

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

26th November 2024

At a meeting of the **Heritage & Open Spaces Committee** held at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 7pm.**

Present: Councillors P Duigan (Chairman), K Cogman, Z Flint, A Greenwood, P Morton and L Monument.

Also in attendance: Town Clerk T Needham, Deputy Town Clerk J Barron, Community Access Warden Ken Hawkins and Peter Wade-Martins and Jane Heyburn representatives from Dereham Heritage Trust.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Brooks.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **To receive a report from Community Access Warden.**

The Community Access Warden, Mr Ken Hawkins, presented his report. The Town Clerk advised that the work on RB36 (Cherry Lane) is due to start in January.

4. **To receive a report from Dereham Heritage Trust.**

Peter Wade-Martins from Dereham Heritage Trust presented his report which showed that there had been a large increase in visitors which could have been due to the Heritage Open Days.

The possibility of a Heritage Centre for Dereham and its funding was raised, Councillor Z Flint offered to help with applying for grants.

Jane Heyburn listed the displays that would be on show in 2025.

The committee agreed that Dereham Heritage Trust be permitted to open the Council Chamber on the Heritage Open Days 2025.

Peter Wade-Martins advised that he was standing down as chairman and Hilary Williams would be standing in until the new chairman was elected.

5. **To consider licencing traders at the Neatherd.**

The Committee agreed that the Town Clerk engage with Breckland Council as to what could be done with regards to the possibility of licensing traders at the Neatherd and also what Breckland Council are prepared to enforce.

The Committee felt that if licencing were permitted then the Council is likely to favour trading which is incidental to the use of the Common e.g. ice cream and coffee.

6. **Consider granting an easement for Meadoway.**

The Committee discussed the possibility of granting an easement for Meadoway and it was felt that this would not affect peoples' rights to access

over the common and the public right of way, would not significantly impact on either visual amenity or biodiversity and natural features.

The Committee recommended that permission for an easement be granted subject to the payment of £65,000, with the condition that grasscrete or similar surfacing be used as an alternative to a solid surface.

The committee also felt that it would be beneficial if the owners of Meadoway give consideration to replacing their exiting access way with Grasscrete or something similar.

7. **Concerns regarding the introduction of Breckland Car Parking fees and its impact on the Neatherd.**

The committee accepted that Breckland Council would monitor the situation and should the parking fees, in the Town Centre, have a negative impact on the Neatherd then Breckland Council would take action accordingly.

8. **Exclusion of press and public**

Proposed by Councillor P Duigan, it was agreed to pass a resolution to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting on the grounds that the Business to be transacted is confidential and publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

9. **Update on encroachments.**

The Clerk updated the committee saying that Breckland Council are investigating one property. The Clerk will draft a letter which will be circulated to all Councillors before being sent to another property and the Town Clerk will write to the other property again, if the response is unsatisfactory then the matter would be passed to the Councils solicitor.

That, as part of the easement recommended under earlier agenda item, the boundary of the Common would be reestablished and correctly marked.

Chairman