

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2009 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: County Councillor John Rogers, District Councillors Clair Bowes and David Myers, Norfolk Police PC Ian Hinchliffe and Youth Council Lisa Clayton and Eastern Daily Press Reporter Dominic Chessum

Members of the Public Present: Three (3)

The Chairman announced that due to a local power failure the meeting would be kept to a minimum

125 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors: Freeman and Walls

126 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

127 COMMUNITY REPORTS

127a Police

P C Hinchliffe reported that Crime Prevention figures remained at 40%. He also stated that he was transferring to Thetford Rapid Response Team and would no longer be attending meetings of the Council. He was thanked for his support and wished well in his new post.

127b Members of the Public

A Member of the public requested that a crossing or speed sign be put on the Dereham Road by Lime Tree Walk as he felt that there could be a serious accident with elderly people crossing.

He was informed that the Council was looking at speeding Traffic on the Dereham Road and was awaiting analysis before any decision was taken but noted his comments.

It was agreed to discuss a Pedestrian Crossing at the next Premises meeting.

127c County Councillor

County Council Rogers reported that various improvements to footpaths were being carried out and that due to the problems in finishing the roundabout a footpath would be constructed.

127d District Councillors

Both Councillor Myers and Bowes submitted written reports.

Councillor Myers was looking into the cost of the Street Lighting in Watton and agreed to report back to Council, as it would appear that an overcharge could be being made.

Councillor Gilbert reported his objections to the outsourcing of Planning and that at a recent meeting of the Town and Parish Forum it had been confirmed that a consultations letter to the Town and Parish Councils had not been sent out.

He asked and it was agreed that a letter be sent to Breckland complaining that the Town Council had not been consulted.

He had also attended the Scrutiny Committee of the Wayland Partnership Development Trust and felt that it had been a waste of time as it had in his opinion been merely a meeting to give a 'pat on the back' to the Partnership and was not allowed to ask the searching questions which he felt was needed.

127e Youth Council

Miss Clayton reported that two Youth Councillors from Watton had been elected to the Breckland Youth Council and that £4000 of funding was available for sport and activities in Watton.

128 CAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Report submitted.

129 CERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that the bank had requested a signed letter giving permission for members of staff to cash a Petty Cash cheque. This was agreed.

130 COMMITTEE REPORTS

130a Planning & Forward Development

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 3rd March 2009 and Tuesday 24th March 2009 be approved without discussion.

130b Premises Committee

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 17th March 2009 be approved without discussion.

130c Environment

It was agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 10th March 2009 be approved without discussion.

131 CORRESPONDENCE

131a Norfolk County Council

Letter from Norfolk County Council explaining that Watton had not had a bus service on Sundays for some years and are already in discussion with Konectbus about the possibility of introducing a similar service in Watton as exists in Swaffham and Dereham which is 2 hourly services to Dereham and Norwich.

The 106 agreement with Cofton helps to support the weekday services and there is some doubt as to whether this support will continue after April 2009. The County Council will ensure that the weekday services continue it would not be wise to commit to additional funding until the outcome of the situation is known.

The provision of a Sunday service is part of the longer-term strategy whatever the short term issues are.

131b Planning Portal

A Planning Portal will be held on Wednesday 22 April 2009 at Breckland Lodge Hotel, Attleborough from 7 pm to 9 pm. There is a restriction of four people.

It was agreed that Councillors Holmes, J P McCarthy, Ivory and the Clerk should attend.

131c

e-mail from Breckland asking for suggestions of how Breckland and the Town Councils could mark St Georges Day this year.

It was agreed the St Georges flag be flown on the Clock Tower.

132 PAYMENTS

It was agreed that payment for March be approved

133 FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Methodist Church will holding their annual Flower Festival and have invited the Council to take part with an Autumn time Pedestal.

It was agreed that Councillor Holmes makes the arrangement.

134 PARAMEDIC CAR - WATTON

Councillor Holmes reported that the Paramedic Car had been removed from Watton without notice to the local Doctors Practice.

It was agreed that a letter be written to the Ambulance Trust and NHS Norfolk to reinstate the car.

The Chairman closed the meeting due to lack of light through power failure.

The Meeting ended 8.45 pm

JS