

# DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

28<sup>th</sup> April 2026

At a meeting of the **Heritage & Open Spaces Committee** held at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026**.

**Present:** Councillors P Duigan (Chairman), Z Flint, A Greenwood and R Jamieson.

Also in attendance: Councillors H King & L King, Town Clerk T Needham, Deputy Town Clerk J Barron, Town Council Officer G Snow, and Mr K Hawkins (Community Access Warden).

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**  
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Morton.
2. **Declaration of Interest**  
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **To receive a report from the Community Access Warden.**  
The Community Access Warden Mr Ken Hawkins presented his report to the Committee.

Councillor R Jamieson arrived.

Mr K Hawkins informed the meeting that the Norfolk Ramblers were suggesting that Parish Councils publish information regarding the condition of footpaths on its website. Mr Hawkins noted that much of this information he already produces and would be happy to provide a document or link to share on the Town Council website and/or Social Media channels.

The Committee recommended that Mr K Hawkins email a link or documentation regarding audits on local paths and Rights of Way to the Town Council Office, which would then be shared on the Town Council website and Social Media channels as information changed.
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4. **To receive update on the countryside park.**  
Town Clerk T Needham gave an update on the Countryside Park and informed the Committee that, after consultation, the process for seeding was being done slightly differently this year, it was not possible to spray the plots off, this combined with the very dry spring will make the seeding challenging this year. The area has been flailed off as usual, however it would be flailed off a second time to keep the moisture levels up, which will then help the seeds germinate once the area is reseeded in a week or two.
5. **To consider supporting FWAG in investigating wetland habitat creation on part of the countryside park.**  
The Clerk informed the Council that a few years ago the Council wished to consider investigating the possibility of providing additional wetland habitat on the Countryside Park.

Some initial concept work was carried out by Norfolk Wildlife Trust in 2024 but the idea has subsequently stalled because of the cost of the hydrological studies needed for such a project, and this had not been prioritised as a project.

Two matters have come together, coincidentally at the same time:

- 1) Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Group (FWAG) – believe they would be able to obtain funding to produce a hydrological study and a feasibility into creating a wetland habitat.
- 2) Breckland Council are interested in diverting the drain near Osier farm to create a small wetland habitat and permanently resolve the issue of blocked and dysfunctional culverts between Osier farm and Galleymoor Farm.

Town Clerk T Needham made Councillors aware of Breckland Council's interest in resolving the issue with culverts.

The Committee recommended supporting FWAG in applying for funding and conducting a feasibility study for a wider wetland habitat. Proposals, following the feasibility, would be brought back to committee.

**Chairman**