

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

14th January 2025

At a meeting of the **Full Council** held on **Tuesday 14th January 2025** in the Memorial Hall at **7.30pm**.

Present: Councillors H King (Chairman), C Coleman, H Clarke, P Duigan, Z Flint, A Greenwood, S Green, and P Morton.

Also in attendance: T Needham (Town Clerk) and J Barron (Deputy Town Clerk).

As neither the Mayor nor Deputy Mayor were in attendance to chair the meeting it was proposed by Councillor A Greenwood that Councillor H King chair the meeting, this was seconded by Councillor Z Flint and agreed. Councillor H King took the chair.

93. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Brooks, L Monument and R O'Callaghan.

Councillor P Duigan arrived.

94. **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

The meeting was adjourned

Mr Mike O'Neill addressed the meeting explaining that there is a derelict house next to 54 Norwich Street, Dereham which is causing damp at number 54 and now there were rats. Mr O'Neill asked if there was anything that the Town Council could do to help with these issues.

Councillor P Morton explained that the Town Council do not have any powers, but a letter could be written to Breckland Council who do have the powers to act.

Councillor H King said that it would be helpful if the actual resident would write in.

Councillor P Duigan said that if there are rats then this would be an issue for environmental health.

The meeting resumed

95. **To receive announcements.**

Councillor H King announced that the Mayor, Councillor L Monument had attended the following events:

- 11th December 2024 – Meeting Point Christmas Lunch
- 12th December 2024 – Cadet Awards and Presentation
- 18th December 2024 – Caring Friends Christmas Lunch
- 22nd December 2024 – St Nicholas Church Carol Concert

The Town Clerk, Tony Needham reminded Councillors that at the last Full Council meeting District Councillor A Webb had advised the meeting of the possible funding cuts being made by Norfolk County Council to Dereham Meeting Point. He continued by saying that he had drafted a letter to Norfolk County Council regarding this matter but was waiting on the outcome of a meeting being held tomorrow (15th January) between both parties before sending the letter.

96. To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2024.**

Proposed by Councillor H King, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2024 were agreed and signed subject to minor amendments.

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

Proposed by Councillor H King, list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid were agreed subject to a possible duplicate invoice being checked before payment.

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

- a) To request an update from the County Councillor regarding the disposal of the former Children’s Centre on London Road and whether the site could be used for community use. (Cllr Clarke)

The Town Clerk, Tony Needham said that Norfolk County Council intended to dispose of the building but there are local groups who want to keep the building as a community building.

County Councillor P Duigan said that he had already spoken with a local charity who is interested in building and put them in touch with Norfolk County Council.

Councillor Z Flint said that she is very keen that the building be kept in the local community, and she knows of other charities who are interested in the building. She continued by saying that although the building is very run down there is funding available for repairs.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk write to Norfolk County Council explaining the Town Councils feelings and ask that additional time be given to allow local groups to get a business plan together.

County Councillor P Duigan agreed that he would get a copy of the floor plans and layout of the building.

Chairman