

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

22nd February 2022

At a virtual meeting of the **Heritage & Open Spaces Committee** held on **Tuesday 22nd February 2022** at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors P Duigan (Chairman), A Brooks, K Cogman and P Morton.

Also in attendance: Councillors S Green and A Greenwood, Town Clerk Tony Needham, Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron and Footpath Warden Ken Hawkins.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Monument and H King.

2. **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **To consider taking over management responsibilities for the Neatherd from Breckland District Council.**

The committee agreed that there were several issues that needed to be resolved before the Town Council could consider taking over the management responsibilities of the Neatherd, these included going back to Breckland Council and asking for a cost neutral offer, finding out which streams and culverts Dereham Town Council would be responsible for and confirmation that they would be brought up to a good standard before handover, checking what the increase in insurance would be and how byelaws would be enforced.

The committee recommended that the Town Council immediately arrange for a survey to be carried out on the ditches and culverts on the Neatherd
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4. **To consider engaging architects to design layout for the new land at the Neatherd.**

The Committee recommended that Jeremy Stacey Architects be employed to design a layout for the new land at the Neatherd.
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5. **To receive report from the Footpaths Warden.**

The Footpath Warden Mr K Hawkins presented his report to the committee. He continued by asking the committee if there had been any further updates from Norfolk County Council regarding outstanding issues on several footpaths. He was advised that County Councillor W Richmond had sent an email regarding some issues which would be passed on to him in the morning. The committee agreed that they would still like to meet with Norfolk County Council in the near future, Cllr Duigan said he would arrange. Ken Hawkins also advised the committee about the Wendling Beck Exemplar Project which is in its early stages, it aims to develop wayfinding along a newly developed cycle path, it will connect Dereham with Gressenhall.

6. **To receive update on footpath issues from County Councillors P Duigan, W Richmond.**

An email for County Councillor W Richmond was read out to the committee giving updates on FP2, RB3, FP14/Scarning FP7, RB32 and RB 37.

7. **To consider wording for heritage plaque.**

The committee were not entirely happy with the suggested worded and would discuss it further at the next Full Council meeting.

Chairman