

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

15th September 2026

At a meeting of the **Finance & Governance Committee** held on **Tuesday 15th September 2026** at the Memorial Hall.

Present: Councillors S Green (Chairman), P Duigan, A Greenwood, R Jamieson, L King and P Morton.

Also present: Councillor A Keats, County & District Councillor A Webb, Town Clerk T Needham, and Deputy Town Clerk J Barron.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Z Flint.
2. **Declaration of Interest.**
Councillor A Greenwood declared a personal interest as he is a resident of Dereham.

The committee agreed that due to the large number of members attending the meeting, item 8 would be discussed first.

The meeting was adjourned

Ivor Livingston addressed the meeting saying that he thought the proposals would cause "absolute chaos". He added that he could not quite believe that the town could be hit with parking charges, he continued by saying that working people would have to pay £100 a month to park in Dereham and every single person who uses the free car parks would avoid them and park all over town, it will stop emergency vehicles, there will be pavement parking, and lead to very bad feelings.

Mr Livingston was corrected that the suggestion is for working people to pay £70 per year not £100 per month.

Ian Milligan said, "The rules have changed and you [the council] are victims", he said: "Breckland said this was going to happen because of LGR, which is now not going ahead. "There is nothing in the figures about the cost of administration, the cost in maintaining the rest of the roads and pavements.

"The streets are going to be crucified by people parking their cars everywhere and we, as residents, are being asked to pay for those car parks twice.

The meeting resumed

3. **To consider and approve grant applications.**

The following grants were agreed:

Organisation	Amount of grant agreed	Reason for Grant	Comment
Dereham Theatre Company	£350	Funding towards the purchase of portable card payment machine.	
Dereham Cycle Exchange	£825	For commercial gazebo, tools, stands and clothing to identify volunteers for safeguarding, visibility and building trust with young people for the outreach/engagement project.	
Norfolk Accident Rescue Services	£0	To create a small welfare and reflection garden.	Have already had a grant within the last 12 months.
Cowper Memorial Congregational Church	£500	To set up a small Museum for William Cowper and restoration of the William Cowper Stone.	
Dereham Saints FC	£1000	Portable Flood Lights	Payment to be made when confirmation of grant from Football Foundation has been received.

4. **To review the Small Grants policy.**

The committee reviewed the Small Grants policy and agreed there would only be changes due to correct grammatical errors.

It was agreed that the link for Awards for All should be sent to all applicants when writing to confirm their grant.

5. **Review expenditure against budget.**

The committee reviewed expenditure against budget, with items identified for checking after the meeting.

6. **To review annual subscriptions.**

The committee reviewed the subscriptions and agreed there should be no changes.

7. **To consider issues arising from requests for partnership funding from principal authorities.**

The Town Clerk spoke about a number of activities that the Town Council had been asked to contribute to, ones which the Town Council is not responsible for and some of the issues that this can cause including not being budgeted for, not having enough input to mention a few.

The committee recommended that there should be a 'partnership budget' to be considered during the budget setting process.

The committee recommended that there should be a policy on Partnership Working and asked the Clerk bring ideas forward at some future meeting as time permitted.

8 To consider and make recommendations with regards to funding the costs of car parks.

After much discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk should take legal advice on the question of double accounting on non-domestic rate already charged on the car parks.

Councillor R Jamieson said that the Town Council should get all the options and costing for the car park as best as possible and present them in a consultation to the public.

It was agreed that Councillors should email the Town Clerk by close of play Friday with the options they wish to have included in the public consultation, so that this can be progressed ASAP.

9. Update on Balanced Score Card progress.

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the Balanced Score Card, giving a progress report on the Skate Park and advising Councillors that the Car Parks have now become a priority. The Clerk suggested that in practical terms, being mindful of the transfer of the car parks that the next time Council priorities could be set would likely be after the elections in May 2027.

Chairman