

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

26th November 2024

At a meeting of the **Recreation Committee** held at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 26th November 2024** upon the rising of the Heritage & Open Spaces Committee.

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

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Brooks.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Update on Play areas.**

The Town Clerk advised that the replacement equipment for Toftwood Recreation ground should be installed in December.

The hand over of the play areas in Girling Road, Sandy Lane and Old Becclegate should be completed by the end of the week and the order for the new play equipment will be placed.

4. **Update on the provision of additional sports pitches in the south of Dereham.**

The Town Clerk advised that the Beckland Council's Open Space and playing pitch assessment is still progressing. The Planning Policy Team has been made aware that the Town Council would be interested on exploring mechanisms for bringing forward sports pitch provision at the early stages of the Local Plan rather than have to wait for sports pitches to be delivered later in the plan period as houses are built.

The Committee recommended that the Town Clerk gain some additional legal advice to help understand the options and progress the conversations as the Local Plan progresses.

5. **Dereham Skate Park.**

Improving the skate park is on hold at the moment due to the development along Greenfield Road which should have been contributing towards off-site sports provision disputing this contribution. This dispute has resulted in this development being stalled.

6. **Update on Countryside Park.**

An application has been submitted for a grant to plant 4 ha of trees at the western and eastern end of the Countryside Park.

A grant fund, which may be suitable for the technical feasibility work for the

wetland area at the western end, has become available and an application will be submitted. The Town Council may still need to add a further 3-4 thousand pounds to cover the costs.

A bridge would be built over the ditch leading to the Queen Mothers Walk and other walks.

Chairman