials Team regarding historic issues raised about possible encroachment of the verge along Church Walk. A response will be compiled.

#### 4.4 Lead Councillors Reports:

- Noted that a verbal complaint has been raised regarding overgrown paths and maintenance of signage at Wayland Wood. **It was resolved** that the complaint will be investigated and Norfolk Wildlife Trust which owns the site will be contacted as appropriate.
- It was suggested a litter bin should be placed near the seat recently re-installed at Memorial Garden. Noted that a policy should be compiled relating to the installation of any new bins around the parish.
- One of the laminated signs recently installed at Heritage Park stating the land is owned by the Town Council is missing. **It was resolved** to purchase two professionally made metal signs to be permanently fixed in place.

#### 4.5 Report from Police Neighbourhood Priority Panel Meeting 29.01.25

Cllr Tarrant reported on the Police Neighbourhood Priority Panel Meeting held online on 29.01.25:

##### **Explanation of New SNAP Priority Process**

- Essentially the original SNAP process will remain the same, with meetings open to the public being held across the 5 market towns every three months but with the subtle difference that priorities will not be voted in at these local meetings. Going forward issues and concerns raised across all SNAPs will be collated and brought to the Neighbourhood Priority Panel Meeting together with any other police information (emails, intelligence, or significant incidents). Partner Agencies will be given the opportunity to raise any community concerns from their perspective. From this a minimum of 1 and maximum of 3 Neighbourhood Priorities will be agreed.

##### **Neighbourhood Priorities**

- Two Neighbourhood Priorities were set across the Breckland District: Tackling Anti-social Behaviour (to encompass youth and vehicle ASB) and Rural Crime (including acquisitive crime).

#### 5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – No members of the public present.

## **6. CLOCK TOWER**

A report of the High Street Clock Tower is to be an agenda item at the next Full Council meeting. It was requested that costs spent on maintenance of the clock over the last four years be included in the report.

Following a building inspection contact has been made with a structural engineer and the builders who have previously worked on the Clock Tower to obtain prices for suggested further works.

## **7. THETFORD ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

The solicitor acting for the owner of the Thetford Road Allotments has proposed for the transfer of the land for nil value with restrictive covenant against use other than as allotments.

Options are:

1. The owner retains a strip of land so there is land which benefits from the restrictive covenant; OR
2. The owner has a restriction on WTC's Land Registry title so she control disposals – the Town Council would need a certificate from her to overcome the restriction in order to make any Land Registry disposals.

**It was resolved** to accept option 2 as above.

## **8. SPORTS CENTRE**

Correspondence has been received from Watton Sports and Recreational Centre with a request made by the Chairman of the Trustees to give a presentation to the Town Council at the Full Council Meeting on 25.02.25. It was suggested the presentation is given at 6.30pm prior to the start of the Council meeting.

**9. PLANNING** – No planning applications received for consideration.

**10.** No resolution passed to exclude the public or press as not needed.