

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

24th November 2020

At a virtual meeting of the **Heritage & Open Spaces Committee** held on **Tuesday 24th November 2020** at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors P Duigan (Chair), K Grey, S Green, L Monument and P Morton

Also in attendance: Town Clerk Tony Needham, Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron, County Councillor W Richmond and Footpath Warden Ken Hawkins.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Brooks .
2. **Declaration of Interest.**
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **To elect a Chairman.**

Councillor L Monument proposed Councillor P Duigan, seconded by Councillor K Grey. There were no other nominations, it was agreed that Councillor P Duigan be Chairman of the Heritage and Open Spaces Committee.

4. **To elect a Vice Chairman.**

Councillor K Grey proposed Councillor P Morton, seconded by Councillor L Monument. There were no other nominations, it was agreed that Councillor P Morton be Vice Chairman of the Heritage and Open Spaces Committee.
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The meeting was adjourned.

John Hale a resident of Etling Green addressed the meeting saying that he was anxious that the work on the ponds progressed this year, getting oxygen into the ponds would be good for biodiversity getting food source for birds and animal life which would benefit the green corridor.

Ann Bowyer also a resident of Etling Green reiterated Mr Hales comments and went on to say thank you to the Town Clerk for all his hard work on this but it was now up to the Council to sanction the go ahead.

County Councillor W Richmond said the work on the ponds was a plan for which he congratulated the Town Clerk and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

Councillor W Richmond advised the meeting that there was Covid funding available from Norfolk County Council for Capital Projects.

The meeting resumed.

5. **To receive and comment on draft management Plan for Neatherd and Etling Green.**

The Committee commended the plan, commenting that it should also include a section on accessibility. An accessibility section would be worked up outside the meeting with the final Plan being brought back to a future meeting.

6. **To consider engaging the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) to write an application for Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) funding to implement the Neatherd Management Plan.**

The Committee recommended engaging the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) to write an application for Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) funding to implement the Neatherd Management Plan.

7. **To consider carrying out work on the Duck Pond along with ephemeral ponds on the Neatherd / Etling Green.**

The Committee recommended carrying out work on the Duck Pond along with ephemeral ponds on the Neatherd / Etling Green.

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that the ponds would not look very good after the initial work had been carried out but would soon begin to show signs of new growth.

It was agreed that notices be erected along with a press article advising the public of the work that would be carried out.

8. **To consider appointing contractor for erecting raptor nesting boxes and bat boxes on Council land.**

The Committee recommended that a budget of £15,000 be used to appoint a contractor for erecting raptor nesting boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog houses on Council land.

The Committee recommended that funding be set aside for schools in Dereham to bid for up to £500 each for projects which enhance biodiversity for their school. The bidding would close at the end of the summer term 2021, but could be received at any time.

Chairman