

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29 September 2009 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton

Councillors Present: B Anderson R Ivory - Vice Chairman
P Cooper J P McCarthy
R Crabtree L McCarthy
K Gilbert A Osborn
A Harvey R Rudling
M Holmes –Chairman M Wassell

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Dominic Chessum, Eastern Daily Press Reporter, Julian Horn, Wayland News Reporter, County Councillor John Rogers, Lisa Clayton, Youth Council, Sergeant Ogbourne, Norfolk Constabulary

Members of the Public Present: Five

37 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors: Freeman, Walls and Wykes

38 PAST CHAIRMAN’S BADGE

The Chairman presented Councillor J P McCarthy with his past Chairman’s badge and thanked him for the work that he had carried out in his term of office as Mayor

39 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was agreed that the Chairman sign the minutes of Tuesday 28th July 2009 as a true and correct record.

40 COMMUNITY REPORTS

40a Police

Sergeant Ogbourne thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and explained that the area had been restructured in April and had increased to include the Upper Yare parishes and a reduction of one officer.

A change in the way the police prioritise crime areas was now in force with both Blenheim Grange and Lovell Gardens being a priority to reduce antisocial behaviour. They were also looking to arrange an event for young people to create a distraction on both Halloween and Bonfire Night.

The Council agreed that if the Community Centre had no bookings it could be used to hold a disco.

40b District Councillor

Councillor Gilbert had nothing to report. He was asked to investigate why there were no half term sports activities in Watton for young people.

40c County Councillor

County Councillor Rogers reported that the County Council had recommended the status quo on Unitary Authority. Unitary in Breckland would cost the rate payer £1.06 per week.

The road works on the Norwich Road was still ongoing with the developers. The council was still trying to negotiate an agreement for the £490,000.

Merton Road public consultation had been advertised.

He had attended the meeting for the Local Development Framework and had supported the application for a further part of the field to the rear of the High School being included as this would give advantages for the High School.

40d Youth Council

Lisa Clayton presented some of the exhibits from the art exhibition. The Chairman suggested that the Council have a group photograph taken and Members agreed that a Rouges Gallery should be started.

ITV were to run a show on BBC news where a grant could be given to create a three minute advert to promote local ideas for 16 – 25 year olds. A grant had also been received for 14 – 18 year olds to run a radio show.

40e Members of the public

A Member of the Public handed the councils copies of the Crime and Disorder act.

41 GRANTS

41a Norfolk constabulary

Sergeant Ogbourne supported the police application for a grant to provide taxi's at weekends to remove people from the town who would normally cause antisocial behaviour due to excess of acholhol after the Public Houses had closed.

It was proposed by Councillor J P McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Wassell and

RESOLVED

That a grant of 350 be given to Norfolk Constabulary in support of their application.

41b Queens Hall

The Clerk was asked to check with the Queens Hall to see if they had sent the wrong application.

41c Twinning Association

The application was withdrawn.

42 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Report Circulated

The Chairman informed Members and was agreed that during the meeting with Martin Anscombe it had been suggested that the Watton Historical Society be asked to attend the meetings.

The Chairman explained her disappointment at not attending the Battle of Britain Service for Watton. She explained and apologised to Councillors that the invitation had been received on a piece of paper giving apologies for her Civic Service which had been missed.

It was agreed that a letter be written to RAFA asking that in future a separate invitation should be sent to the Mayor and Councillors so there could be no misunderstanding.

42a VICE CHAIRMAN REPORT

The Vice Chairman had attended the Farmers Market 100th Birthday and The Battle of Britain 64th Anniversary Service at Thetford.

43 CLERKS REPORT

Previously circulated

44 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payments for September be approved

45 AUDITED ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED

Voting: 11 for with 1 Abstention

That the Audited Accounts for the year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 be agreed as a true and correct record.

The Chairman challenged Councillor J P McCarthy's reason for Abstaining, that he had not read the documents when he had received them twelve days prior to the meeting.

46 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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

RESOLVED

Voting: 11 for with 1 Abstention

That the Annual Governance Statement for the Annual Accounts for 2008 / 2009 be agreed as a true and correct record

47 MAYORAL EXPENSES

The Chairman reported that she had been approached by a Councillor who had queried the claim for expenses by the Vice Chairman and asked the Clerk to clarify the situation so that there was no confusion in the future.

The Clerk explained that at Town and Parish level no allowances were paid as at principle authorities and all Councillors gave their time voluntarily, but that Councillors and staff were legally entitled to claim out of pocket expenses when representing or carrying out business on behalf of the Council. The Vice Chairman had represented the Mayor at certain events and was therefore entitled to claim expenses.

As there was no budget set for Vice Chairman expenses it was agreed that this would be looked at when setting the budget for the next year.

48 RAFA AWARD

The Chairman suggested that the award should go to the most improved Youth at the Surge and that the winner should be invited to attend the Civic Reception with their parents to be presented with the shield.

49 YEAR 11 SPONSORSHIP

It was proposed by Councillor L McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Wassell and

RESOLVED

That £25 be given to sponsor a Year 11 award ceremony at the Wayland Community High School.

50 COMPLAINT LETTER

Previously Circulated

The Chairman stated that the Council was not in a position to discipline Councillors.

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

RESOLVED

That a letter of response be sent to the Junior Youth Club explaining that the Council had no power to discipline its Members and that any further action should be directed to the Standards Monitoring Officer John Chinnery at Breckland District Council who would advise on complaints procedures.

51 MISSING DEEDS AND PAPERWORK

Members discussed the situation of the missing deeds and paperwork from the office. Concerns were expressed that the Council had not been involved with the talks between the Sports Centre and EDF

Energy as the owners of the Sports Centre land and that they had been searching for deeds that did not have title to.

Councillor J P McCarthy said that the Management Team for the Sports Centre did not think that they had needed to come to the Council and praised the Management Team for their work.

Councillor Rudling stated that he had been very concerned that deeds and paperwork were missing and felt that the Council should take action which had been supported by the Members of the Policy Committee.

Councillor JP McCarthy said that the fact that the Clerk had not seen the deeds showed the negligence that has been going on not just now but over the years.

The Clerk objected strongly to the accusation and insinuations that inferred that the present administration was negligent and reminded Council that she had regularly informed Members over the six years of her employment that deeds and paperwork were missing and asked for an apology.

The Clerk also expressed concerns that staff personal information could be held by Councillors as she had received a text message from a Councillor on her mobile phone which she did not give out publically and could not understand how the person involved could have obtained the number.

It was agreed to support the Policy Committee recommendation to contact the Council solicitor for advice on how to proceed in recovering the lost deeds and to register the land at the Sports Centre.

52 CUSTOMER SURVEY Norfolk County Council

Members agreed that the work on Brandon Road had been carried out satisfactorily but there were complaints of the quality and sustainability of the Jubilee Road Estate.

53 COMMITTEE REPORTS

53a Planning & Forward Development Committee

It was agreed that the minutes be adopted

53b Premises Committee

Item 26 – Breckland Planning Department had been contacted to arrange a meeting to visit land sites for their suitability for a Skateboard Park and were waiting a response.

Item 33 – the Council agreed that the Councils solicitor be contacted to ascertain who owned the wall at the Memorial Garden.

Item 34 and 35 – Refurbishment of Wayland Hall and Saxon House as an alternative building to house the Council Offices.

This was deferred to the next Full Council Meeting.

It was agreed that the minutes of be adopted

53c Environment Committee

The Clerk informed Council that Pride in Breckland had offered to give a grant to cover the paint for the Walsingham Gates and that she had accepted on behalf of the Council.

It was agreed that the Council give retrospective agreement.

It was agreed that the minutes of be adopted

53d Policy Committee

Councillor Holmes informed Council that the Surge would be available on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk put together guidelines for the surgeries.

Councillor Crabtree said that the Sports Centre was concerned that they had not had an answer regarding EDF Energy.

Councillor Rudling once again stated his concerns at the missing deeds and felt very strongly that both past and present Councillors and past staff should be subpoenaed if they know where the deeds were located. He noted that in the correspondence between the Sports Centre and their solicitor it would appear at some time the deeds were in the possession of the bank. It was felt that the Councils Representative had failed to keep the Council fully informed.

It was agreed that the minutes of be adopted.

54 CORRESPONDENCE

54a Letter relating to Brecks' Competition Dragons' Den Style (previously circulated) to take place at the Dragons Lair, 17 Maurice Gayner Way, Attleborough on Wednesday 30 September between 6pm and 8pm.

54b Watton Society Quiz Night will be held on Thursday 19 November at the Queens Hall at 7.30pm. Entrance fee is £6.00.

It was agreed that the Clerk organise teams for Members.

54c Breckland Council have joined forces with Creative Arts East's community cinema scheme Village Screen to host an international film festival next year. The rural touring cinema scheme is looking for ten groups within Breckland who want to bring an international flavour to their town etc by screening world cinema on their doorstep.

The Festival will run during February and March next year with training in the autumn. An introductory session will be held at Wells Cole Community Centre in Saham Toney on Wednesday 28 October from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

It was agreed that the information be passed to the Project Rainbow Committee with the suggested use of the Queens Hall.

54d Invitation for the Mayor and Members to attend the annual Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday 8 November 2009. The parade assembles at the car park at 2.15pm.

55 REMEMBRANCE DAY

It was agreed that a donation of £25 be given to the Royal British Legion for the Councils Poppy Wreath.

56 DEPLOYABLE CCTV CAMERA

The Clerk was still awaiting costs.

57 REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION REPORTS

Councillor Wassell – Wayland Partnership Development Trust – Grants for Cemetery Restoration were available.

Councillor Cooper – Loch Neaton – Grass cutting contract was going well.

Councillor Crabtree – Youth Focus – The next meeting would be in October.

Councillor Holmes – Wayland Hall Luncheon Club – A meeting with Representatives and Management Committee was to be arranged.

58 STAFFING

It was Proposed by Councillor Rudling, 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 agreed that no decision would be made until the three quotations were received when a Policy meeting should be called.

The Meeting ended 9.48pm

JS