

# DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

At a meeting of the **Social & Welfare Committee** held at Dereham Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024** upon the rising of the Markets & Buildings Committee meeting.

**Present:** Councillors H King (Chairman), C Coleman, S Green, L Monument and R O'Callaghan.

Also present: Councillors P Duigan and P Morton, Town Clerk Tony Needham and Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H Clarke.

2. **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **To consider bins in old Cemetery.**

The bins that are currently at the old cemetery have been there for many years, they are not fixed to the ground. The bins are now untidy and developing sharp edges.

The committee recommended that the current bins at the old Cemetery be replaced by a number of domestic sized wheelie bins located at the main entrance and near the Chapels.

4. **To consider suitable length of time to leave plastic tributes on a grave.**

The committee recommended that all artificial tributes, on the grass, would be removed from graves after six weeks, any tributes removed would be retained for four weeks to enable collection, should people wish to do so.

5. **To consider plastic grass on graves.**

The committee agreed that there should be no artificial grass at the Norwich Road Cemetery.

The committee recommended that once the tree canopy at the old Cemetery has been reduced, owners of graves with artificial grass on will be asked to remove it while graves re-seeded.

The committee recommended that rules for the new cemetery be made to ban artificial grass in the lawned area.

6. **Update on clearing area around lodge outbuildings.**

The Town Clerk advised that the untidy area around the lodge outbuildings has been cleared in preparation for repair work to be carried out later in the year. Amongst the discarded objects there are a large number of items from graves, mainly footstones with the occasional headstone. All of these items have been

there for at least 20 years and were probably cleared from graves in the 1980s when the cemetery became a lawned cemetery and mowing became more frequent. The Clerk suggested that once the rubbish has been removed the memorials are left in the general location but stacked in a safe and neat fashion.

7. **Update on Cemetery Lodge.**

The Town Clerk updated the committee on the progress of the refurbishment of the Cemetery Lodge.

There was also a brief discussion regarding the short-term relocation of the tenants of 58 Norwich to Cemetery Lodge once the lodge refurbishment is completed to allow work to be carried out at 58 Norwich Street. This would be discussed with the tenants and brought back to another committee.

8. **To discuss potential future activities.**

The committee discussed potential future activities, and requested that more information regarding the decoration of the Assembly Rooms be available at the next meeting.

**Chairman**