

Minutes of a Premises Committee Meeting of Watton Town Council held on Tuesday 21 July 2009 at 7.00 pm at Wayland Hall, Watton.

Members Present: Councillor Anderson-Vice Chairman Councillor J P McCarthy
 Councillor Crabtree Councillor L McCarthy
 Councillor Gilbert Councillor Wassell - Chairman
 Councillor Harvey

Officers Present: Town Clerk - J Seal

Others Present: Councillors: Wykes, Ivory, Osborn and Cooper

Members of the public: six (6)

13 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holmes and Freeman

14 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was agreed by Members that the Minutes of Tuesday 23 June be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

15 SKATEBOARD PARK

The Chairman gave a brief history of the skateboard situation then opened the meeting to allow the public to put their views forward.

Members of the Public adjacent to the playground confirmed that when the petition for the Skateboard Park was being collected their properties were not visited; which was confirmed by the actual petition. The resident's first news of the Skateboard Park being sited at Lovell Gardens was from the article in the Eastern Daily Press.

One resident was concerned that it would devalue their property and cause an increase in noise level and Anti Social Behaviour. The area already suffered with problems of Anti Social Behaviour with motorbikes and moped racing, late night drinking, golf balls and eggs being thrown at houses late at night.

One Member suggested looking at putting a mobile Skate park in various locations within the town so that feedback could be gained to identify a suitable site. It would also give an idea of how many skateboarders would actually use the facility also the schools could be asked to carry out a poll to ascertain how many skateboarders there actually were in the town.

It was reported that the police were organising a mobile Skateboard, which would be coming to the High School shortly. Although resident thought this a good idea they were still concerned about what assurances the Council would put in place to protect the residents if a skateboard Park was sited at the Lovell Gardens site.

It was agreed that the Press Reporter give maximum amount of press coverage and ask that residents come forward with their comments to the Council through the Town Clerk.

16 **URGENT BUSINESS**

Councillor Osborn reported that the newly signed agreement for Breckland CCTV operating system only included four deployable cameras and asked that the Council support Swaffham's request for one for each Town.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Breckland supporting Swaffham's request for five deployable cameras to be purchased so that the each town would have the use of one.

17 **ASSETTS MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

It was agreed that all Council Assets be looked at to judge the life of the asset and the cost of maintenance and replacement.

It was proposed by Councillor Wassell and seconded by Councillor Harvey and

RESOLVED

That the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk look at the Council Assets and reported back to the Committee with maintenance costs and replacement values.

18 **PLAYGROUNDS TRANSFER**

The paperwork for the transfer of the playgrounds from Breckland to the Town Council was with Breckland's legal department.

19 **MEMORIAL GARDEN WALL**

Quotes were being sought for rebuilding the wall or alternatively for fencing the entire length of the Memorial Garden from Norwich Road to Tesco Car Park.

20 **WEB PAGE**

The Web page was now being worked on and the new computer system would be installed in August.

21 **TOWN MURAL**

A letter had been received from Watton Rotary stating that the removal, cleaning, repair and re-positioning would be discussed at their next meeting.

22 **SPEED ANALYSIS**

Norfolk County Council Smiley Sam was now being deployed on all four approach roads into Watton and results were expected by mid August. Indications were that excess speeding was occurring on the roads.

23 **WAYLAND HALL PROJECT**

Members briefly discussed the costs and funding to upgrade the building with some Members wanting to carry out internal decorating and others wanting to carry out external repairs.

One Member felt that before proceeding further the Council should decide if they wanted to keep Wayland Hall, re-house the Wayland Luncheon Club, seek public opinion of what they would like the Hall to be used for and to make sure that the Staff continue to work in the condition that they would want to work in themselves.

The Committee discussed the options of selling Wayland Hall and looking for alternative premises such as the Commercial building at Saxton House.

It was proposed by Councillor Wassell and seconded by Councillor Gilbert and

RESOLVED

That the Clerk obtained a valuation for Wayland Hall and the leasing of the Commercial building at Saxton House.

One Member asked if the intention was to move the Council as a total package. The Chairman confirmed that it was.

It was agreed that the whole project for Wayland Hall be looked at in depth by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The Meeting ended at 9.14 pm

JS