

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2009 at 7.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall, Watton**

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

Officers Present: J Seal - Town Clerk

Others Present: County Councillor John Rogers, District Councillor David Myers, Dominic Chessum, Reporter Eastern Daily Press, Julian Horn, Editor Mid Norfolk Times, P C Hayley Harwood, Norfolk Constabulary

Members of the Public Present: three (3)

**73 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Freeman and District Councillor Claire Bowes

**74 INTERESTS**

Item 83a – Councillor Wykes declared a personal interest in the planning application for the cycle track.

Item 85 – Councillor Wykes declared a personal interest as the Councils Representative

**75 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was resolved that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record

**76 COMMUNITY REPORTS**

**76a Police**

PC Harwood reported the Crime figures for the five Towns, Watton 21, Swaffham 30, Attleborough 36, Dereham 113 and Thetford 199.

The Council was thanked for giving the use of the Community Centre to hold the Halloween Disco which had been a great success. She also thanked the Mayor who had attended in fancy dress.

The Taxi Service was starting to be used and would be analysed at the end of the funding to assess its overall success.

County Councillor John Rogers said he was pleased that officers would now be spending 80% of their time on the street as had been reported in the press.

Concerns were raised in relation to motor cyclists speeding and dangerous driving on the Norwich Road. PC Harwood confirmed that this was being monitored.

Parking in the High Street was also mentioned.

#### **76b District Councillors**

Councillor Myers submitted a report.

Councillor Gilbert stated that he had asked for holiday sporting activities for Watton to be put on the Scrutiny Committee Agenda. Councillor Anderson felt that it was important to keep the pressure up to make sure that Breckland supported the youth of Watton.

#### **76c County Councillors**

County Councillor Rogers informed Members that all Members of the County Council had declined to increase their expenses.

The County Council were looking at securing 106 agreement money by diverting from other sources to enable the roundabout to be completed on the Norwich Road. He reported that funding for children's services had been reduced and would keep the Council informed.

The Chairman asked that the Norfolk County Council representative be thanked for supporting the refusal of the planning application for the forty bed roomed Care Home in Watton. She also thanked both Councillors Rudling, Gilbert and Bowes.

County Councillor Rogers said he did not support the proposed footpath to the rear of the school and would be dealing with it through other ways.

#### **77 MATTERS ARISING**

Item 62 – Councillor Anderson asked and it was agreed that although the Sunday bus service had been reinstated there still needed to be a meeting with the County Council to discuss an evening bus service to Norwich and also to London. She informed Members that on Sunday 4 December the Mayor and others were going to put on a welcome back celebration for the bus company and hoped as many Councillors would attend as possible.

Item 63 – The money agreed for gifts to residents reaching 90 and 100 years of age and special anniversaries was questioned and agreed that this would be for a trial period.

#### **78 URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chairman reported that the photocopier had had to be replaced as the old one was beyond repair. It was resolved that the money for the new copier would be taken from the administration contingency budget and the money already ring fenced in the budget.

A further urgent item concerning finance was taken as private and confidential.

## **79 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Report Submitted.

Councillor Anderson requested that a letter be sent to the Watton Festival thanking them for their very high standard of performance.

## **79a VICE CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Councillor Ivory reported that he had attended the Remembrance Day Parade which he thought had been well attended.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their support.

## **80 PAYMENTS**

Discussion took place relating to payment for Christmas light electrical work and racking for the lights.

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

**RESOLVED**

Voting 12 for and 1 Abstention

That the money would be taken from contingencies in the Premises budget.

It was resolved that payments for November be approved.

## **81 BUDGET 2010/2011**

The Chairman presented the budget to Council. Discussion then took place relating to the increase of £1000 in the Civic Allowance, travel expenses for Members and Staff. It was pointed out that should the Town award as had been previously agreed, the Honorary Freedom of the Town to the Household Cavalry that the present Civic Allowance would not cover this and that both Members and Staff were legally entitled to be reimbursed for out of pocket travel expenses.

The budgeted amount of £3000 for the flashing speed signs was discussed with some Members stating that the report from Norfolk County Council Highways showed that Brandon Road, Thetford Road, Dereham Road, Saham Road and Swaffham Road did not meet their criteria for justifying the implementation of Road Traffic signs.

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

**RESOLVED**

Voting: 9 for with 4 Against

That the £3000 remains in the budget for Flashing Speed signs.

Some Members were not happy with the increase in the precept of £11822.

The Clerk suggested that having looked at the budget her recommendation was to reduce £3000 from the playground fund as there was 106 money available, £5000 for the Public Toilet cleaning which should be covered by the interest on the commuted sum bond and topped up from this if necessary, £500 from the Town Mural as a grant could be obtained and in the present economic circumstances that the Mayors allowance be reduced to £500 which was an increase of £100 and £1600 from the Civic Regalia. This would then reduce the budget by £10600. The increase on the previous year would be £1222.

It was resolved that the recommended reductions in the budget be approved.

## **82 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **82a Planning & Forward Development Committee**

Councillor Wykes declared a personal interest in the planning application for the Cycle Track.

It was resolved that the minutes of Tuesday 17 November 2009 be adopted with 1 Against and 1 Abstention.

### **82b Buildings & Assets Committee**

Item 59 – Councillor Wassell informed Council that the Health & Safety Executive do not carry out an inspection.

Item 62 – e-mails for Councillors was discussed and agreed with 1 abstention that this should be incorporated on the web-site which had been budgeted for in the 2010 / 1011 budget.

It was resolved that the minutes of Tuesday 10 November 2009 be adopted.

### **82c Recreation & Environment Committee**

It was resolved that the minutes of Tuesday 3 November 2009 be adopted.

### **82d Policy & Resources Committee**

It was resolved that the minutes of Wednesday 11 November 2009 be adopted with the amended budget recommendations made by the Full Council.

## **83 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **83a Report Watton Medical Practice**

Previously issued

### **83b Richmond Golf Club**

An invitation had been received from Norfolk Colonial Homes Ltd in partnership with Richmond Park Golf Club and Garner Groundworks Ltd to the Mayor and Councillors to a preview of its proposals for the continued development of the Golf Club and Leisure Facility including Proposed Development of Eco Lodges for Holiday let on 27 November 2009 at 6.30pm.

### **83c Royal British**

Letter from the Royal British Legion thanking the Mayor and Councillors for attending the Remembrance Day Parade with special thanks to the Mayor for arranging the tea and wads after the service which had been much appreciated.

The Council was also asked to pass on their thanks to the Town Clerk for her support in arranging the Town Council's participation.

### **83d Project Rainbow**

An invitation had been received for the Mayor and Councillors to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Surge on Wednesday 2 December from 7.00pm onwards.

It was also requested that the £10,000 balance of the grant be given. No discussion took place on the request and was resolved that the £10,000 balance be given to Project Rainbow.

### **83e LSP – Participatory Budgeting**

A £5000.00 grant has been given to each town to arrange an event and a panel of seven is being set up consisting of Representatives from the Town Council, Area Partnership, Scholl, Business and BME/Faith. The Council need to agree a Representative to be on the panel which will take place in early December.

It was proposed by Councillor Rudling, seconded by Councillor Crabtree and

RESOVED

That the Town Mayor be the Councils Representative.

## **84 REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION REPORTS**

Councillor Wykes – Watton Sports Centre, requested that a letter be sent to Paul Adcock, John Softly and Debbie Burriage thanking them for the good work they have carried out at the Sports Centre. He stated that they would continue to remain on the Committee.

Councillor Cooper – Loch Neaton, the west footpath was being renovated at a cost of £1900.

Councillor Osborn – CAG Meeting reported that the Watton Police Station was closed due to lack of staff. Other points had been covered in the Police report.

Councillor Holmes – Watton Luncheon Club reported that there was real concern about the future and sustainability of the Luncheon Club. Despite this the Manager was continuing to do a good job.

Councillor Holmes – Project Rainbow reported that there was no regular support youth worker from Norfolk County Council but volunteers were coping, more rooms had been refurbished and the Senior Youth Club on Wednesday was still going well. The 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary was approaching and invitations had been given.

A Member of the Public asked to speak and thanked Councillor Ivory and his son for all the hard work that they had done with the Christmas Lights. Councillor L McCarthy also thanked Councillor Osborn and his partner Sandra for all their work, of which Councillor Ivory stated he could not have done without.

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

**78 URGENT ITEMS**

**Meeting with Breckland – Project Rainbow**

It was agreed that various financial options be explored with the Breckland to look at the way forward for Project Rainbow funding.

The Meeting ended 9.50pm  
JS.