

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

7th October 2025

At an **Extraordinary Meeting** of the **Full Council** held on **Tuesday 7th October 2025** at the Memorial Hall, Dereham at **7.30pm**.

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

Also in attendance: Town Clerk A Needham and Deputy Town Clerk J Barron

63. **To consider apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R O'Callaghan.

64. **Declaration of Interest.**

Councillors H Clarke and H King declared that they are members of the Royal British Legion and Toftwood Social Club.

65. **To consider taking over car parks from Breckland Council.**

Councillors discussed the collections of offers provided by Breckland council before discounting offers 1,3 and 5.

Proposed by Councillor L King, seconded by Councillor Z Flint and put to a recorded vote: **those in Favour** L King, H King, R Jamieson, C Coleman, A Greenwood, P Morton, P Duigan and Z Flint, **those Against** H Clarke

A resolution was passed to agree to accept one of the offers which would mean the Town Council taking over the freehold of the car parks. Further work would be carried out to consider in detail Options 2 and 4 before a final decision is made. This further work would include public consultation, additional costed charging scenarios, professional advice and more detailed information regarding how day to day management would be carried out.

The justification for taking an option of freehold ownership forward, was that the Council felt that; with or without local government reorganisation car parking charges are inevitable. Given this, it was felt that local control through the Town Council would ensure that the options for paying for the car parks would be made in the best interests of the town rather than income generation, which may be the priority of a future unitary Council.

No decision has been made with regards to how the car parks might be funded whether this be through, council tax, charging users or a combination of the two. These options would form part of the public consultation.

66. **To consider making an offer on other Breckland land.**

Councillors discussed the possibility of making an offer on other Breckland land but felt that there were questions that need to be asked before a decision could be made, questions such as would the land be transferred to Dereham

Town Council or would the Town Council have to pay for it, is there a time scale as to when the decision has to be made to name but a few. Additional information would be brought back at a later date.

Chairman