

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton**

Councillors Present: J Carr J P McCarthy - Chairman  
J Daly L McCarthy  
K Gilbert A Osborn  
M Holmes – Vice Chairman R Rudling  
R Ivory C Walls  
B Wykes

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: Paul Adcock and Julian Horn - Project Rainbow, County Councillor John Rogers and Lisa Clayton – Youth Council.

Members of the Public Present: Seven (7)

**14 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors: Anderson, Crabtree, Freeman and Harvey.

PC Hinchliffe – Norfolk Constabulary, District Councillors Claire Bowes and David Myers

**16 INTERESTS**

Item 24c – Councillors L McCarthy and B Wykes declared personal interests as Members of the Watton Sports Centre.

Item 24c – Councillor J P McCarthy declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Watton Sports Centre.

Item 24c – Councillor Osborn declared a personal interest as a Member of the Table Tennis Club.

**17 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was agreed that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record with the correction to Item 9a, reported that the request for funding was not from the Watton Society, which Councillor Wykes declared an interest in, but the Watton Festival.

**18 REPORTS**

**18a District Councillor Report**

**APPENDIX ‘A’**

**18b County Councillor Report**

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Rogers.

He reported that there was a new 20 mph restriction on the estate on Griston Road and that there was a shortfall in money to put a fence up on the new Griston to Watton Footpath.

He confirmed that Breckland had approved the £50,000 funding for the new Centre at the Wayland Community High School and his support for the 7 acres of land for the school off Thetford Road.

He also reported that he had spoken to Mark Stokes about Project Rainbow.

Councillor Gilbert asked that the footway on Wayland Avenue be reported to Highways as weeds were coming through the surface. This had been caused by the dreadful standard of work when the

resurfacing had been carried out. County Councillor Rogers confirmed that he had already spoken to Highways.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Rogers for attending the meeting and welcomed the Chairman of the Youth Council.

### **18c Youth Council Report**

#### APPENDIX 'B'

The Youth Council would like to incorporate a litter pick of the Millennium Garden within the Breckland Pride Project. A minimum of thirty young people along with PCSO's and any willing Councillors aim to clean up the Millennium Garden, Old Doctors Surgery gardens and other parts of the Town, which are not generally covered. This would take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2008.

Members fully supported the report and congratulated the Youth Council on their successful Quiz Night. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Norfolk Constabulary in support of the Youth Council report.

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of the Youth Council for an excellent report.

### **19 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Item 5a County Councillor Report**

Highways sent their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting but stated that they would be willing to attend any meetings during the daytime.

#### **Item 5b Community Police Report**

Inspector Porter has confirmed that the radar gun to be used by Town and Parishes will need to have Public Liability Insurance and equipment insurance to the value of £750. This would need to be covered by the Town or Parish Council. The police supply the radar gun, signs and jackets free of charge.

### **20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

#### APPENDIX 'C'

The Chairman reported that 'Watton in Bloom' had awarded the Town Horticulturist a certificate, which was to be presented to Mr Lewin on his return from holiday.

He also stated that he had seen Dance Unleashed perform many times and that their standards had increased significantly each time.

### **20a VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Vice Chairman reported that unfortunately through illness she had been incapable of attending some of the events, which she had wanted to but had been able to attend the Civic Service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July. She congratulated the Mayor and Mayoress for such an enjoyable service and thanked the Clerk for all the work that she did behind the scenes, which she felt, was often forgotten.

### **21 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the Consultants for the Public Toilets had confirmed that Breckland Council had approved Building Regulations and that tenders were due in by mid August.

## **22 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **22a Planning & Forward Development 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

It was agreed that the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008 be adopted.

### **22b Premises Committee 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

It was agreed that the minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008 be adopted.

### **22c Environment Committee 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008**

Item 19 – Councillor Wykes reported that he had inspected the seats at the Millennium Garden and Lime Tree Walk. He felt that the two seats at the Millennium Garden could be cannibalised to make one seat and that the seat from the Youth Centre would go to Lime Tree Walk.

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

RESOLVED

That the two seats at the Millennium Garden be cannibalised to make one seat and the seat from the Youth Centre be sited at Lime Tree Walk.

It was agreed that the minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> July be adopted.

## **23 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **23a Breckland Post Boxes**

E-mail from Monica Coffey – Customer Programme Manager informing the Council that Breckland intend to remove the Red Post Boxes from the Council Office. The one situated at the Customer Service Office at Wayland Partnership will remain.

It was agreed that Breckland be asked not to remove the Post Box from the Council Offices.

### **23b Breckland Youth Council**

Breckland Executive Members had approved the Breckland Youth Council proposals. They had put together a programme of events, a copy of which was in the office for Members perusal.

### **23c GirlguidingUK Centenary Logo**

In 2010 GirlguidingUK celebrates it's Centenary. They would like to incorporate their logo into a design on a flowerbed in the town.

It was agreed that this should be passed to the Environment Committee for further discussion.

### **23d Watton Carnival Committee**

Letter requesting that Councillor Roy Ivory remain as the Council Representative on the committee as he was a considerable asset to the running of the event. Councillor Crabtree is still able to attend meetings should the Council wish.

It was agreed that the Carnival Committee would have two Representatives and that Councillor Ivory would be the second Representative.

## **24 GRANTS**

### **24a Dance Unleashed**

Some Members reported that the group was attracting young people who were very dedicated to their dance.

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

**RESOLVED**

That a grant of £250 be given to Dance Unleashed.

### **24b ‘Just Smile!’**

Both Councillors Gilbert and L McCarthy felt that ‘Just Smile!’ deserved a grant for all the work that they had carried out for the anti-bullying campaign. They had been awarded the Lawrence Award, which Councillor Gilbert had attended in London in his year as Mayor and had produced ‘Just Smile!’ boxes at a cost of £40 each to be placed in schools.

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

**RESOLVED**

That a grant to support 10 boxes be given (£400).

### **24c C F Watton Table Tennis Club**

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

That a grant of £300 be given to the C F Watton Table Tennis Club.

## **25 PAYMENTS**

The Clerk was asked to contact the Utility Companies to see if a capping on the cost of supplies could be given.

It was agreed that £100,000 of the commuted sum given for the Public Toilets be put into a bond for one year.

It was agreed that payments for July be accepted.

## **26 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**26a Watton Sports Centre** - Councillor Wykes reported that there had been a downturn in Finances.

**26b Wayland Development Partnership Trust** – Councillor Wykes felt that a lot of the decisions made by the Council were also being made by the Partnership. The Local Government Review had been discussed with concerns such as a Community Charge being levied on Parishes that have no Street Lighting, Watton and Thetford being put together and that Norfolk would be the largest Unitary Authority after Birmingham. Some Parishes were concerned that delegated powers would only be given to Quality Parishes with some of them unable to achieve this.

The Horse Fair was discussed and a letter read out from Threxton and Little Cressingham Parish Council. Councillor Gilbert reported that the Scrutiny and Overview Commission was awaiting a report from the Deputy Chief Executive at Breckland for the next meeting.

The Partnership has a colour photocopier, which could be used by the Partners at a cost.

**26c Youth Focus Group** – Councillor Daly reported that the Youth Advice Team, which he was involved in, had now closed for the summer. A replacement Youth Worker had been found to replace Collette Lumpkin.

**26d Citizens Advice Bureau** – Councillor Osborn submitted a report.

**26e Day Care Centre** – Councillor Holmes had contacted Gail Adcock and was arranging a meeting so that she could understand the working of the Centre.

## **27 ALMS HOUSES REPRESENTATIVE**

The Clerk to the Trustees has requested that a representative from the Council be appointed

It was agreed that Councillor Holmes be the representative for the Council on the Steven Alms Houses Charity.

## **28 BOUNDARY COMMITTEE PROPOSALS**

Some Members felt that a single Unitary Authority would not be good for the County and were concerned about the cost and whether there would be any savings made.

They did not like the idea of Watton being put together with such a large town as Thetford in the Community Partnership Boards as the needs of the two towns were very different. One Member wanted to know what the actual benefits would be.

There was also concern that the democratic process would be lost with only 120 elected Councillors of which 31 would be for Norwich.

It was agreed that a special meeting be held at the beginning of September to discuss the Boundary Review.

The office had a full copy of the Boundary Commission Report for Member's perusal.

## **29 PROJECT RAINBOW BUSINESS PLAN AND CONSTITUTION**

The Constitution and Business Plan had been tabled. The Clerk reported that the document had only arrived at the office late Monday afternoon.

The Chairman and the Clerk had attended a meeting with the Councils Solicitor. The Chairman confirmed that if the Trustees signed the lease in the name of the Charlotte Harvey Trust they would not be able to transfer this to the Management Team. This had been checked with the Property Partnerships (Isle of Mann) Limited Solicitors. The solicitor suggested that the Management Team set them up as a separate legal entity so that they could then obtain funding.

Paul Adcock felt that the goal posts kept changing and said that he felt very frustrated. He was concerned that the lease should be signed.

One Councillor expressed concerns over the expenditure item with some Members expressing serious concerns that they had not had time to read the documents but were being asked to agree to a grant that evening.

Julian Horn reported that the centre would be opened with volunteers who would be trained by Dave Rodwell Norfolk County Councils District Youth Worker. He would also arrange for CRB checks to be carried out.

### 30 PROJECT RAINBOW FUNDING GRANT

The Clerk advised Council that before taking a decision to agree funding it was the overarching responsibility of the Council to know how public money is spent and it had a duty to the electorate and to the Audit Commission to put good governance in place.

The Council would need to demonstrate value for money for such a large grant, what risk assessment had been put in place to protect public money, the sustainability of the project for the future, what guarantees the Council had on how the money would be used in procuring goods and services and what the money would be spent on.

Members discussed a grant of £25,000 with Councillor Wykes being concerned that the Council was looking to give £25,000 when the expenditure was approximately £10,000.

Paul Adcock said that the project could survive on a lower amount but that although they were not now planning to do some of the things that had been suggested such as a Graffiti Wall, the image needed to be right from the start. He appreciated that the Council had to be cautious but suggested the money could be drawn down in stages.

Councillor Rudling felt that as the project had been given £5,000 from another charity in the town along with various other donations he suggested that the Council give £20,000.

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling and seconded by Councillor L McCarthy that a grant of £20,000 be given to Project Rainbow made up of £10,000 and two sums of £5,000 as and when required.

An amendment to the proposal was made by Councillor Gilbert and seconded by Councillor Daly that a grant of £25,000 be given and drawn as and when needed which was lost.

(Voting 4 for with 5 against)

It was then

**RESOLVED**

(Voting: 9 for with 2 Abstentions)

That a grant of £20,000 be given to Project Rainbow made up of sums of £10,000 and two sums of £5,000 as and when required.

Julian Horn asked for clarification as to who would take on the signing of the lease. The Chairman confirmed that the new Project Rainbow Trust would sign the lease.

The Meeting ended 9.25 pm

JS