DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

27th October 2026

At a meeting of the **Recreation Committee** held at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 27th October 2026** upon the rising of the Heritage & Open Spaces Committee**.**

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

Also in attendance: Councillors S Green and J Tuley, Town Clerk T Needham, Deputy Town Clerk J Barron, Town Council Officer T Thompson and D Spencer (Dereham Saints Football Club).

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**
   There were no apologies for absence

2. **Declaration of Interest.**
   There were no declarations of interest.

3. **To consider purchase of Glebe Lands from the Church of England.**
   The Town Clerk summarised the background, options and benefits of this additional open space in deprived Dereham wards. Professional advice had been obtained and £55,000 for both pockets of land was below generalised market value for their type. The Church of England had indicated it would accept this amount. Councillors agreed unanimously to progress the purchase.

The committee recommended the purchase of two parcels of Glebe Land from the Church of England at a cost of £55,000 subject to a valuation and Charity Commission approval.

4. **To consider progressing the project to acquire additional open space and sports pitches in the south of Dereham.**
   Daryl Spencer (Dereham Saints Football Club) summarised the ongoing issue with insufficient sports provision to the extent that Dereham Saints currently has a waiting list. Councillors also took into account planning consent for a large number of new homes in Toftwood.

The committee recommended a public consultation on the concept plan takes place and that the Clerk obtains a formal valuation from the District Valuer.

5. **Update on Dereham Saints project to replace changing rooms.**
   Mr Spencer explained the challenges to date and current position. He thanked the Town Council for their support and assistance in drawing down S106 funding. The project should be completed early in 2027.

6. **To consider supporting Dereham Saints to draw down S106 funding to install a borehole and irrigation system.**
Mr Spencer summarised the danger to players during the drought in 2026 and Dereham Saints' wish to increase the playing capacity on the pitches they have. Provision of a borehole and irrigation system would allow pitches to be in good condition earlier in the season and would allow water to be piped to additional sports areas. Councillors unanimously agreed the proposal.

The committee recommended that the Town Council draws down S106 funding to install a borehole and that Dereham Saints draws down S106 funding to fund a moveable irrigation system.

7. **To consider repainting Neatherd play equipment.**
Councillors debated the benefits of natural vs. painted play equipment. The Clerk provided a verbal update on potential warranties for painted surfaces and suggest a repainting schedule of 5 years. As Neatherd play equipment had originally been painted, it was agreed it should be reinstated as such when weather permits.

The committee recommended that Neatherd timber play equipment is repainted to improve its appearance.

Chairman