

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

10th October 2023

At a meeting of the **Full Council** held on **Tuesday 10th October 2023** in the Memorial Hall at **7.30pm**.

Present: Councillors H King (Chairman), A Brooks, H Clarke, K Cogman, C Coleman, P Duigan, S Green, A Greenwood, H Jones-Seymour, L Monument and P Morton.

Also in attendance: Town Clerk T Needham, Deputy Town Clerk J Barron, District Councillor A Webb and County Councillor W Richmond.

61. **To receive apologies for absence.**

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

62. **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

The meeting was adjourned

Mr Richard Walker raised his concerns regarding the potential loss of memorabilia relating to Metamec, saying that it should be kept in Dereham. District Councillor A Webb suggested that it may be possible to put on an exhibition at Dereham Windmill for a trial period of a one month.

District Councillor A Webb advised that the charging point on Cowper Road car park are to be upgraded early 2024 to four bays with a separate fast charge. District Councillor A Webb continued by giving an update on the old Akaash restaurant saying that the Section 215 had been served and that that had ran out in August and the period of compliance had now passed, Breckland Council were now looking at the options of what to do next.

County Councillor W Richmond said that he would be meeting with the Highways Engineer on Thursday 19th October at 9.30am starting at Shillings Lane and then moving on to look at possible locations for bus shelters.

Councillor P Morton asked if they would visit the crossing at Swanton Road to look at the issues there.

The meeting resumed

63. **To receive announcements.**

The Mayor, Councillor H King, announced that he and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor L Monument had attended the following events:

15th September 2023 – Norfolk County Council Battle of Britain

17th September 2023 - Dereham Battle of Britain

The Mayor also attended:

17th September 2023 – English Heritage Trust Open Days at Bishop Bonners Cottage, Church House, Dereham Windmill and St Nicholas Church.

17th September 2023 - The Beer Festival at the Cock Pub.

64. To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Full Council meeting** held on **Tuesday 12th September 2023**.

Proposed by Councillor H King, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 were agreed and signed.

65. **Recreation**

- a) To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Recreation Committee meeting** held on **26th September 2023**.

Proposed by Councillor K Cogman, the minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26th September 2023 were agreed and signed subject to a minor amendment.

- b) To discuss any matters arising and vote on any recommendations listed below.

The following recommendations were agreed and approved by the Council:

To consider refining the draft site selection report for new sports pitches.

It was agreed to refine the draft site selection report for the new sports pitches as follows:

For sites not already excluded because of flooding and biodiversity, the following could apply:

1. Removing sites with a flood risk score of less than 4 – (justification, sites that flood will be unusable at times of heavy rainfall)
2. Remove sites with a soil type score of 3 or below. (Justification – greater ‘carrying capacity’ on better soils so less land required and potentially less drainage required)
3. Remove sites with groundwater score of less than 3 (justification – could be water logged and difficult to drain)
4. Remove sites with a topography score of 2 (justification - cost of correcting any slope would be expensive)
5. Remove sites with no water course (justification if drainage is needed in the future, it would be costly with no water course nearby)
6. remove sites with planning permission or where a planning application is about to be made.
7. Remove sites which clearly have difficulty with vehicular access.
8. Remove sites that are too small and could not be grouped or bring a site back in to join another site if it were excluded for a minor reason.

The sites left following this process will be those which are most suitable for sports, these would then be assessed for accessibility and planning factors. If following this process no sites are left then sites would be added back in based on the criteria with the least cost to resolve any establishment factors.

To consider delegating authority to the Clerk to confirm final design for the Play areas.

It was agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk, in consultation with Councillors, to approve the final scheme and progress the project to the planning application stage.

To consider drainage issues for Toftwood Recreation Ground.

The Clerk write to the offending property owners reminding them of their riparian responsibilities to maintain water courses.

66. Heritage

- a) To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Heritage & Open Space Committee meeting held on 26th September 2023.**

Proposed by Councillor P Duigan, the minutes of the Heritage & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26th September 2023 were agreed and signed.

- b) To discuss any matters arising and vote on any recommendations listed below.

The following recommendations were agreed and approved by the Council:

To consider draft letter to Norfolk County Council regarding obstruction or PROW.

It was agreed that following additional minor amendments, the letter be sent to Norfolk County Council highlighting the legal reasons why as the Highway Authority it should act to resolve the obstructions to PROW.

- 67. To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the Planning meeting held on Tuesday 26th September 2023.**

Proposed by Councillor H King, the minutes of the Planning meeting held on Tuesday 26th September 2023 were agreed and signed.

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

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

- 69. To receive any updates/reports from members of the council who are County or District Councillors:**

- 1. Congestion at Tavern Lane** - Councillor Duigan would arrange for an engineer from NCC Highways to meet him and the Town Clerk on site to discuss the issues with the Traffic lights.
- 2. Gritting Routes** – Councillor Duigan said that should further gritting routes be requested there is a form that needs to be completed which he can get from NCC.

3. **London Road Children's Centre** – Councillor Duigan said that he would forward an email he had received from NCC.
4. **Wooden posts at Crown Road** – Councillor Duigan said that the delay in repairs was due to this being an ongoing police case.
5. **Local Plan, progress and consultation** – Councillor Cogman said the consultation would take place on the 20th October, this would be an extension of the Issues and Options consultation to encourage more public participation.

70. **To receive an update from the Communications and Marketing Working Group.**

Councillor C Coleman gave an update on the progress of the Communications and Marketing Working Group.

71. **Exclusion of press and public**

Proposed by Councillor H King, seconded by Councillor L Monument, 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.
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72. **To discuss recent Future Breckland briefings.**

Councillors briefly discussed the ideas coming out of the Future Breckland briefings.

Chairman