

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

13th October 2020

At a virtual meeting of the **Full Council** held on **Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Councillors S Green (Chairman), A Brooks, C Bunting, H Bushell, H Clarke, P Duigan, H King, L Monument, T Monument and P Morton.

Also in attendance: County Councillor W Richmond, District Councillor A Webb, Mark Ogden (Norfolk County Council), Tony Needham Town Clerk and Jillian Barron Deputy Town Clerk.

34. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Grey and A Grey.

35. **Declaration of Interest.**

Councillors H Bushell and H King declared an interest in minute 45 as they are both members of the Royal British Legion.

The meeting was adjourned

Mike Webb chairman of aboutDereham addressed the meeting saying he felt the Neighbourhood Plan should include the Market Place as part of a package. He went on to say that aboutDereham have ambitions for the Market Place and that the Neighbourhood Plan needed a vision and suggested having a Town Team meeting consisting of Dereham Town Council, Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council and aboutDereham. Mr Webb requested that a pilot meeting be set up between those mentioned.

Sarah Gravestock raised the recent flooding issues that had occurred in Dereham, asking how the residents can work with the local authorities regarding the flooding as things are not working as well as they could be.

Mark Ogden from Norfolk County Council replied that since the 2016 Flood Investigation report they had been seeking funding to reduce the flooding but there were still some hurdles and would need approval from the Environment Agency. But there was a possibility of property level protection.

The meeting resumed

Councillor H Clarke proposed that item 10 on the agenda be brought forward and discussed next, this was agreed.

36. **To consider requesting information following recent flooding in Toftwood. (Cllr Clarke)**

Mark Ogden from Norfolk County Council updated the meeting on the 2016 Flood Investigation report and said that the more cases of flooding that are reported provides more evidence to show the frequency of flooding. He said that the recent flooding had triggered more flood investigation and feasibility reports which would go out for public consultation in the next 2 to 3 months.

Councillor C Bunting asked why Breckland still did not have a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP), despite almost every other district having one. Mark Ogden replied that when his team devised the scheme in 2011, they didn't get the buy-in they needed from Breckland Council.

County Councillor W Richmond advised that NCC had secured £400,000 of government funding in the 2017/18 financial year to help tackle flooding across the town. This was to implement drainage improvements such as installing aqua cells and additional gullies in areas impacted by flooding in the summer of 2016.

Councillor Richmond advised that NCC are taking flooding in the town seriously and clearly more needed to be done to support the town.

It was agreed that the Town Council would write to Highways England asking them to address the flooding issues caused by the pond/lagoon

37. To receive, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the virtual **Full Council** meeting held on **Tuesday 8th September 2020.**

Proposed by Councillor S Green, seconded by Councillor L Monument the minutes of the virtual Full Council meeting Tuesday 13th October 2020 were approved subject to the following amendment at minute 32 'Several Councillors present at the meeting agreed to help on the day.'

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

Proposed by Councillor S Green, the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid were agreed.

39. **To consider prioritising work on the Neighbourhood Plan.**
This item was deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

40. **To receive up-date on Covid working arrangements.**
The Town Clerk gave a verbal update.

41. **To consider refurbishment of the Mayoral Chain.**

It was agreed that underspend in civic budgets be used to refurbish the Mayoral chain, to include a velvet collar. The style of engraving and colour of the velvet to be decided outside the meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk would get some photographic samples of the types of engraving and explore the possibilities of having a narrow velvet collar so that it does not detract from the Mayoral chain.

42. **To consider amendment to the lone worker risk assessment.**

Proposed by Councillor L Monument, seconded by Councillor H King, it was agreed that alarm fobs be purchased for lone workers.

43. **To consider additional tree work over winter.**

Proposed by Councillor P Morton, seconded by Councillor L Monument, it was agreed to de-compact the soil on Fleece Meadow in order to try and stop the decline of the mature trees. Also, to plant some additional Oak trees on Fleece Meadow.

44. **To propose that reasonable discretion be used when applying the No Cockerel policy. (Cllr Brooks)**

Proposed by Councillor H Bushell, seconded by Councillor A Brooks, it was agreed that those allotment plot holders who can provide a clear reason as to why they have been unable to remove their Cockerels so far be given an extension up to October 2021, and be advised there will be no further extensions after that date.

45. **To confirm responsibilities for Remembrance Sunday.**
The responsibilities for Remembrance Sunday were agreed.

Chairman