

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2009 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton

Councillors Present: B Anderson
R Crabtree
K Gilbert
A Harvey
M Holmes –Chairman
R Ivory – Vice Chairman

J P McCarthy
L McCarthy
A Osborn
R Rudling
M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: County Councillor John Rogers

Members of the Public Present: Dominic Chessum, Eastern Daily Press Reporter

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Wykes, Walls and Freeman and District Councillor Claire Bowes

2 INTERESTS

Councillor J P McCarthy declared a Personal Interest in Item 14 as a Member of the Twinning Association.

Councillor Holmes declared a Personal Interest in Item 14 as a Member of the Twinning Association.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 26 May and Monday 8 June 2009 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

4 COMMUNITY REPORTS

4a Police

Crime stats had been circulated. The Clerk was asked to request that the police regularly patrol the grassed mound area by the public toilets as litter had been left after a Barbeque.

It was noted that there had been no police representative for two consecutive meetings

4b County Councillor

County Councillor Rogers was pleased to see the flashing signs on the Norwich Road but was not happy that there was still illegal parking in the High Street.

He had received a complaint relating to flooding and sewage problems in Watton, which were caused when there was heavy rain and had reported this.

The problem with the road works on Norwich Road was still on going with both Norfolk County Council and Breckland Council chasing the outstanding money from the 106 agreement but added that enforcement action could take up to 18 – 24 months. He was asked if Norfolk County Council could do something themselves but confirmed that it was not the policy of the Council to borrow money against 106 agreements.

He stated that some residents in Carbrooke were concerned that Watton Councillors were interfering with Carbrooke business with regard to the cars being sold on the Flying Fish Public House car park.

A Member asked Councillor Rogers to enquire as to how much Norfolk County Council spent on Youth facilities in Watton compared to other towns.

4c Youth Council

It was noted that there had been no representative for two consecutive meetings.

5 MATTERS ARISING

5a Item 214 – The Watton Relief in Need Charity had confirmed that the period of Councillor L McCarthy's appointment expired on 15 March 2009. Councillor L McCarthy had been elected to serve for a further three years at the recent Annual General Meeting. Two new Council Representatives will need to be elected when Oliver Adcock and John Bowyer's appointment expire on 28 May 2010.

5b Westfield Infants and Nursery School have full allowance on the governing body with ex Councillor John Daly and his wife Helen who were appointed by the Council in 2007 still serving.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman asked and was given agreement by Members that Retrospective Approval be given for the opening of the public toilets on Carnival Day.

She pointed out that the public toilets were not open on Sundays now or previously and requested that should the Carnival Committee wish to have them opened in the future they would need to apply to the Council in advance.

7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman submitted a report

It was suggested that all Councillors should take part in the Carnival procession in support of the Mayor.

It was agreed that a second Armed Forces flag be purchased and sewn together so that it could be seen from both sides.

7a VICE CHAIRMAN REPORT

The Vice Chairman submitted a report

8 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk submitted a report.

It was agreed that best wishes be sent to Ray Johnson on his retirement.

The Chairman informed Council that the transfer of the Playgrounds was imminent.

9 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for June 2009 be approved

10 RESOLUTION BLUES AND ROYALS

The Chairman asked that the Council pass the resolution for the awarding of the 'Freedom of the Town to the Blues and Royals.

It was proposed by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor Harvey and
RESOLVED

That this Council in recognition of eminent and courageous service, and further in recognition that the amity and stability which we are grateful to enjoy is founded upon their selfless and valiant deeds, do hereby, in acknowledgement of the service aforesaid, confer upon the Household Cavalry the 'Honorary Freedom of the Town of Watton'.

11 COMMITTEE REPORTS

11a Planning & Forward Development Committee

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 16 June 2009 be adopted

11b Premises Committee

Members asked for conformation on Item 5a regarding the response from Rotary to remove and repair the Mural.

Councillor Crabtree said that Rotary would not be removing the Mural framework but inspect it to see what work needed to be carried out and at what cost.

Members of the Premises Committee reminded Councillor Crabtree that he had informed them that Rotary should be asked to remove, repair and clean the Tiles and put the Mural back in position. No costs had been mentioned and total removal had been agreed.

A letter had been sent to Rotary but no reply had been received. In view of Councillor Crabtree's comments it was agreed that the Clerk write again to Rotary asking what liability insurance cover they had for carrying out the work and clarifying that the frame was not safe and must be removed.

Item 5b Walsingham Gates. Lord Walsingham had written to the Council suggesting that the gate be scrapped, as he did not wish it to be returned to him.

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling and seconded by Councillor Anderson and
RESOLVED

That the Old Walsingham gate in the possession of the Council be taken to a scrap metal merchant as soon as possible and disposed of. The Clerk was asked to arrange collection from Weeco Engineering.

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 23 June 2009 be adopted

11c Environment Committee

Councillor Harvey confirmed that the water feature at the Memorial Garden was on going, that the Pergola at the Memorial Garden would be repaired on 8 July and the Cemetery maintenance meeting at St Mary's Church would take place on 9 July 2009.

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 9 June 2009 be adopted

12 CORRESPONDENCE

12a Letter from Breckland's Chief Executive Trevor Holden inviting the Council to attend a meeting to discuss the future of Project Rainbow on 16 July 2009.

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

That the Council's Chairman and Vice Chairman would attend the meeting with the Clerk.

13 REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION REPORTS

Councillor Osborn – Snap Meeting – He reported that the police were looking at ways to liaise more with the public. A Member enquired whether the post office was involved in the meetings. It was confirmed that they were only used for people to register complaints.

Councillor Crabtree – Sports Centre – He informed the Council that Alan Bowers had retired from the Football Club and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Bowers.

13 PAST CHAIRMAN'S BADGES

The Chairman reported that the present cost of a Past Chairman's badges was £90.80 and £57.54 if five were purchased.

It was proposed by Councillor Anderson and seconded by Councillor Gilbert and
RESOLVED

That the Council purchase five past Chairman badges for the years 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 at the cost of £57.54 each plus VAT

14 WEEZE NAMING

The Chairman pointed out that it should be noted by Members that Breckland Street Naming and numbering had been asked to look at suggested names put forward by the Council and that this had been returned with Weeze being one of the names not acceptable.

It was agreed that Breckland be asked to explain the reasons why the names on the list had been rejected.

Some Members suggested that part of the square to the front of Wayland Hall (Middle Street) be changed to reflect the name of Weeze. Other Members felt that a place within the town should be renamed rather than a street or road.

It was proposed by Councillor Anderson and seconded by Councillor Harvey and
RESOLVED

That the Council looks to name a part of the town after the twinned town of Weeze.

15 BUDGETING AND FUNDING

Councillor Wykes had requested that budgeting for both Wayland Hall Luncheon Club and the Charlotte Harvey Trust be discussed and that the future grant of £10,000 for Project Rainbow also be discussed.

It was agreed that this could not be discussed without the attendance of Councillor Wykes.

16 COUNCIL DECISION MAKING PROCESS

A re-structuring of the Council's decision-making process had been circulated as instructed by the Policy Committee on 12 May 2009.

Members discussed the request for the setting up of a finance committee. The majority of Members rejected the idea and saw no need to alter the present structure where committees had delegated powers to spend their budgets, which were set and ratified by the Full Council every year as part of the Council's budget.

A Member pointed out that if any Member wished to instate a standing committee such as Finance then this could not be done until the next Annual General Meeting. Another Member stated that he had been happy to support the Member Councillor Wykes who had wanted the return of the finance committee but could not remember what it actually did in the past and felt that nothing had been done that had not been decided by the Full Council.

Remarks were made by one Member with regard to the Clerk and expenditure, which were disputed by the Chairman other Members who were outraged at the suggestions and confirmed that all expenditure was agreed by the Council.

Members then discussed whether Committees should be replaced by two Full Council meetings per month and Task and Finish committees.

The Clerk explained that Members had felt frustrated that Committees had no delegated powers, which delayed much of the workings of the Council with referrals back and forth between committees, and hampered decisions being made until some were too late to be of any use in resolving a situation.

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

RESOLVED

Voting: 7 for with 2 against

That all Committee's be given full-delegated power to make decisions the same as the Planning and Forward Development Committee without having to refer to the Full Council for ratification and that this be reviewed in twelve months time.

17 COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Members discussed the holding of surgeries to interact with the public. Some Members stated that they already had interaction with the public and often received calls and visits from residents at their homes. Other Members felt that it would be a good idea to hold surgeries to lift the profile of the Council and explaining what they did.

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

RESOLVED

Voting: 10 for with 2 abstentions

That the Council look at a method of holding surgeries at suitable venues for those Councillors who wished to hold them.

18 APPROVED CONTRACTORS LIST

Members had been circulated with a list of contractors who had applied and were used to be on the approved list.

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling and second by Councillor Gilbert and

RESOLVED

That the proposed list of contractors be approved

19 STAFFING

Dominic Chessum asked that in view of the action taken on Item 17 that a named recorded vote be taken on Item 20.

It was proposed by Councillor Ivory, seconded by Councillor Harvey

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

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

RESOLVED

A named recorded vote with Councillors Anderson, Crabtree, Gilbert, Harvey, Holmes, Ivory, L McCarthy, Osborn, Rudling and Wassell voting for and J P McCarthy voting against

That the item be discussed at the next Policy Meeting.

The Meeting ended 9.05 pm JS