

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

11th February 2025

At a meeting of the **Full Council** held on **Tuesday 11th February 2025** in the Memorial Hall at **7.30pm**.

Present: Councillors L Monument (Chairman), A Brooks, H Clarke, P Duigan, Z Flint, S Green, A Greenwood, H King, P Morton and R O'Callaghan.

Also in attendance: T Needham (Town Clerk), J Barron (Deputy Town Clerk), and Sarah Suggitt and Simon Wood (Breckland District Council)

99. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Coleman.

100. **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

The meeting was adjourned.

Simon Wood and Sarah Suggitt both from (Breckland District Council) spoke about the powers Breckland Council had to enforce owners to tidy up buildings and also the issues with Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's).

It was explained that what is known as a Section 215 is when a formal notice is served to an owner of a property setting out what work much be carried out in order to rectify the building, before a notice is served Breckland Council prefer to try and negotiate with the property owner to try and get the work agreed.

Councillor P Morton asked for an update on the Akash Restaurant.

Simon Wood replied that work had been carried out on the building to make it watertight and structurally secure. He continued by explaining the ways in which the debt can be recovered, which include forcing the sale of the property or prosecution. By the end of February/March then Breckland Council should know how they will recover the money owed.

Councillor P Duigan asked if the wrong types of windows being fitted in listed buildings or buildings in conservation areas would be covered under Section 215. Simon Woods replied that Section 215 was mainly for structural issues rather than cosmetic.

Questions were asked flats above shops and the problems with HMO's, especially the poor quality of the living accommodation.

Sarah Suggitt replied that there was a high demand for single accommodation and that all building would have to pass building regulations.

District Councillor A Webb thanked the Town Council for the work that has been carried out at Cherry Lane but asked if a no through road sign could be installed to deter lorries and cars from using the lane.

Councillor Webb reminded the meeting that grants of £500 were available from Breckland Councils for celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day.

Councillor Webb told the meeting that she had taken part in another litter picking session with the Dereham Litter Pickers.

The meeting resumed.

Councillor A Brooks left the meeting.

101. **To receive announcements.**

The Mayor, Councillor L Monument said that she had not attended any events due to being unwell.

102. To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2025.**

Proposed by Councillor L Monument, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 were agreed and signed.

103. **Social & Welfare**

a) To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Social & Welfare Committee meeting held on 28th January 2025.**

Proposed by Councillor H King, the minutes of the Social & Welfare Committee meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2025 were agreed and signed.

b) To discuss any matters arising and vote on any recommendations listed below.

The following recommendations were agreed and approved by the council.

To consider funding for Battle of Britain Memorial Service.

It was agreed that RAFA should now apply for a grant each year for funding for the Battle of Britain Memorial Service.

Update on arson at Barwell's Court Toilets and consider any further actions to reduce risks in the future.

It was agreed that the relevant Portfolio holder be from Breckland Council be invited to attend a Full Council meeting to explain how their powers could be used to improve the visual amenity of the Town Centre and reduce the risk of arson.

It was agreed to install a door control system so that some of the cubicles are locked after a certain time in the evening, with an estimated cost of £1,500.

It was agreed that a live webcam be installed at Barwell's Court with an estimated cost of £2,500.

To consider commissioning ground anchors to stabilise headstones.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk purchase 100 stainless steel anchors to fix headstones that clearly have had no visitors, and that fail the topple test. The cost of the anchors would be £10 each.

To consider the style for replacement parish boundary sign on A47.

It was agreed the following style for the replacement boundary sign on the A47. The Clerk would obtain a cost estimate from National Highways for the preferred style.



104. **Markets & Buildings**

- a) To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Markets & Buildings Committee meeting held on 28th January 2025.**

Proposed by Councillor S Green, the minutes of the Markets & Buildings Committee meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2025 were agreed and signed.

- b) To discuss any matters arising and vote on any recommendations listed below.

The following recommendations were agreed and approved by the council.

To review Tuesday Market incentive scheme.

It was agreed that the Tuesday Market incentive scheme continue for a further 6 months when it would then be reviewed again.

It was agreed that a free day be given to traders on the last market before Christmas on the Tuesday & Friday markets, as a thank you to those traders with a good attendance record.

To consider Dereham Windmill Remedials

It was agreed the Town Council underwrite the remedial work required at Dereham Windmill. The value of the Town Council's commitment could be up to £45,000 which would come from a combination of the Windmill repair budget and Buildings Capital repair budget.

To consider progressing the installation of automatic barrier at Memorial Hall.

It was agreed to progress with the installation of an automatic barrier at the Memorial Hall. The cost of the barrier would be around £15,000 which would come from the Buildings Capital Repair Budget.

To consider lighting the Beacon for VE 80 and VJ 80.

The lighting of the beacon on the 80th anniversary of both VE day and VJ day was agreed.

105. **To receive and adopt the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid.**

Proposed by Councillor L Monument, the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid were agreed.

106. **To receive any updates/reports from members of the Council who are County or District Councillors.**

Councillor H Clarke asked County Councillor P Duigan if he had the floor plans for the London Road Sure Start Centre.

Councillor P Duigan replied that the floor plans were with the Town Clerk. On the 26th February the Town Clerk will give a guided tour of the Sure Start Centre to those groups who are interested in taking over the building.

Councillor H Clarke gave a brief update from the Strategic Flood Alliance regarding the flooding at Toftwood saying that due to inflation further funding may be required for the south basin and the clearance work at the old balancing lagoon is to be carried out in in the winter.

Chairman