

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

28th July 2026

At a meeting of the **Recreation Committee** held at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 28th July 2026** upon the rising of the Heritage & Open Spaces Committee.

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

Also in attendance: Councillors H King and L King, Town Clerk T Needham and Deputy Town Clerk J Barron.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Jamieson.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor A Greenwood declared an interest in item 7 as he is an allotment holder.

3. **To elect a Chairman.**

Councillor A Greenwood proposed Councillor Z Flint, seconded by Councillor P Duigan; there were no other nominations. It was agreed that Councillor Z Flint be appointed Chairman of the Recreation Committee 2026/27.

4. **To elect a Vice Chairman.**

Councillor Z Flint proposed Councillor A Greenwood, seconded by Councillor P Morton; there were no other nominations. It was agreed that Councillor A Greenwood be appointed Vice Chairman of the Recreation Committee 2026/27.

5. **To review parking fees Recreation Ground.**

The committee recommended that the parking fees for the Recreation Ground be increased to £30 per vehicle per year.

It was agreed that the residents who have a licence to park on the Recreation Ground be written to advising them that the Dereham Town Council are the Trustees of the Recreation Ground and are collecting the money on behalf of that Trust. Also reminding them that the Council is under no obligation to provide any parking, either for nearby residential properties or users of the Recreation Ground.

6. **To consider options for Neatherd play equipment painting.**

The Neatherd Play equipment was installed in 2016. There have been a few comments regarding the paint work. The committee discussed options to improve the look of the play equipment and made the following

recommendations:

The committee recommended that the timber play equipment be left to become naturalised wood, brushing loose paint and be treated to increase longevity.

7. **Confirming Allotment fruit tree policy.**

The committee confirmed that the following new rule for allotment holders would be implemented: *'Any new fruit trees must be planted at least 3m in from any boundary and must be of dwarf fruit stock.'*

8. **To consider next steps with regards to acquiring additional outdoor playing space and grass sports pitches in south of Dereham.**

The committee recommended the following steps with regards to acquiring additional outdoor playing space and grass sports pitches in the south of Dereham:-

1. If no landowners bring potential sites forward; landowners in the most beneficial location are contacted directly to ascertain their willingness to sell or lease land to the Town Council
2. If a willing landowner comes forward, a process assessing the suitability of the land could begin.
3. If no willing landowners come forward; then prepare a concept master plan of the most beneficial area to form the basis of public consultation to gauge public support for the project.
4. To re-engaging with NP LAW again to check the process being followed fulfils the needs for any compulsory purchase.

9. **To consider purchasing Glebe lands from the Church of England.**

The committee recommended an interest in purchasing land from the Church of England.

10. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Proposed by Councillor Z Flint, 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.

11. **To consider offer value for Glebe lands.**

The committee recommended that the Town Clerk negotiate the possible purchase of Glebe lands with the Church of England.

12. **To consider scope for master plan for additional outdoor playing space and sports pitches.**

The committee discussed this item and were content with the broad concept.

Chairman