

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28 July 2009 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton**

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Members of the Public Present: One

The Chairman announced that the Blues and Royals would not be parading through the Town and had made a press release, which the Clerk would check when it would be released.

**20 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Gilbert, Harvey, Walls, Freeman, County Councillor John Rogers, District Councillor Clare Bowes, Lisa Clayton, Youth Council and Dominic Chessum Eastern Daily Press

**21 CO-OPTION**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Cooper to the Council and hoped that he would have an enjoyable, fruitful and delightful time with the Council.

**22 INTERESTS**

Councillor Wykes declared a personal interest in Item 37 as the Councils representative to the Watton Sports Centre.

**23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was agreed that the Chairman sign the minutes of Tuesday 30 June 2009 as a true and correct record correcting Item 20 to Item 19 on the Private and Confidential page

**24 COMMUNITY REPORTS**

**24a District Councillors**

Councillor Anderson asked that the District Councillors be thanked for their support in increasing the share of activities for young people in Watton.

**24b County Councillors**

In the absence of County Councillor Rogers Members discussed the issues with the road works on the Norwich Road.

They were concerned with the anti social behaviour problems and the recent flooding causing health and safety issues relating to the stagnant water. The long-term problem with the crane was also of concern.

It was agreed that as the site was in Carbrooke that a letter be sent to the Carbrooke Parish Council and copied to County Councillor Rogers pointing out the issues with health and safety due to the stagnant water, the anti social behaviour and the long term problems with the crane and give support to these issues.

#### **24c Members of the Public**

A Member of the public stated that they had spoken to the police and had been shocked to learn that there was only one police officer on duty at night and could not see how this could deal with anti social behaviour.

Council assured the Member of the public that they would be looking at every site in the town and were committed to providing recreation facilities for young people.

#### **25 SKATEBOARD PARK**

Councillor Wassell explained that the site for a skateboard park had not yet been decided and in an analysis of the petition had revealed that the houses immediately adjacent to the Lovell Garden Playground had not been on the list.

Some Members felt that the ideal site was at the Sports Centre which had been confirmed by the professional survey carried out in 2003/2004 with recommendation that it be near toilets, source of water, first and with people nearby.

It was suggested that the Premises Committee Members should carry out a survey with residents adjacent to the Lovell Garden site.

The Chairman confirmed that she would accompany Councillor Wassell (Chairman of Premises) in conducting a door-to-door survey of the adjacent residents of the Lovell Garden site.

She said the Council had taken note of all the objections put forward and was endeavouring to address a difficult situation in trying to do something for young people in the town.

#### **26 MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman stated that Weeze Naming would be discussed at the forthcoming Planning Committee.

Councillor Wykes stated that his request had been superseded by the Premises Committee to look at the Council Assets.

#### **27 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Previously Circulated.

The Chairman added that the event at the High School had shown a wide range of talent from the students.

She also felt that Norfolk Wildlife Trust were doing very good work with the Pingo Trail.

## **28 VICE CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Councillor Ivory reported that he had attended the Portuguese Consulate meeting a Swaffham and had found it very informative. There were plans to open a registration centre at Thetford and to work with other partners in opening schools and Youth Clubs. They were very keen to integrate with the Community.

## **29 CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk requested that any Member entering the office should take the necessary precautions for washing their hands or using the Alcohol Gel which had been provided to all members of staff as recommended by the Health Authorities.

With recess in August the Clerk reminded Members that she needed replies for the visit to Stanta and Downham Market as soon as possible.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for arranging the allotment Competitions and all the effort she had put into it.

The Chairman said it was disappointed that more people had not attended the event and suggested that next year the Council hold one event in the evening to allow those who work during the day to attend. A further prize had been presented which she had purchased herself and the purchase of a strimmer.

Members discussed the costs involved in the Allotment Competition and hire of a strimmer.

## **30 PAYMENTS**

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

RESOLVED

Voting: 10 for with 1 Against

That payment for July be approved and that the Allotment Competition and purchase of a strimmer be discussed at the next Environment meeting.

## **31 PAST CHAIRMAN BADGE**

The Clerk had received a request from a former Council Chairman to be given a Past Chairman's Badge free of charge.

It was agreed that the former Chairman be written to and asked if they wished to purchase a badge.

## **32 COMMITTEE CO-OPTION**

The Chairman asked Members to agree the co-option of Councillor Cooper to his chosen committee with full voting rights until the Annual General Meeting in May.

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

RESOLVED

That Councillor Cooper be co-opted to the Environment Committee with full voting rights until the Annual General Meeting in May 2010

## **33 COMMITTEE RECOMENDATIONS**

### **33a Planning & Forward Development Committee (Tuesday 7 July 2009)**

The minutes were adopted.

### **33b Premises Committee (Tuesday 21 July 2009)**

The minutes were adopted

### **33c Environment Committee (Tuesday 14 July 2009)**

The Chairman thanked all Councillors who had worked on the pergola and especially Councillor Ivory for all his and his sons work on the water feature at the Memorial Garden.

One Member said he was very impressed with the water feature.

## **34 STANDING ORDERS CHANGES**

In view of the recent agreement by Council that Sub-Committees have total delegated powers a change to Standing Order 42 will read:-

### Committees and Sub Committees

The Council may at its Annual Meeting appoint standing committees **with full delegated power to make decisions on behalf of the Council and spend within their agreed budgets** and may at any other time appoint such other committees as are necessary, but subject to any statutory provision in that behalf:-

Councillor Wykes and Councillor Rudling objected to Committees being able to vie within their budgets and felt that they were losing their democratic rights by allowing this.

They felt that Committees should refer any viement to Full Council.

Other Members felt that the two Members showed a remarkable lack of trust in their fellow Councillors in implying that they would act irresponsibly in vieing monies.

The Clerk pointed out that Committees already vied monies within their budgets without referring back to Full Council and that Full Council had recently made decisions without referral to the Premises Committee which had caused an overspend on their budget.

Councillor Anderson stated that she would reluctantly make a proposal to accommodate those Members who did not want to move the Council forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and proposed and was seconded by Councillor Osborn that the amended wording remove ‘and vie’

Voting 9 for with 1 Against

### **35           CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **35a           No Cold Calling Areas**

Letter requesting support from Council for Ringmere Road, Langmere Road, Ringmere Close, Wayland Avenue and Three Post Road to become No Cold Calling Areas.

Councillor Anderson explained the problems caused by cold callers and asked that the Council agree a policy to support other applications.

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

RESOLVED

That the Council policy be to support all areas of Watton in their application for ‘No Cold Calling Areas’ and that the Clerk does not have to refer any applications back to Council for approval.

#### **35b           Work Experience**

A letter had been received from Wayland High School requesting that a student be given work experience one day per week working with the Town Gardiner from September 2009 until May 2010.

Some Members felt that there was a need to investigate further the health and safety issues, insurance liabilities and the CRB checks.

The Chairman also reminded Members that the Gardener was retiring in February and no decision had been made on the position.

### **36           REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION REPORTS**

Councillor Wassell reported that he had attended the Wayland Partnership Development Trust meeting.

Councillor Wykes – Sports Centre minutes tabled. He reported that a meeting had been arranged with Breckland’s Chief Executive to discuss their concerns with the PFI agreement, the Loan between the Centre, Breckland and the Town Council was still waiting an answer, an invitation had been given to the Mayor to have a tour of the facility. He also reported that the new treasurer had only lasted four months and that the old treasurer had thankfully returned. A Publicity exercise with the press was being looked at to try to boost membership. There were problems with one of the Football Clubs regarding an outstanding bill and EDF Energy wanted to lay cables across the land but needed the site of the original documents, which were not in the possession of the Council. He stated that the money given for carrying out the work would come to the Council, as they owned the land.

Councillor Crabtree – Youth Focus Group and Youth Council. He reported that they had taken a group to Hunstanton, were arranging a disco and arts exhibition. The Junior Youth Club was doing well and a mobile skate park was being sponsored by the police.

Councillor Osborne tabled a report for the Citizens Advice Bureau. He felt that the Council should support the Citizen Advice Bureau each year from its precept and would put this forward nearer the budget period.

The Chairman asked for a meeting with the Chairman John Constance.

Councillor Cooper – Loch Neaton. He reported that it was running well.

Councillor J P McCarthy – Twinning Association reported that they were looking for younger members to join and also for funding.

The Chairman informed the Council that she had been invited by the Burgomaster for a visit in September which she had accepted.

Councillor Holmes – Wayland Luncheon Club. No reply had yet been received from Norfolk County Council Social Services.

The Meeting ended 9.05pm

JS