

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

8th March 2022

At a meeting of the **Full Council** held on **Tuesday 8th March 2022** in the Memorial Hall at **7.30pm**.

Present: Councillors S Green (Chairman), P Duigan, A Greenwood, H King, L Monument and P Morton.

Also in attendance: Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron, Town Council Officer Gemma Drew, County Councillor W Richmond and District Councillor A Webb

111. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Brooks, C Bunting, H Clarke, K Cogman and T Monument.

112. Declaration of Interest.

Councillor A Greenwood declared a non-pecuniary interest as he is an allotment holder.

113. To receive tributes for Freda Abell and Dr Susan Palmer

A minute's silence was held in memory of Freda Abell and Dr Susan Palmer.

Councillor L Monument paid tribute to Freda Abell and the many roles in which she had served Dereham. Freda was a much-loved former headmistress of Grove School, a dedicated supporter of the Friends of Dereham Hospital and a fundraiser for Save the Children Fund. She was a Town Councillor for 12 years and Mayor of Dereham in 1988. Freda served on the committee of the Dereham Rùthen Twinning Association for many years and travelled to Germany on every trip.

Councillor L Monument described Freda as cheerful, positive and full of ideas; hard-working and selfless, courteous, generous and delightful company. She said that every council, charity and voluntary organisation needed a Freda Abell and many of them in Dereham had had her help and would miss her. Freda would be a hard act to follow.

Councillor P Duigan reiterated Councillor Monument's comments, adding that Freda was an avid supporter of the council and always gave great encouragement. She always thought of others.

Moving to Dr Susan Palmer, Councillor P Duigan described Dr Palmer as a good Doctor who was firm but caring. Dr Palmer had done great work for the Far East Prisoners of War, many of whom were patients of hers. Due to both Dr Palmer and Dr Churchill's efforts, a memorial had been erected next to the main War Memorial in the centre of Dereham for the Far East Prisoners of War.

Councillor P Duigan finished by saying Dereham had lost two remarkable ladies who have done a great service to the town.

Councillor P Morton paid tribute to Dr Palmer, describing her as a formidable woman. Councillor Morton recounted a story by Dr Palmer where she had sailed

a yacht to Dunkirk three times during the war to help with evacuations.

Councillor L Monument reiterated Councillor Duigan's comments, adding that Dr Palmer had a great love of history and had collated a book with Dr Harold Churchill.

The meeting was adjourned

District Councillor A Webb advised Councillors that the Early Intervention Fund had now been set up by Breckland; it was open to over 18s and anyone who was in need of multi-agency assistance to deal with emerging issues, such as eviction or inability to pay utility bills.

District Councillor A Webb also gave an update on Breckland's plans for the Jubilee and their involvement in the Queen's Green Canopy Scheme.

A grant scheme was being launched on the 4 April for community groups and would be for up to £500.

Later in the year a significant pot of match funding would be open to Town and Parish Councils to apply for; it was thought the criteria would be based around environmental projects.

Councillor H King queried whether Breckland Council were involved in any support for Ukraine. Councillor A Webb advised that there was nothing at present, however suggested perhaps Dereham Town Council and Breckland could do something jointly; if a proposal could be put together Councillor Webb would be happy to put this forward to Breckland.

Councillor W Richmond confirmed that the Parish Partnership Scheme had approved proposals for a zebra crossing on Quebec Road and a bus shelter on Norwich Road. They had put in a bid from the Department of Transport to help fund these projects but were still waiting to hear the outcome.

Mike Webb (aboutDereham) explained that aboutDereham had held several meetings regarding the Jubilee and whilst they did not have the capacity to organise anything directly, they were involved in helping other organisations promote their events.

Carolyn Coleman (aboutDereham) explained that Churches Together would like to hold a 'Big Lunch' on Neatherd Moor, and Dereham Lions were hoping to organise a tea party on Fleece Meadow.

The meeting resumed

114. To receive announcements.

The Mayor, Councillor S Green said that he had not attended any civic events recently, but did attend Freda Abell's Thanksgiving Service on Monday 7 March.

115. To receive, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th February 2022.

Proposed by Councillor S Green, the minutes of the Full Council meeting Tuesday 8 th February 2022 were agreed and signed.

116. **Virtual Heritage & Open Spaces Committee meeting**

(a) To receive, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 22nd February 2022.**

Proposed by Councillor P Duigan the minutes of the Virtual Heritage & Open Spaces Committee meeting Tuesday 22nd February 2022 were agreed and signed.

(b) To receive a report from the Chairman, discuss any matters arising therefrom.

The following recommendation was agreed and approved by the Council:

To consider taking over management responsibilities for the Neatherd from Breckland District Council.

It was agreed that the Town Council immediately arrange for a survey to be carried out on the ditches and culverts on the Neatherd.

To consider engaging architects to design layouts for the new land at Neatherd.

It was agreed that Jeremy Stacey Architects be employed to design a layout for the new land at the Neatherd.

117. **Virtual Recreation Committee meeting**

(a) To receive, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 22nd February 2022.**

Proposed by Councillor S Green, the minutes of the Virtual Social & Welfare Committee meeting Tuesday 22nd February 2022 were agreed and signed.

(b) To receive a report from the Chairman, discuss any matters arising therefrom.

The following recommendation was agreed and approved by the Council:

To consider making a no cement/concrete on allotments rule.

It was agreed that the following rule should be adopted 'no wet pour cement/concrete is allowed on allotment sites'. This would be included on the application forms used when applying for a shed.

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

Proposed by Councillor S Green, the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statements and list of accounts to be paid were agreed.

119. **To request wording for heritage plaque.**

It was agreed that the wording for the plaque would be:
J.J.Wright & Sons LTD
36-38 High Street Dereham
1888 – 1985 **(Councillor Duigan to confirm date***)**

Founded on this site by JOSEPH JAMES WRIGHT as agricultural engineers, J.J.Wright & Sons Ltd moved on to sell and service motor vehicles, from Norfolk's first tractors to vans and cars. It became a Ford main dealership and one of Dereham's largest employers. Commemorating the company's pioneering founder and dedicated workforce.

120. **To consider flying the Ukrainian flag (Councillor K Cogman)**

It was agreed that Dereham Town Council would fly the Ukrainian Flag. This would be reviewed monthly.

Chairman