

# **DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

17<sup>th</sup> May 2022

At the Annual Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at the Memorial Hall, Dereham at 7.30pm.

Present: - Councillors S Green (in the chair), H Clarke, P Duigan, A Greenwood, H Jones-Seymour, H King and L Monument.

Also in attendance were Town Clerk Tony Needham and Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron.

1. **To appoint the Town Mayor for the year 2022-2023.**

Councillor P Duigan proposed Councillor H King, seconded by Councillor H Clarke, there were no further nominations. It was put to the vote and agreed that Councillor H King serve as Town Mayor for the year 2022 – 2023.

Councillor H King took the chair.

2. **To receive the Town Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**  
Councillor H King read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. **To appoint the Deputy Mayor for the year 2022-2023.**

Councillor H King proposed Councillor P Morton, seconded by Councillor S Green, there were no further nominations. It was put to the vote and agreed that Councillor P Morton serve as Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2022 – 2023.

4. **To receive the Deputy Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**  
Councillor P Morton was not in attendance and will therefore read and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next Full Council meeting.

5. **Declaration of Interest**  
Councillors H Clarke and A Greenwood declared a personal interest as they are allotment holders.

6. **To receive apologies for absence.**  
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Brooks, C Bunting, K Cogman, T Monument and P Morton.

7. **Outgoing Town Mayor's address.**  
Councillor S Green said that since taking on the role of Mayor in July 2020 the world has changed a lot, we were still in the first 6 months of the Covid pandemic meeting virtually and still unsure when things would be 'normal' again. The 'rule

of 6' arrived 2 months later followed by another national lockdown in the November and then January.

As Mayor this meant a minimal list of engagements during 2020 as the majority of events were cancelled, postponed or held virtually.

As a council we continued our work and kept our services running within the guidelines. We resolved some internal problems and started working in a more constructive manner.

2021 was a much 'better' year, we finished the final lockdown in the April and continued on working towards 'normal'.

In 2021- the present we've:

- Finished the refurbishment of Bishop Bonners Cottages
- Contributed feedback to Breckland Dereham 'Town Plan'
- Completed Play/Open Spaces assessment work
- Purchased 55 acres of land at Neatherd for future 'investment' in green space for the town
- New wayfinding boards/signs erected in the town – working with partners
- Refurbished the town council offices – much better working environment
- Set aside money for Zebra crossing on Quebec Road
- Agreed a new community toilet scheme for the town – filling a gap in provision
- £15,000 on nesting/bat boxes around the town
- Launched a new market trader scheme to encourage more traders
- Queen Mother's Garden project working in partnership with Breckland District Council
- Plans for marking the Queen's Jubilee
- Supported the first Dereham Day
- Youth engagement
- Freedom Parade for the Queens Dragoon Guards to be held in June

Councillor S Green said it had been busy time and very enjoyable. During this time he met many great groups around the town and had seen the great work they do. He had tried to showcase what the Town Council do to others when out in the town and people recognise that Dereham is a successful town with lots to do and has a positive future.

Lastly he thanked his fellow councillors for their support, Hugh King as Deputy Mayor and the Town Council staff, not forgetting the outside staff who keep the town looking tidy.

#### 8. **To receive tributes to outgoing Mayor.**

Councillor H King thanked Councillor S Green on behalf of the Town Council for being Mayor for the last two years. He continued by saying that Councillor S Green had done a splendid job which he had carried out with pride while engaging with the community. Councillor S Green has been the youngest Mayor in Dereham's history.

Councillor H King said that we will all miss Councillors S Green's favourite word 'Cool'.

Councillor P Duigan congratulated Councillor S Green on his second year as Mayor, Councillor P Duigan said that he had previously referred to Councillor S Green as the zoom Mayor who then became the zooming about Mayor. Councillor P Duigan continued by saying that it had been nice having a younger Mayor who had done an excellent job and he hoped that he would now enjoy a rest on the back benches.

Councillor H Clarke echoed the previous comments and continued by saying that it had been good to have a younger Mayor which may encourage younger people to join the council. Councillor S Green's final event as Mayor was Dereham Day which meant he was mixing with the Dereham Community.

Councillor L Monument said that Councillor S Green had carried out his duties as Mayor extremely well sometimes in difficult circumstances. He had chaired meetings calmly and politely setting a high standard, he had done most of the work with very little fun. Councillor L Monument continued by saying that Councillor S Green had set a very good example of what a young Mayor and councillor can do.

Councillor H Jones-Seymour said that although she had not been on the council for very long Councillor S Green had made her feel very welcome. It was good to see a young Mayor, and from what she had seen he had been brilliant.

9. **To receive announcements.**

The Mayor, Councillor H King said that he has some aspirations for his year as Mayor. There have been rocky periods over the last four years but now he hoped we could work as a team being open, vigilant and trustworthy. Councillors should communicate more with the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk and work together as one.

10. **To agree membership of Committees.**

Proposed by Councillor H King, seconded by Councillor L Monument it was agreed that the committee members stated below remain the same, subject to Councillor H Jones-Seymour being added to Cycle B and Personnel Committee and Councillor A Greenwood being added to the Finance Committee.
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**Plans**

*Responsible for considering and commenting on all building plans submitted for comment by Breckland Council  
All Councillors*

**Committee Cycle A:**

Heritage & Open Spaces

*Responsible for; open spaces, Bishop Bonner's Cottage, Windmill, Street Furniture, Town Sign, Explosive Store, Closed Churchyard  
Councillors A Brooks, C Bunting, K Cogman, P Duigan, L Monument and P Morton.*

Recreation

*Responsible for; allotments, Play Areas, grass cutting & ground maintenance  
Councillors A Brooks, C Bunting, K Cogman, P Duigan, L Monument and P  
Morton.*

**Committee Cycle B:**

Markets & Buildings

*Responsible for; Assembly Rooms (inc office furniture) Memorial Hall, Fleece  
Meadow, Markets.*

*Councillors H Clarke, S Green, A Greenwood, H Jones- Seymour, H King and T  
Monument.*

Social & Welfare

*Responsible for; War Memorial, Dereham Community Car Scheme, Twinning,  
Cemetery (inc Lodge, Chapel, trees, paths & roads), Barwell Court toilets,  
Christmas Tree and Christmas lights.*

*Councillors H Clarke, S Green, A Greenwood, H Jones- Seymour, H King and T  
Monument.*

**Other Committees/Working Parties**

Finance & Governance

*Responsible for; Grants, Audits, Accounts, Budgets*

*Councillors H Clarke, P Duigan, S Green, A Greenwood, T Monument and P  
Morton.*

Personnel Committee

*Responsible for; Wage Reviews, Appraisals, Interviewing for staff*

*Councillors K Cogman, C Bunting, S Green, H Jones-Seymour, H King and L  
Monument.*

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ex-officio members of all Committees (subject to Standing Order 42).

11. **To confirm representatives for outside bodies (normally appointed for 4 years) and to receive a brief report.**

Proposed by Councillor H King, seconded by Councillor L Monument it was agreed that the committee members stated below remain the same,
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(a) **Trustees of Charities:**

Aaron Williamson's Charity

Dereham Relief In Need Charities

East Dereham Educational Charity Trust.

*Councillors H Clarke and P Morton*

(b) **Representation on other bodies:**

Friends of Dereham Hospital

Dereham Twinning Associations:

- Ruthen:
- Caudebec:

*Councillor L Monument advised that the Ruthen Twinning Association was about to come to an end and then she did not think it would still be in existence by next year.*

*It is believed that the Caudebec Twinning Association is also in the process of folding.*

Citizens Advice Bureau.

*Councillor C Bunting*

Civil Emergency Member (to liaise with Breckland Council Emergency Officer)

*Councillor P Duigan*

12. **To fix the dates and times of Council, Plans and Committee meetings**

The dates and times of Council, Plans and Committee meetings were agreed up to the Annual Town Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

13. **To make arrangements for Civic Sunday and Bowls Match.**

The Mayor, Councillor H King announced that details of his Civic Sunday and annual bowls match would be confirmed at a later date.

Chairman