

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

4th November 2025

At an **Extraordinary Meeting** of the **Full Council** held on **Tuesday 4th November 2025** at the Assembly Rooms, Dereham at **7.30pm**.

Present: R O’Callaghan (Chairman), P Duigan, Z Flint, S Green, A Greenwood, R Jamieson, H King, L King, and P Morton.

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

78. To consider apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Brooks.

79. Declaration of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

The meeting was adjourned

Mr Andrew Keats, from NR Fitness addressed the meeting saying that he agreed with the car park being taken over by the Town Council but questioned some of the operational costs and calculations. He also queried the payment of business rates on car parks to which the Town Clerk replied that business rates are calculated on rentable value.

Mr Keats also suggested that the car parks could be sponsored by local companies paying for the use of advertising boards.

The meeting resumed

80. To receive answers to questions raised by Cllrs at the last meeting .

Answers to the questions were in the notes and were discussed.

81. To consider Justification for Transferring Carparks at Nil Cost.

Councillors read the clerk's notes and agreed subject to adding environmental and social well-being.

82. To consider how the operation of the carparks could be paid for.

The council discussed the various possibilities including having 3 hour free parking with charges being payable after that time, that long stay parking should be paid for.

Annual permits were also discussed rather than adding an additional £25 to council tax for all Dereham Residents.

Questions were also raised regarding the tax implications and what the minimum threshold would be.

Councillors requested additional estimated costs for resurfacing along with more detailed information regarding the situation with VAT and using Council funds.

83. **To consider making formal request to Breckland to take over control of the car parks in Dereham.**

It was agreed that the Town Council should prioritise option 2 but keep option 4 in the background if option 2 fails.

Chairman