

# DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

14<sup>th</sup> July 2026

At a meeting of the **Full Council** held on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026** in the Memorial Hall at **7.30pm**.

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

Also in attendance: J Barron (Deputy Town Clerk), G Snow (Town Council Officer), and A Webb (County & District Councillor).

28. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Brooks.

29. **Declaration of Interest.**

Councillor Z Flint declared a personal interest in minute 35 as she is a director of CIC.

Councillor P Duigan arrived.

*The meeting was adjourned.*

Councillor A Webb advised that she had been contacted by several members of the public raising their concerns about the increase in crime in Dereham, she continued by saying that she had spoken to the Police Superintendent who had confirmed that there would be an increased Police presence in the Town centre and Sandy Lane.

Councillor A Webb said that the legal work on the Akash restaurant was progressing and should be completed by October 2026. She continued by saying that there were still questions that had not been answered with regards to the Street Wardens, and that due to needing joint funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner, this could not progress until after the PCC Elections.

Councillors were also advised that a Health Care Summit would be held at the Dereham Cancer Care Centre on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July between the hours of 4pm and 6pm. They were also told of a potential Speed Watch group that may be set up, 6 volunteers are required by the end of July when training would take place.

Councillor A Webb spoke of the £1-£2 million pounds that Norfolk County Council are looking to spend on the old London Road School to change it into a youth hub with accommodation for youngsters leaving care. She asked that the Town Council write to NCC in order to try and get this moving forward.

Councillor R O’Callaghan said that this building used to have all the facilities in place before NCC decided to close it and it made him really angry that it had remained closed for so long.

Councillor A Webb asked if there were any updates on when benches would be installed in the Norwich Road Cemetery and asked if the town sign could be cleaned.

*The meeting resumed.*

30. **To receive announcements.**

The Mayor, Councillor Z Flint, announced that she had attended the following events:-

14<sup>th</sup> June - The opening of Corey’s Day at the Railway Tavern  
20<sup>th</sup> June – 100<sup>th</sup> Dereham Park Run  
22<sup>nd</sup> June – Armed Forces Breakfast at Breckland Council  
22<sup>nd</sup> June – Rowing Challenge at Dereham Leisure Centre  
25<sup>th</sup> June – Opened the new Dereham Starbucks  
26<sup>th</sup> June – The Business Networking Group Open Day

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor S Green, announced that he had attended the following event:-

13<sup>th</sup> June – Paella & Fizz evening with the Bishop of Norwich

31. To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

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| Proposed by Councillor Z Flint, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 were agreed and signed. |
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32. **Markets & Buildings**

a) To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Markets & Buildings Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.**

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| Proposed by Councillor S Green, the minutes of the Markets & Buildings Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026 were agreed and signed subject to minor amendments. |
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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 public engagement with regards to financing the car parks.**

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| It was agreed that the Town Council would engage with the public further, the committee was particularly interested in understanding who the different users’ groups are, how large these groups are, how they currently use the car parks and how any changes including charges could impact each group. Some user groups identified are: |
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1. Shoppers [consumers of services provided in the Town] (regular visitors and occasional visitors).
2. People who work in the Town Centre.
3. People who work elsewhere other than Dereham.
4. Parking overnight for residential properties.
5. People who volunteer in the town.
6. Tourists (occasional visitors) including coach parking.
7. Nighttime economy visitors.

Town Centre businesses were also considered to be important stakeholders. Councilors recognized that town center businesses were anxious about any changes being introduced. The Council should also engage with local businesses to better understand their concerns regarding the impact any changes would have on their business, staff/volunteers.

It was agreed that parking charging regimes in Fakenham and Aylsham be looked at to see if any lessons could be learned.

### **To consider reconfiguring fly-winchies at Memorial Hall.**

It was agreed that £20,000 be used to move the controls for the winches at the Memorial Hall to ground level, to remove the need to work at height, for routine operations, and removing the risk of untrained hirers working at height unsupervised.

### **33. Social & Welfare**

- a) To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Social & Welfare Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.**

Proposed by Councillor H King, the minutes of the Markets & Buildings Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 were agreed and signed.

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

The following recommendation was agreed and approved by the council:

### **To consider extending Community Car drivers out of parish miles.**

It was agreed that Community Car drivers from surrounding parishes within a radius of 5 miles, be allowed to claim home-to-home mileage per day and not per journey.

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

Proposed by Councillor Z Flint, the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid were agreed subject to minor amendments.

35. **To consider a commitment, in principle, to supporting the creation of a community and youth hub at the old factory shop. (Cllr Z Flint)**

Councillor Z Flint addressed the meeting explaining she had, along with Councillor A Webb and Glynn Burrows from about Dereham, been preparing a

business plan to utilise the old Factory Shop building as a Community and Youth Hub. Unfortunately, this building has since been let to someone else, however another building is now being considered.

Councillor Z Flint asked that Councillors scrutinise the final business plan which would demonstrate that there is a realistic possibility of the project being financially self-supporting in the future.

The building would be used primarily for youth and families, but would also include Men's Mental Health, and provide a drop-in centre staffed with volunteers as well as trained youth workers and specialists to provide support.

Approaches are being made to Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council to ascertain their commitment to developing such a venue.

Councillor H King raised his concerns about retaining volunteers to help run such a hub and how would it work with the young and the old using the same building. Councillor Z Flint assured Councillor H King that she had plenty of volunteers to help, that the building would be partitioned off for the different groups, and there were also two entrances so the youth could use one entrance and the older users the other entrance.

Councillor Z Flint asked Councillors to consider a commitment in principle, to the creation of a community and youth hub.

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| Councillor L King proposed in principle a commitment to supporting the creation of a community and youth hub in Dereham if a suitable premises can be found, this was second by Councillor R O'Callaghan and agreed. |
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**Chairman**