

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2009 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton

Councillors Present: B Anderson
R Crabtree
B Freeman
K Gilbert
A Harvey
R Ivory
J P McCarthy - Chairman

L McCarthy
A Osborn
R Rudling
C Walls
M Wassell
B Wykes

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: County Councillor John Rogers, Norfolk Police Sergeant Kevin Jervis and PC Ian Hinchliffe and Youth Council Lisa Clayton

Members of the Public Present:

98 CO-OPTION MEMBER

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Michael Wassell as a Member of the Council and the Clerk confirmed that he had signed his acceptance of office and to abide by the Code of Conduct.

99 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors M Holmes, J Carr

Councillor Holmes requested that it be recorded that she could not attend the meeting due to there being no disabled access at Wayland Hall to the Council Chamber.

It was proposed by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Wykes and

RESOLVED

That no one should be barred from a meeting and that an alternative option be found.

The Clerk was asked to look at alternative venues for discussion at the forthcoming Premises Committee.

100 INTERESTS

Item 107b - Councillors J P McCarthy, R Crabtree and B Wykes declared prejudicial Interests as Trustees and Committee Members of the Watton Sports Association

101 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was Agreed by Members that the Minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record

102 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT

PC Hinchliffe reported that Crimes during Christmas and New Year had been low.

The speeding issue with Mobility Scooters fell into two categories. Class 2 had a maximum speed of 4 mph and could be used on the pavement only but were allowed to cross roads. Class 3 had a maximum speed of 8 mph and could travel on roads. No Driving Licence was needed but drivers must obey the Highway Code.

There were 68 reported crimes for the period with 38 relating to the Town, 7 criminal damage, 8 thefts and 6 assaults. Crime detection rates compared to other Towns was Watton 535, 40%, Dereham 435, 32%, Swaffham 548, 34%.

The Post Office had been spoken to regarding the parking of Post Vans on Harvey Street.

The next CAG meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd February 2009. Street meetings were being held in problem areas and projects were being put together to work with young people during school holidays when there was an increased peak in crimes.

Sergeant Jervis reported that the Safer Neighbourhood Team were working on restorative justice looking at ways to help people not to re-offend. All parties of a crime were brought together where a contract was signed by the offender to recompense in some way the victim. He said this was proving to be very successful and would continue across the county.

It was explained that drinking in the alcohol ban areas did not mean that the police would remove alcohol from everyone, it was only if people were acting in an anti-social way.

Traffic Warden were not attending the town due to the time plates not being the correct distance apart. Norfolk County Council was looking into this.

102a COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Rogers reported that road works would be carried out on the Norwich Road at the cost of £72,000.

He had held a meeting with Kate Elliot of the Safer Neighbourhood regarding various issues such as parking in the zig – zag zones, Harvey Street, Yellow lines in the High Street and the knocking down barriers on Norwich Road.

He would be attending the open meeting for the Police at Wymondham where he would voice his opinion on why the police were allowed to go above the capping limit set by the government without any action being taken.

A Member pointed out the County Council Rogers would be receiving a number of complaints regarding the non-existence of a bus service on Sundays and Bank Holidays in Watton.

He said he would await the letters and then take up the complaints.

102b DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Appendix 'A' Councillor Myers submitted a written report.

Members agreed that a letter be sent requesting that all District Councillors attend the Council meeting.

Councillor Gilbert reported that Breckland were looking at outsourcing Planning and Development Control and would keep Members updated.

102c YOUTH COUNCIL

Lisa Clayton reported that £150 had been raised for Linda Bloomfield's trip to Africa at the Coffee Evening and thanked everyone for giving their support.

Trips to the Dry Ski Slope and Ice Skating had been arranged for the Half Term break. There is also an activity week in February at the High School where they will be taking a stall.

A grant for £6960 had been applied for from Wayland Radio.

Miss Clayton also asked the Council if they would be give her a reference for entrance into 6th form at Netherhead School.

It was proposed by Councillor L McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Gilbert and

RESOLVED

(Voting 12 for with 1 Abstention)

That Miss Clayton be given a reference from the Council.

103 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Appendix 'B'

104 CLERKS REPORT

Appendix 'C'

Item 3 – It was agreed that Council documents be placed at the Norfolk Records Office on a rolling 10 year program from the year 2000.

105 PAYMENTS

Members queried the Total amounts of the payments.

It was proposed by Councillor Crabtree, seconded by Councillor Rudling and

RESOLVED

(Voting 10 for with 3 Against)

That payments should be made and the amended list issued to Members.

106 COMMITTEE REPORTS

106a Planning and Forward Development

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 20th January 2009 be approved.

106b Premises

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday January 2009 be approved.

106c Environment

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday January 2009 be approved.

106d Policy

One Member stated that he did not agree with the decision of Item 35 that the Membership of Watton Town Council should stay at fifteen (15).

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling, seconded by Councillor Gilbert and

RESOLVED

(Voting 8 for with 2 Against)

That the numbers of Members remain at fifteen (15).

106e 'Festive Christmas Market'

Councillor Anderson reported that the Committee had stayed within budget and had purchased a Gazebo and Marquee for future years. The event had once again been very successful. She also announced that she would be stepping down from the Committee and that a replacement had been found.

107 GRANTS

107a Sue Bloomfield

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Miss Bloomfield explaining that the Council did not have the power to give grants to individuals.

107b Watton Sports Association

Councillors J P McCarthy, R Crabtree and B Wykes left the meeting after declaring Prejudicial Interests as Committee Members.

Councillor J P McCarthy vacated the Chair and Councillor K Gilbert took the Chair for the vote.

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling, seconded by Councillor Harvey and

RESOLVED

That a grant of £1000 be given to the Sports Centre and that they be asked to reduce the speed bumps on the entrance driveway.

It was agreed that the grant be taken from Youth Grants.

108 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

108a Wayland Hall Luncheon Club

Councillors Freeman and Harvey reported that a new service agreement was being drawn up by Norfolk County Council and be reported to the Council when it had been received.

108b Watton Sports Centre

Councillor Wykes said the Treasurer had expressed concerns that income was falling.

108c Wayland Partnership Development Trust

Councillor Wykes asked that he be replaced as the Council Representative. It was agreed that Councillor Wassell be the Representative for the Council.

Some Members expressed concern that Parkwood had not asked Council Members be part of the consultation, which was being carried out on behalf of Breckland to look at the lack of Leisure facilities in the District.

It was agreed that the report be looked at by the Council.

109 FLASHING SPEED SIGN

It was agreed that this should be discussed by both Environment and Premises Committees.

It was Proposed by Councillor B Freeman, seconded by Councillor B Wykes

in accordance with Standing Order No 66 and

RESOLVED

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw

110 SPORTS CENTRE AGREEMENT

It was agreed that the Chairman, Councillor Wykes, the Clerk and Paul Adcock meet to discuss the agreement.

111 CLEANING CONTRACT – PUBLIC TOILET

It was proposed by Councillor Freeman, seconded by Councillor Anderson and

RESOLVED

That GCM Cleaning Services be awarded the Cleaning Contract for both the Public Toilets and the Youth and Community Centre for 1 year with a 3-month trial period.

112 STAFFING

The Clerk reported that the Town Handyman would be retiring in March 2009.

The Meeting ended 9.48 pm

JS